



## UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS SURVEY RESULTS: ILLINOIS

### A Survey of Farmers

March 26, 2018

---

1. As you may know, Congress is writing a five-year new Farm Bill this year. How closely are you following the details of that process?

	<b>Total</b>
Extremely closely	17%
Very closely	19%
Somewhat closely	43%
Not very closely	21%

2. If you had to rate the importance of the Farm Bill to your personal livelihood on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being completely unimportant and 7 being extremely important, what would you say?

<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>4.55</b>
Very important (6-7)	39%
Somewhat important (4-5)	28%
Not very important (1-3)	33%

---

415 interviews among Illinois farmers were conducted March 12-19, 2018 via automated phone survey. The results were weighted to ensure proportional response.

Margin of error for these results is +/- 4.81.

For questions, please email: [info@rabaresearch.com](mailto:info@rabaresearch.com) or call (917) 685 4819.





3. Next, I'm going to read a list of ways that US farm policy can shape agriculture in the years ahead. Answer yes or no to indicate which you think are important to the future of farming:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Offering incentives for farmers to take steps to reduce runoff and soil loss, improve water quality, and increase resilience to floods and droughts	72%	28%
Strengthening the hand of farmers in dealings with companies that control the production chain	71%	29%
Supporting research on ways to increase farm profitability by decreasing the need for costly chemical inputs	73%	27%
Improving crop insurance options for a wider range of crops	56%	44%
Helping connect farmers with new buyers through marketing arrangements like food hubs and farm-to-school programs	66%	34%

4. Now I'm going to ask about different kinds of farm programs created by the Farm Bill and carried out by the US Department of Agriculture. Have you ever participated in a USDA program aimed at helping you implement conservation practices, get access to farmland, diversify your production, or market your products?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes	61%
No	39%

5. For any of these kinds of Farm Bill programs, what would make you MORE likely to participate in the future?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
More USDA outreach about the programs that are available to me and how they can help my business	53%	47%
Greater financial incentives to implement new practices	62%	38%
Greater technical support to implement new practices	53%	47%
Less burdensome paperwork or other administrative requirements	70%	30%



6. If a candidate for public office seemed to favor farm success through sustainable ag priorities instead of business as usual, would you be more or less likely to support that candidate?

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	69%
Less likely	18%
Makes no difference/unsure	14%

7. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

	<b>Total</b>
Republican	55%
Democrat	19%
Something else	26%

8. What is your gender?

	<b>Total</b>
Men	79%
Women	7%
Don't know/refused	14%

9. What is your age?

	<b>Total</b>
18-24	1%
25-44	11%
45-64	38%
65+	35%
Unknown	14%