

# The 2007 Farm Bill: Kansas Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy



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This report and the companion national report are available on the Policy page of the website of the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics at [www.agmanager.info](http://www.agmanager.info).

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<sup>1</sup>Lubben, Bradley.D., Nelson L. Bills, James B. Johnson, and James L. Novak. The 2007 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy. National Public Policy Education Committee Publication Number 2006-01. Oak Brook, IL: Farm Foundation. September 2006.

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## Introduction

The *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* provides the direction for federal programs and policy to address agricultural, food, and public policy issues through September of 2007. The 2002 Act is the most recent in a series of comprehensive farm bills that have authorized federal farm programs. When the 2002 Act expires, new legislation will need to be in place to guide future programs and policies. In the absence of new legislation, federal farm programs could revert to permanent legislation dating from 1949. The presence of permanent legislation helps provide the impetus needed to insure that agriculture, food, and rural policy issues will be addressed by Congress and that new legislation will be put in place to be implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The development of new farm bill legislation is a complex, comprehensive process that will be shaped in part by the setting in which it is debated. This setting can be described in four broad categories: economics, budget, trade, and politics.

The economic setting is substantially different heading into the 2007 Farm Bill than it was in 2001 as the 2002 Farm Bill was being developed. In 2001, four straight years of lower net farm income, coupled with emergency *ad hoc* disaster assistance passed by Congress, paved the way for a focus on expanding the safety net and formalizing the emergency assistance. Heading into the 2007 Farm bill, the economic setting is very different. Producers nationwide are concerned about production losses, whether from drought or hurricanes, and producers are concerned about rising costs, particularly for fuel and fertilizer, but net farm income is relatively strong nationwide. The current net farm income projection of \$54 billion for 2006 (Economic Research Service) is still substantially above the average farm income levels of the 1990s in nominal dollars. With the stronger farm economy, the farm bill debate may shift away from the size of the safety net and focus instead on the shape of the safety net.

The budget setting has also changed. When Congress developed the 2002 Farm Bill, they faced a projected budget surplus and allocated more than \$70 billion in new baseline spending for farm bill programs over the coming decade. Now, Congress faces a projected budget deficit of \$214 billion (Congressional Budget Office) for fiscal year 2007. Federal deficits will weigh heavily on potential spending plans in the next farm bill and in fact, have already led to spending cuts that have affected some agricultural programs. On the other hand, every farm bill but two since the 1960s have been debated and developed in the shadow of a federal budget deficit. The current deficit, while a record in nominal terms, is far from the largest deficit as a percentage of the nation's gross domestic product and is much smaller than the deficits faced through much of the 1970s and 1980s when previous farm bills were implemented. In short, the federal budget deficit situation is likely to pressure spending, raising the focus on program tradeoffs.

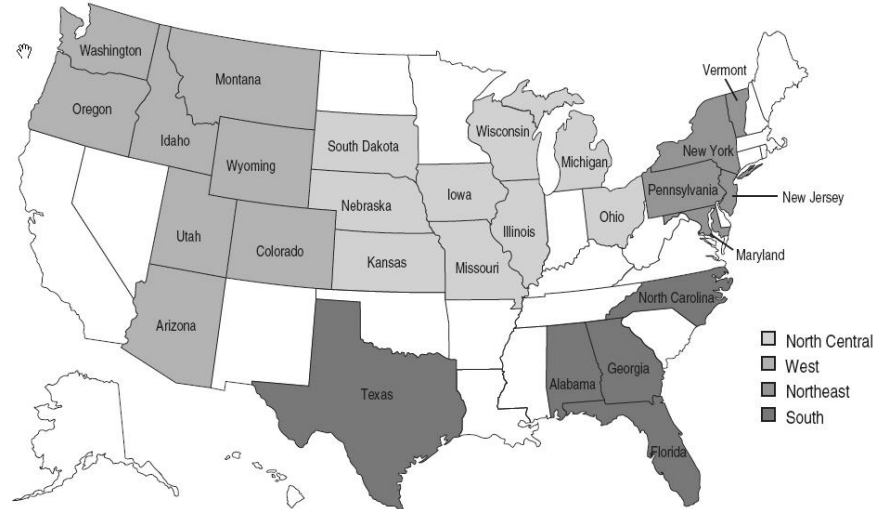
The trade setting is also critical to the development of the next farm bill. The current suspension of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on the Doha Round trade agreement has cast some doubt on the impact of trade issues on farm legislation. If a WTO agreement is reached, it could require significant reforms that cut spending on trade-distorting farm programs. However, this does not necessarily imply reduced farm program spending overall, just reduced spending in certain categories of farm supports. On the other hand, the absence of a new WTO agreement does not imply no changes in farm programs. Current and potential disputes over U.S. farm programs under existing WTO rules could force program changes to comply with existing support limits. Thus, agreement or not, trade issues may push forward reforms of existing farm programs and focus the debate on program tradeoffs.

Finally, the political setting will also affect the new farm bill. Farm bills have historically been a comprehensive piece of legislation developed with the support of a coalition of interests ranging from production agriculture to conservation, rural development, food and nutrition, trade, and other issues. These varied interests are still critical to the coalition needed to successfully develop a farm bill, but they are also more focused on efforts to secure funding or reforms in line with their interests. This increased political activity also comes at a time when Congressional turnover increasingly leads to a new group of policy-makers working on farm bill legislation in the agricultural committees.

Meshing these issues together, it is evident that the impact on farm legislation could be significant. The economic setting and the political setting invite a significant debate on the shape of the farm bill and the potential for new directions or alternatives. The budget setting and the trade setting both present challenges for this farm bill debate in terms of program priorities and potential program trade-offs. In this complex environment, understanding producer attitudes and policy preferences can be valuable to the discussion.

The National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey elicited agricultural producers' preferences on current policy issues and future policy directions related to the next farm bill. Twenty-seven states participated in the survey, representing 60 percent of all U.S. farms and ranches (Figure 1). As one of the 27 participating states, faculty in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University worked with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Kansas Field Office to survey Kansas farmers and ranchers.

**Figure 1. State Participation in the National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey**



The mail survey was designed as a stratified random sample. Producers listed in the NASS sample frame were stratified by level of farm sales into three categories: “small” farms with less than \$100,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually; “medium” farms with \$100,000 to less than \$250,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually; and “large” farms with \$250,000 or more in market value of agricultural products sold annually. The stratification of farms into the small, medium, and large categories was not designed to create or reinforce a definition of small or large farms, but simply to provide statistical precision in gathering usable results across all sizes of farms.

According to a report of farm numbers from NASS, there were a total of 64,500 farms and ranches in Kansas in 2005 (Table 1). Of these, 82 percent, or 52,800 farms, were in the small category. An estimated 6,700 fit into the medium category while 5,000 with classified as large farms.

**Table 1. Number of Farms and Survey Responses**

		Kansas	Nationwide
Number of Farms*	Small	52,800	1,116,688
	Medium	6,700	117,637
	Large	5,000	111,574
	Total	64,500	1,345,900
Sample Size		3,000	63,935
Total Responses**		696	17,443
Usable Responses	Small	402	8,977
	Medium	157	3,530
	Large	108	3,095
	Total	667	15,602
Response Rate	Total	23	27
	Usable	22	24

\* Farm numbers by strata from USDA-NASS, 2005. For purposes of the survey, small farms are defined as farms reporting less than \$100,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually. Medium farms are those reporting from \$100,000 to less than \$250,000 in market value of agricultural products sold annually. Large farms are those reporting \$250,000 or more in market value of agricultural products sold annually.

## FARM PROGRAMS AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

### Farm Bill Goals

In the first question of the survey, eight separate goals were proposed to producers to be ranked in terms of importance. Seven of the goals are longstanding, and have been mentioned in farm bill discussions for many years. These include ideas related to farm income, risk, competitiveness, small and beginning farms, natural resources, rural economies, and the food supply. The eighth goal invokes agriculture's role in renewable energy. Results for the question on farm bill goals are presented in Table 2.

Overall, producers in Kansas viewed the traditional goals for farm bills as important goals for the next farm bill. In fact, three of those goals, including enhancing small/beginning farmer opportunities, increasing competitiveness, and enhancing farm income, ranked above reducing dependence on non-renewable energy, which ranked first at the national level. The highest ranking goal in Kansas was enhancing small/beginning farmer opportunities, which scored at 4.31 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). At the other end of the scale, protecting natural resources and reducing price and income risk ranked lowest among the eight farm bill goals. Although, these goals ranked lower than the others, the majority of producers still ranked them as important or most important.

Table 2. Goals for the Farm Bill (Question 1)

Farm Bill Goal	Average Score by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Relative Rank	
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Kansas	Nationwide
Enhance Farm Income	4.27	4.09	4.23	4.25 <sup>ab</sup>	3	5
Reduce Risk	3.88	4.01	4.07	3.91 <sup>d</sup>	8	8
Increase Competitiveness	4.28	4.20	4.06	4.25 <sup>ab</sup>	2	4
Enhance Small/Beginning Farm Opportunities	4.40	4.12	3.58	4.31 <sup>a</sup>	1	2
Protect Natural Resources	3.96	3.84	3.63	3.92 <sup>d</sup>	7	7
Enhance Rural Economies	4.11	3.93	3.97	4.08 <sup>c</sup>	6	6
Assure Food Supply	4.11	3.99	3.99	4.09 <sup>c</sup>	5	3
Reduce Dependence on Non-Renewable Energy	4.19	4.19	4.08	4.18 <sup>bc</sup>	4	1

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

### Program Funding

Producers were asked to prioritize which of several existing programs are most important to maintain in light of potential funding constraints or trade-offs. The results for 10 separate programs or program categories are listed in Table 3. Kansas producers placed the highest priority on maintaining funding for disaster assistance programs. That corresponds with producer preferences nationwide. The next highest priority was for direct payments, followed by commodity loans, and counter-cyclical payments. Conservation programs, including land retirement programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and working land programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP) ranked lower. Supporting livestock commodities ranked last in Kansas and nationwide. Given that the primary commodities grown in Kansas are farm program commodities, it is not surprising that Kansas producers would rank commodity programs higher than other programs.

Table 3. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2)

Existing Program	Average Score by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Relative Rank	
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Kansas	Nationwide
Direct Payments	3.95	4.05	4.18	3.98 <sup>ab</sup>	2	6
Counter-Cyclical Payments	3.81	3.91	4.14	3.84 <sup>b</sup>	4	5
Commodity Loans and LDPs	3.89	4.11	4.19	3.93 <sup>ab</sup>	3	4
Livestock Commodity Supports	3.15	3.01	2.97	3.13 <sup>e</sup>	10	10
Land Retirement Programs	3.69	3.41	3.42	3.64 <sup>c</sup>	6	9
Working Land Programs	3.62	3.30	3.56	3.58 <sup>c</sup>	7	3
Preservation Programs	3.22	2.84	2.91	3.16 <sup>e</sup>	9	7
Insurance Programs	3.67	3.77	3.77	3.69 <sup>c</sup>	5	2
Agricultural Credit	3.34	3.14	3.07	3.30 <sup>d</sup>	8	8
Disaster Assistance	4.09	3.90	3.90	4.05 <sup>a</sup>	1	1

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

While it is evident that many existing programs are highly valued by producers, other new or existing programs might command significantly more funding in the coming farm bill, creating a situation of trade-offs between these programs and existing programs. To assess possible trade-offs, producers were asked to rank seven additional programs in terms of importance. The results are highlighted in Table 4.

Table 4. Provision of New or Reallocated Funding for Select Programs (Question 3)

Program	Average Score by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Relative Rank	
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Kansas	Nationwide
Supports Tied to Farm Income	3.72	3.40	3.36	3.66 <sup>ab</sup>	2	3
Supports for Non-Program Commodities	2.87	2.55	2.42	2.80 <sup>d</sup>	7	7
Incentives for Farm Savings Accounts	3.31	2.98	3.07	3.26 <sup>c</sup>	5	5
Bioenergy Production Incentives	3.77	3.66	3.70	3.75 <sup>a</sup>	1	1
Biosecurity Incentives	3.31	3.23	3.24	3.30 <sup>c</sup>	4	4
Food Safety Programs	3.61	3.38	3.26	3.56 <sup>b</sup>	3	2
Traceability and Certification	3.19	3.07	3.00	3.16 <sup>c</sup>	6	6

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

Kansas producers ranked bioenergy production incentives as the highest priority for new or reallocated funding. On a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), bioenergy production incentives had a composite score of 3.75, followed by supports tied to farm income at 3.66, and food safety programs at 3.56. Producers in Kansas valued supports tied to income higher than producers nationwide. That difference is understandable, given that the most significant problem Kansas producers have faced in recent years is lack of production due to drought, etc., which

current commodity programs are less effective in remedying. Otherwise, producers in Kansas largely agree with producers nationwide in priorities for new funding.

## COMMODITY PROGRAMS AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

### Program Implementation Issues

The first part of Table 5 compares two separate basic policy directions that producers were asked to evaluate for the next farm bill. Should farm programs be phased out over the length of the 2007 Farm Bill? Or, should farm programs be reduced, but not phased out? Kansas producers strongly opposed both phasing out or reducing commodity payments. The composite score indicated that Kansas producers favored targeting payments to small farmers, but that was largely a reflection of the view of small and medium-scale farmers. Large-scale farmers did not support the targeting of payments.

At the bottom of Table 5 are three alternative proposals for tightening commodity program payment limit rules. The three alternatives are: lowering payment limits, eliminating the three-entity rule, and eliminating unlimited commodity loan certificate and forfeiture gains. Kansas producers generally favored eliminating the three-entity rule and unlimited benefits from certificate and forfeiture gains, but not lowering program payment limits. All three alternatives had less support among large-scale farms and small and medium-scale farms.

Table 5. Commodity Program Implementation (Questions 4-9)

Implementation Issue	Average Score by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Relative Rank	
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Kansas	Nationwide
Phase Out Commodity Payments (4)	1.95	1.81	1.74	1.92 <sup>b</sup>	2	2
Reduce Commodity Payments (5)	2.11	2.10	1.97	2.10 <sup>a</sup>	1	1
Target Payments to Small Farmers (6)	3.98	3.32	2.56	3.80	n/a	n/a
Lower Program Payment Limits (7)	2.88	3.12	2.55	2.88 <sup>c</sup>	3	3
Eliminate the Three-Entity Rule (8)	3.80	3.78	3.31	3.76 <sup>a</sup>	1	1
Eliminate Unlimited Benefits from Certificate and Forfeiture Gains (9)	3.46	3.32	3.18	3.43 <sup>b</sup>	2	2

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD within each group of questions. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

### Program Buy-Out

In a departure from existing program issues, producers were also asked about preferences regarding a commodity program buy-out. The results of the multi-part buy-out question are shown in Table 6. In Kansas, 23 percent of producers answered "yes" to the question of whether or not producers should be offered a buy-out of existing commodity programs, although no specific details or dollars amounts are offered in the buy-out. A total of 44 percent answered "no" and 33 percent answered "no opinion/don't know". The results suggest that while support for such a proposal is modest, a large percentage of producers are unsure of what a buy-out could mean.

Producers were also asked to give their opinions on four buy-out alternatives. These alternatives included a lump-sum payment or an installment payment of the present value of either 15 or 25 years worth of commodity program payments. While the results were still dominated by the response of "don't know", producers generally favored a 25-year buy-out option over a 15-year buy-out option. There was not much difference in opinion between a lump-sum payment or an installment payment for either the 15-year or 25-year buy-out.

Table 6. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10)

Commodity Program Buy-Out Issue		Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
		Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
<i>(percent of responses)</i>						
Offer Producers a Buy-Out?	Yes	24	16	23	23	23
	No	43	51	47	44	42
	Don't Know	33	33	30	33	35
		100	100	100	100	100
15-Year Buy-Out with Lump Sum	Yes	27	15	23	25	25
	No	37	46	43	38	34
	Don't Know	36	39	34	36	41
		100	100	100	100	100
15-Year Buy-Out with Installment Payments	Yes	29	20	16	27	24
	No	32	41	45	34	33
	Don't Know	39	39	38	39	42
		100	100	100	100	100
25-Year Buy-Out with Lump Sum	Yes	30	34	42	31	30
	No	34	33	33	34	30
	Don't Know	36	33	25	35	39
		100	100	100	100	100
25-Year Buy-Out with Installment Payments	Yes	32	28	30	31	27
	No	30	31	38	31	30
	Don't Know	38	41	32	38	42
		100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "Yes", "No", or "No Opinion/Don't Know" for each separate part of the question. Totals may not add due to rounding.

### Dairy Programs

The federal dairy program includes a combination of income support tools and marketing orders. Looking at the future options for milk programs, producers were asked their preferences for either extending or eliminating combinations of the two dairy price safety net programs. The largest percentage of Kansas producers (43 percent) favored retaining both the price support program and the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. Only 27 percent of Kansas producers favored eliminating all dairy support programs. Results were similar nationwide.

Table 7. Dairy Programs (Question 11)

Policy Alternative	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Eliminate all dairy support programs	27	27	29	27	28
Eliminate the MILC program and retain the price support program	14	23	19	15	16
Eliminate the price support program and make payments through MILC	14	18	13	14	13
Re-authorize both the price support program and the MILC program	45	32	39	43	43
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding.

## CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### Environmental Goals and Incentives

The survey asked producers to evaluate the use of technical assistance and direct financial assistance and direct financial assistance from the USDA as incentives to address various environmental goals. The results are listed in Table 8. In Kansas, 66 percent of producers preferred federal technical and financial assistance and an additional 18 percent preferred technical assistance only. Altogether, a total of 84 percent of producers favored some form of federal assistance to address water quality issues.

Survey results also show that Kansas producers are heavily in favor of federal assistance. A total of 91 percent of Kansas producers favored some form of assistance to address soil erosion, whether through technical assistance (16 percent) or through technical and financial assistance (75 percent). As with water quality, these results are consistent with nationwide results.

Similarly, 73 percent of producers in Kansas favored federal assistance for air quality management even though federal assistance to address air quality issues in agriculture has received limited emphasis to date. The survey suggests, that potential air quality assistance however, is an emerging issue.

Kansas producers also supported assistance for wildlife habitat, with 29 percent favoring technical assistance and 38 percent favoring technical and financial assistance. However, 23 percent of Kansas producers favored no assistance compared to only 17 percent of producers nationwide.

Open space protection is an increasingly familiar part of the national discussion of environmental issues and conservation priorities. Beginning with the 1996 farm legislation, Congress has provided for limited federally-funded assistance programs. Survey results indicate that 51 percent of Kansas producers favored either technical assistance (25 percent) or technical and financial assistance (26 percent) for open space protection. However, a substantial portion of Kansas producers (28 percent) did not know or had no opinion on the issue.

Animal waste management has also been a familiar environmental issue over the last several decades. Federal assistance for animal waste management was supported by 76 percent of Kansas producers, either in the form of technical assistance (29 percent) or technical and financial assistance (47 percent). Interestingly, even with significant numbers of large-scale livestock operations in the state, the preferences of Kansas producers were similar to those nationwide.

Carbon sequestration is another emergent environmental goal that has received attention in recent years. Fifty percent of producers in Kansas favored some assistance from the government, whether technical (22 percent) or technical and financial (28 percent). However, 35 percent of Kansas producers did not know or had no opinion on carbon sequestration, indicating that the relative newness of this issue may have a significant impact on results.

Biodiversity concerns are also a still-emerging component of the environmental debate for U.S. agriculture. As with carbon sequestration, 35 percent of Kansas producers did not know or had no opinion on this issue.

Table 8. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12)

Environmental Goal		Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
		Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
<i>(percent of responses)</i>						
Water Quality (12a)	No Assist.	4	7	4	4	7
	Tech. Assist.	19	18	13	18	19
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	65	70	77	66	65
	Don't Know	11	5	6	10	9
			100	100	100	100
Soil Erosion (12b)	No Assist.	4	5	2	4	7
	Tech. Assist.	16	14	19	16	23
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	74	79	76	75	65
	Don't Know	6	1	3	5	7
			100	100	100	100
Air Quality (12c)	No Assist.	10	18	13	11	11
	Tech. Assist.	29	29	26	29	30
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	44	42	44	44	46
	Don't Know	17	11	18	16	13
			100	100	100	100
Wildlife Habitat (12d)	No Assist.	21	29	33	23	17
	Tech. Assist.	29	33	19	29	28
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	39	32	38	38	44
	Don't Know	11	6	10	10	10
			100	100	100	100
Open Space Protection (12e)	No Assist.	19	34	30	21	19
	Tech. Assist.	26	21	19	25	25
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	26	25	28	26	35
	Don't Know	30	20	23	28	21
			100	100	100	100
Animal Waste Management (12f)	No Assist.	10	13	11	10	13
	Tech. Assist.	28	34	27	29	31
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	46	47	55	47	43
	Don't Know	16	6	7	14	12
			100	100	100	100
Carbon Sequestration (12g)	No Assist.	14	22	10	15	13
	Tech. Assist.	22	26	23	22	24
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	27	30	40	28	26
	Don't Know	37	22	26	35	39
			100	100	100	100
Biodiversity Maintenance (12h)	No Assist.	15	20	14	15	13
	Tech. Assist.	22	23	22	22	24
	Tech./Fin. Assist.	28	28	30	28	30
	Don't Know	36	29	34	35	33
			100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "No Federal Assistance", "Technical Assistance Only", "Technical and Financial Assistance", or "No Opinion/Don't Know". Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Program Implementation Issues

Producers were asked their opinion on whether the federal government should distribute conservation funds through block grants to the states, giving the states more authority to implement conservation programs. Table 9 displays the results.

In Kansas, 53 percent of producers agreed or strongly agreed with the concept transferring funding to states through block grants; only 18 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. Results were generally consistent across farm size, and similar to nationwide responses.

Table 9. Conservation Program State Block Grants (Question 13)

Agreement on Transferring Block Grants to States for Conservation	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Strongly Disagree or Disagree	18	18	15	18	19
Neutral	20	19	19	20	17
Agree or Strongly Agree	53	56	59	53	53
No Opinion/Don't Know	9	7	7	9	11
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Another question focused on the future of the Conservation Reserve Program. Producer preferences regarding CRP are summarized in Table 10.

The highest percentage of Kansas producers (37 percent) favored allowing the highest-ranking contracts to re-enroll automatically at existing rental rates. An additional 35 percent of Kansas producers favored allowing contracts to expire and compete for re-enrollment. Only 28 percent of Kansas producers supported reducing CRP acreage or eliminating CRP as current contracts expire. Not surprisingly, support for CRP is higher in Kansas than nationwide.

Table 10. Conservation Reserve Program (Question 14)

Future Policy Alternative	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Allow Contracts to Expire and Compete for Re-Enrollment	35	34	41	35	34
Allow Highest-Ranking Contracts to Re-Enroll Automatically at Existing Rental Rates	36	42	41	37	29
Reduce CRP Acreage and Restrict Future Enrollments to Environmentally-Sensitive Lands	17	18	13	17	18
Eliminate the CRP as Current Contracts Expire	12	6	5	11	18
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Producers were also asked about future options for the Conservation Security Program. The CSP was first authorized in the *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* and was first implemented in fiscal year 2004. Producers were asked their opinion on whether to continue implementing the CSP on a watershed-by-watershed basis, to increase

funding to implement the program nationally, or the cut the program and eliminate existing contracts as they expire. The results are shown in Table 11.

Fifty-five percent of Kansas producers favored continued implementation on a watershed-by-watershed basis, 22 percent favored implementing CSP on a nationwide basis, and 23 percent favored eliminating the program as current contracts expired. Once again, results were generally similar across farm size, and nearly identical to nationwide preferences.

Table 11. Conservation Security Program (Question 15)

Future Policy Alternative	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Continue Implementation on a Watershed-by-Watershed Basis	55	61	53	55	55
Increase Funding for Immediate Nationwide Implementation	22	20	29	22	22
Eliminate the Program as Current Contracts Expire	23	19	18	23	22
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding.

## TRADE POLICY

### Trade Negotiations

Most U.S. agricultural commodities are substantially affected by international trade including both competition from imports and demand for exports. Because of the impact of international trade, producers were asked their opinion on a number of trade issues, the results of which are summarized in Table 12.

Kansas producers favored the pursuit of free-trade agreements (question 16), with a composite score of 3.79 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Results were similar across farm size, and higher than the average score nationwide. However, producers in Kansas would also like to see labor, the environment, and food safety included in trade negotiations as well (question 17), although support was not as strong as it was nationwide. Kansas producers also narrowly favored emphasizing domestic economic and social policy goals rather than trade (question 19). Once again, however, support for this issue was less in Kansas than it was nationwide.

### World Trade Organization Issues

The support for pursuing free-trade agreements is a foundation piece in the trade policy arena. The advent of the WTO in the last round of global trade negotiations brought up its own set of issues, including on-going multilateral trade negotiations and trade dispute settlement. Like producers nationwide, Kansas producers demonstrated support of the free-trade agenda and the role of the WTO in their general disagreement on the idea of withdrawing from the WTO (question 20). This assertion is supported by the fact that Kansas producers anticipated greater market access problems if the U.S. withdraws from the WTO (question 21). Kansas producers expressed additional support for WTO principles in their agreement on the need to comply with WTO rulings and eliminate programs that were found to be in violation of WTO rules (question 18).

### Trade Sanctions

The last trade policy question deals with trade sanctions. Producers were asked if they agreed with eliminating unilateral sanctions of food trade, such as those the United States has with Cuba (question 22). Kansas producers agreed with such a measure, more strongly so than did producers nationwide. This question, along with the other trade questions, indicate that Kansas producers generally support free-trade. Given that Kansas farmers produce many products that are dependent on exports, it is not surprising that their support of trade is higher than the national average.

Table 12. Trade Policy Issues (Questions 16-22)

Program	Average Score by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Average Score Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Pursue Free-Trade Agreements (16)	3.80	3.65	3.87	3.79	3.42
Include Labor, Environment, and Food Safety in Trade Negotiations (17)	3.93	3.81	3.84	3.91	4.08
Eliminate Export Credits and Industry Payments to Comply with WTO (18)	3.22	3.23	2.84	3.19	3.19
Emphasize Domestic Economic and Social Policy Goals Rather than Trade (19)	3.05	3.30	3.16	3.09	3.28
Withdraw from WTO (20)	2.54	2.88	2.75	2.59	2.82
Greater Market Access Problems if U.S. Withdraws from WTO (21)	3.74	3.40	3.47	3.69	3.43
Eliminate Unilateral Sanctions on Food Trade (22)	3.51	3.56	3.66	3.53	3.22

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

### FOOD SYSTEM AND REGULATORY POLICY

Many policies developed in the Farm Bill or closely related legislation affect the nation's food system and regulatory framework. Because of the impact of these food system policies on U.S. agriculture, producers' opinions were sought on several key issues. Producer responses are summarized in Table 13.

In the *Food Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002*, legislation on country-of-origin labeling (COOL) called for the labeling of certain commodities. Since that time, legislation has delayed the mandatory labeling of those commodities. Therefore, producers were asked two related questions on the implementation of mandatory COOL rules (question 23) and the development of voluntary COOL guidelines (question 24). Kansas producers strongly favored mandatory COOL over voluntary COOL. However, support for mandatory COOL was lower in Kansas than it was nationwide. Likewise, there was slightly more support for voluntary COOL in Kansas than there was nationwide.

Table 13. Food System and Regulatory Policy Issues (Questions 23-29)

Program	Average Score by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Average Score Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Implement Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling (23)	4.09	4.05	3.88	4.07 <sup>a</sup>	4.31
Develop Voluntary Country-of-Origin Labeling Guidelines (24)	3.38	3.49	3.22	3.38 <sup>c</sup>	3.31
Improve Food Product Traceability (25)	3.70	3.67	3.54	3.69 <sup>b</sup>	3.91
Adopt Mandatory Animal Identification (26)	3.36	3.23	3.08	3.32 <sup>c</sup>	3.54
Adopt Government-Mandated BSE Testing (27)	3.06	2.77	2.59	3.00 <sup>b</sup>	3.22
Establish Guidelines for Voluntary Industry BSE Testing (28)	3.37	3.38	3.40	3.37 <sup>a</sup>	3.38
Label Biotech Food Products (29)	3.50	2.80	2.53	3.35	3.51

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD within each group of questions. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

While Kansas producers were generally in favor of improving food product traceability (question 25), they were less supportive of mandatory animal identification (question 26) than they were of mandatory COOL. Nevertheless, they still favored mandatory animal identification. In regards to BSE testing, Kansas producers favored voluntary industry BSE testing (question 28) over government-mandated BSE testing (question 27). With a composite score of 3.00 on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), Kansas producers were exactly neutral on the issue. Although, support was neutral on average, medium and large-scale farms did not support mandatory BSE testing.

Finally, Kansas producers, on average, supported labeling food products made with biotechnology regardless of whether there is a scientific difference in the product (question 29). However, medium and large-scale farms did not support the labeling of biotech food products, while small farms did.

## RELATED POLICY ISSUES

### Risk Management

Kansas producers were asked to rank several options if funding for risk management programs were increased. The results in Table 14 show the ranking of preferences among existing insurance tools and other potential risk management programs.

When asked to prioritize crop insurance, livestock insurance, revenue insurance, savings accounts, and risk management incentive payments, Kansas producers ranked tax-deferred savings accounts highest with a composite score of 3.92 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Among the remaining choices, increased coverage levels and subsidies for crop production and revenue insurance was second. Ranked in order from top to bottom, the three remaining alternatives were incentive payments for use of risk management tools, whole-farm income insurance, and livestock revenue insurance.

Table 14. Risk Management Programs (Question 32)

Risk Management Program Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size*				Relative Rank
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Increased Coverage Levels and Subsidies for Crop Production and Revenue Insurance	3.49	3.93	3.92	3.57 <sup>b</sup>	2
Increased Coverage Levels and Subsidies for Livestock Revenue Insurance	3.09	3.24	2.86	3.09 <sup>d</sup>	5
Increased Coverage Levels and Subsidies for Whole-Farm Income Insurance	3.29	3.20	3.20	3.27 <sup>c</sup>	4
Tax-Deferred Savings Accounts	3.94	3.86	3.76	3.92 <sup>a</sup>	1
Incentive Payments for Use of Risk Management Tools	3.37	3.15	3.39	3.35 <sup>c</sup>	3

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

### Rural Development

Kansas producers compared five possible directions for rural development programs, including access to business capital, education and training, rural high-speed Internet access, local government infrastructure and services, and business development and job creation. Among those five choices, Table 15 shows that Kansas producers ranked business development and job creation as the most important, with a composite score of 3.78 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Access to capital and education and training ranked second and third, followed by rural high-speed internet access and local government infrastructure and services. While supporting all alternatives, Kansas producers generally favored economic development strategies over improved rural infrastructure.

Table 15. Rural Development Programs (Question 30)

Rural Development Program Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size*				Relative Rank
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Access to Capital	3.75	3.66	3.61	3.73 <sup>a</sup>	2
Education and Training	3.73	3.82	3.60	3.73 <sup>a</sup>	3
Rural High-Speed Internet Access	3.57	3.42	3.58	3.55 <sup>b</sup>	4
Funds for Infrastructure and Services	3.28	3.29	3.37	3.29 <sup>c</sup>	5
Grants for Business Development and Job Creation	3.81	3.60	3.63	3.78 <sup>a</sup>	1

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

### Research and Extension

Producers in Kansas were asked their opinion of funding alternatives for research and Extension activities. Existing funding mechanisms include a mix of traditional formula funds allocated to land grant universities and funds allocated through competitive grant programs. Various alternatives sometimes mentioned in policy discussions include increasing formula funding, shifting all funding to competitive grants, or eliminating federal funding altogether.

The results in Table 16 indicate that the majority of Kansas producers (56 percent) favored maintaining the current mix of formula and competitive funding. Another 23 percent supported an increase in formula funding, while 14 percent supported shifting all funding to competitive grants. Seven percent of farms, mostly small-scale, favored eliminating funding altogether.

Table 16. Research and Extension Funding (Question 31)

Research and Extension Funding Alternative	Response by Farm Size*			
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>			
Maintain Current Mix of Formula and Competitive Funding	56	55	55	56
Increase Formula Funding	21	27	26	23
Shift Funding to Competitive Funding	15	14	19	14
Eliminate Funding	8	4	1	7
	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add due to rounding.

A second question on research asked Kansas producers which research topics they would support if research funds for those topics were available. Table 17 summarizes these alternatives and the priority producers place on them. With a composite score of 4.36 on a scale of 1 (least important) to 5 (most important), biofuels and renewable energy ranked as the top research priority. Water quality and food safety research ranked second and third, with composite scores of 4.18 and 3.87, respectively. These results were similar to producer preferences nationwide. The only research alternative that Kansas producers did not support was private forest land management.

Table 17. Research Funding Priorities (Question 34)

Research Funding Alternative	Average Score by Farm Size*				Relative Rank
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Biofuels and Renewable Energy	4.36	4.39	4.31	4.36 <sup>a</sup>	1
Biotechnology	3.56	3.42	3.80	3.57 <sup>de</sup>	7
Production Agriculture	3.81	3.81	3.90	3.82 <sup>c</sup>	4
Biosecurity	3.42	3.31	3.55	3.42 <sup>ef</sup>	9
Food Security	3.67	3.54	3.63	3.66 <sup>d</sup>	6
Food Safety	3.89	3.79	3.70	3.87 <sup>c</sup>	3
Nutrition and Obesity	3.13	2.99	3.01	3.11 <sup>g</sup>	11
Air Quality	3.58	3.28	3.42	3.53 <sup>de</sup>	8
Soil Quality	3.83	3.54	3.61	3.79 <sup>c</sup>	5
Water Quality	4.24	3.93	3.88	4.18 <sup>b</sup>	2
Private Forest Land Management	2.85	2.72	2.46	2.81 <sup>h</sup>	12
Community and Economic Development	3.36	3.28	3.27	3.35 <sup>f</sup>	10

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

### Kansas Water Policy

Irrigation is an important component of crop production in Kansas. However, declining groundwater levels in western Kansas, the primary irrigated production area of the state, have lead to several policy options being suggested as a means to conserve water supplies for irrigation, development, and other uses. Kansas producers were asked to provide their opinions on five water policy alternatives. The results are shown in Table 18.

Table 18. Water Policy Issues (Kansas Question 33)

Program	Average Score by Farm Size (Kansas)				Relative Rank
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
Cost-Share Assistance for Converting to more Efficient Irrigation System	3.39	3.27	3.29	3.37 <sup>a</sup>	3
Buy-out of Existing Irrigation Systems	2.36	2.31	2.58	2.37 <sup>b</sup>	4
State Regulated Pumping and Well Drilling Restrictions	3.59	3.54	3.01	3.54 <sup>a</sup>	1
State Regulation of Voluntary Water Banks and Water Trading	3.38	3.44	3.66	3.41 <sup>a</sup>	2
No State Regulations Limiting Water Application	2.17	1.98	2.30	2.16 <sup>c</sup>	5

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion. Kansas composite scores are compared using Fisher's Protected LSD within each group of questions. Statistically significant differences in scores are shown in the composite column with different superscripts (P<0.05).

Kansas producers ranked state regulated pumping and drilling restrictions higher than all other water policy alternatives. Ranking second and third were state regulation of voluntary water banks and water trading, and cost-share assistance for converting to more efficient irrigation systems. Producers did not favor a federal or state buy-out of existing irrigation water rights, or no state regulations limiting water application.

## SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

### Operator Characteristics

Producers were asked to identify their age, gender, ethnicity, and race. Table 19 provides information on the age of survey participants. The age distribution of Kansas survey respondents was less than one-half of 1 percent under 25 years of age, 3 percent from 25 to 34, 10 percent from 35 to 44, 26 percent from 45-54, 26 percent from 55-64, and 34 percent age 65 or older. The age distribution in Kansas was slightly different than the nationwide response in that Kansas had a slightly higher percentage of respondents age 65 or older. The largest percentage of those age 65 or older were small-scale producers.

Table 19. Age of Respondent (Question 35)

Age Category	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Under 25	0	0	0	0	0
25 - 34	3	3	3	3	2
35 - 44	9	14	15	10	11
45 - 54	24	39	30	26	27
55 - 64	26	26	30	26	28
65 and Over	37	19	23	34	31
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the age categories. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 20 shows the percentage of Kansas respondents by gender. Similar to nationwide results, 89 percent of Kansas producers were male. A larger percentage of small farm producers were female (12 percent) as compared to the medium and large farm categories at 4 and 6 percent, respectively.

Table 20. Gender of Respondent (Question 36)

Gender	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Male	89	96	94	89	88
Female	12	4	6	11	12
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the gender categories. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 21 indicates that 1 percent of Kansas producers responded "yes" to the question whether they were of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino background. The nationwide response was 2 percent. Table 22 provides the results of a second question on race or ethnicity. In Kansas, 99 percent of producers responded that they were white, while 1 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native.

Table 21. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background of Respondent (Question 37)

Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Background	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Yes	1	0	0	1	2
No	99	100	100	99	98
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino categories. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 22. Race or Ethnicity of Respondent (Question 38)

Race or Ethnicity	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
White	99	100	100	99	98
Black or African American	0	0	0	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	0	1	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the race or ethnicity categories. Totals may not add due to rounding.

### Farm Income Characteristics

In question 39, Kansas producers were asked to categorize their operation in terms of the average annual market value of agricultural products sold from the farm or ranch, not counting government payments. The responses to this question are summarized in Table 23.

Compared to the nationwide composite responses, Kansas has a higher percentage of medium and large-scale farms. The Kansas composite responses showed that 18 percent of farms reported under \$10,000 in market value of sales, 23 percent between \$10,000 and \$50,000, and 20 percent between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Twenty four percent of Kansas responses were classified as medium-scale farms, while 16 percent were classified as large-scale farms. That compares to 9 and 8 percent, respectively, on a nationwide basis.

Table 23. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold on the Farm or Ranch (Question 39)

Market Value Category	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Under \$10,000	29	0	0	18	31
\$10,000 - \$49,999	38	0	0	23	28
\$50,000 - \$99,999	33	0	0	20	23
\$100,000 - \$249,999	0	100	0	24	9
\$250,000 - \$499,999	0	0	57	9	5
\$500,000 - \$999,999	0	0	26	4	2
\$1,000,000 and Over	0	0	17	3	1
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the market value categories. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 24 presents another perspective on farm income in terms of the percentage of farm or ranch cash receipts from 19 different commodity categories grouped into the main categories of program crops (crops with a farm program safety net), non-program crops (crops without a specific farm program safety net), and livestock. Over 52 percent of receipts on Kansas farms were reported to come from program crops. That compares to 33 percent nationally. Non-program crops were reported to contribute only 12 percent of cash receipts on Kansas farms. Nationwide, non-program crops contributed 21 percent of cash receipts. Finally, livestock contributed over 35 percent of cash receipts on Kansas farms and ranches, with cattle providing 85 percent of all livestock receipts. Nationwide, livestock contributed 46 percent of cash receipts.

Table 24. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts by Commodity Group (Question 40)

Source of Receipts		Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
		Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
<i>(percent of receipts)</i>						
Program Crops	Grains	39.7	45.0	41.7	40.4	19.1
	Oilseeds	11.0	12.1	15.3	11.5	10.1
	Cotton	0.2	1.1	0.4	0.3	2.5
	Pulses	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3
	Peanuts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
	Sugar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
	Subtotal	50.9	58.5	57.5	52.2	32.8
Non-Program Crops	Fruits	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.4	3.8
	Vegetables	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	2.2
	Nursery Crops	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	3.9
	Forages	5.7	2.4	3.8	4.9	6.3
	Tobacco	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
	Other Crops	6.0	4.1	3.3	5.6	4.4
	Subtotal	13.4	7.8	7.9	12.1	21.2
Livestock	Dairy	1.2	2.8	3.3	1.5	5.5
	Sheep	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.6	2.6
	Aquaculture	0.2	0.0	1.6	0.3	0.7
	Cattle	31.3	27.4	26.3	30.5	29.3
	Hogs	0.3	1.6	1.6	0.5	1.7
	Poultry	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3	2.0
	Other Livestock	2.1	1.0	2.0	1.9	4.3
Subtotal	36.0	33.9	34.8	35.6	46.0	
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts by each of the commodity groups. Total may not add due to rounding.

\*\* Pulses are included in the broad category of "Program Crops" though not all pulse crops are eligible for commodity loan programs.

Table 25 summarizes the results of a question asking producers to report the percentage of farm or ranch cash receipts from the sales of organic products. The results show 3.2 percent of receipts on the average Kansas farm came from organic production. When reading Table 25, it is important to note that the definition of organic production was left to the interpretation of the producer. It did not necessarily represent only certified organic production, but may also have included output that is produced with organic methods or with other natural methods.

Table 25. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts from Organic Production (Question 41)

Source of Receipts	Average Share by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of receipts)</i>				
Organic Receipts	3.77	0.52	1.04	3.22	5.98

\* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts from organic production.

A final question on farm income asked producers to report the share of their family income that came from farming or ranching. The results are reported in Table 26. A total of 5 percent of Kansas producers indicated that farm income contributed nothing to family income; 31 percent of Kansas producers reported between 1 and 25 percent of family income; 18 percent of Kansas producers reported between 26 and 50 percent; 14 percent of Kansas producers reported between 51 and 75 percent; and 32 percent of Kansas producers reported between 76 and 100 percent.

Table 26. Share of Family Income from Farming or Ranching (Question 42)

Share of Family Income From Farming or Ranching Category	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
None	5	3	3	5	7
1 - 25%	38	6	2	31	37
26 - 50%	20	18	6	18	16
51 - 75%	13	18	19	14	12
76 - 100%	25	55	71	32	27
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the share of family income categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

### Education, Management, and Related Issues

Information regarding the education of Kansas producers is shown in Table 27. Based on the highest level of education completed, the composite results for Kansas showed that 2 percent of producers reported a grade school education; 4 percent some high school education; 25 percent a high school or general equivalency diploma; 32 percent some college or technical school experience; 25 percent a college bachelor's degree; and 12 percent an advanced college degree.

To access producer familiarity with and participation in federal farm programs, producers were asked to check the programs they participated in or received benefits from in recent years. The results are shown in Table 28.

The survey results indicate that 80 percent of Kansas producers participated in farm support programs, compared to just 62 percent nationwide. However, results differed significantly across farm size, as 77 percent of small farms participated in farm support programs, compared to 96 and 94 percent of medium and large farms, respectively. For conservation programs, participation rates were lower in Kansas than farm support programs, but significantly higher than the national average. Like farm support programs, participation in conservation programs was higher for medium and large farms than small farms. Overall, 90 percent of Kansas producers participated in some type of farm program.

Table 27. Education of Respondent (Question 43)

Last Year of Education Completed	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Grade School	2	1	2	2	2
Some High School	4	3	2	4	5
High School/GED	26	23	16	25	30
Some College/Technical School	32	38	25	32	32
College Bachelor's Degree	23	27	46	25	21
College Advanced Degree	13	8	10	12	11
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the education categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 28. Federal Farm Program Participation (Question 44)

Federal Farm Program Category	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide	
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite		
	<i>(percent responding yes)</i>					
Farm Support Programs	Commodity Programs	73	94	93	77	51
	Insurance Programs	32	61	59	37	20
	Agricultural Credit Programs	4	6	4	4	5
	Disaster Assistance Programs	39	51	47	41	26
	Trade Adjustment Programs	1	1	0	1	0
	Any Farm Support Programs	77	96	94	80	62
Conservation Programs	Land Retirement Programs	39	47	52	41	22
	Working Land Programs	14	29	32	17	13
	Land Preservation Programs	6	10	10	7	5
	Any Conservation Programs	47	63	65	50	32
Other Farm Programs		6	6	4	6	7
Any Farm Programs		88	99	95	90	72

\* Responses shown are the percent answering that they participated in each of the program categories. Totals do not add across categories.

Table 29 reports the percentage of producers by tenure category or the percent of farmland in the operation that is owned. In Kansas, 7 percent of producers reported owning none of the land they operate; 15 percent of producers

owned 1 to 25 percent; 16 percent owned 26 to 50 percent; 14 percent owned 51 to 75 percent; and 49 percent owned 76 to 100 percent.

Table 29. Farm or Ranch Tenure (Question 45)

Share of Farmland Owned Category	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
None	7	3	6	7	7
1 - 25%	12	30	25	15	12
26 - 50%	14	24	27	16	11
51 - 75%	12	20	21	14	10
76 - 100%	55	23	22	49	61
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm tenure categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Producers were asked about the expected future transition of their farm or ranch once they were no longer operating it. Table 30 shows the results of this expected transition, whether to the producer's spouse, children, other relatives, or other possibilities. Based on the survey results, 6 percent of producers in Kansas expected the farm or ranch to be operated by their spouse, 41 percent expected the operation to continue with their children, and 11 percent expected the operation to continue with other relatives. Altogether, 58 percent of Kansas producers expected their farm or ranch to continue with their immediate family or other relatives. Six percent of Kansas producers expected the operation to continue with someone involved in the current operation who is not a relative, while 30 percent of producers expected the farm or ranch to be operated by individuals outside the current operation. Finally, 6 percent of Kansas producers believed the operation would be converted to non-farm use.

Table 30. Expected Farm or Ranch Transition (Question 46)

Expected Transition	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Operated by Spouse	7	4	4	6	6
Operated by Children	38	52	59	41	43
Operated by Other Relatives	12	3	10	11	7
Operated by Non-Relatives in Current Operation	6	7	6	6	3
Operated by Individuals Outside Current Operation	30	33	21	30	22
Converted to Non-Farm Use	7	1	0	6	18
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm or ranch transition categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

In the last question in the survey, producers were asked to provide their definition of a "small" farm based on the measure of market value of agricultural products sold. Table 31 provides the analysis of this question. Overall, 11 percent of Kansas producers reported that a small farm is one with less than \$10,000 in sales; 30 percent one with less than \$50,000 in sales; 29 percent with less than \$100,000 in sales. An additional 12 percent of Kansas producers reported a small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales; thus, a total of 76 percent of producers reported a

small farm was one with less than \$250,000 in sales, a level of sales consistent with a widely accepted definition of small farms used in academic and policy analyses and discussions. A total of 4 percent of producers defined small farm at a level above \$250,000 in sales, leaving 12 percent who preferred the statement that small farms cannot easily be defined by sales.

Table 31. Respondent Definition of Farm Size (Question 47)

Market Value Category	Response by Farm Size* (Kansas)				Composite Response Nationwide
	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	
	<i>(percent of responses)</i>				
Under \$10,000	13	2	1	11	14
Under \$50,000	33	22	14	30	27
Under \$100,000	29	29	30	29	23
Under \$250,000	9	29	18	12	12
Under \$500,000	2	7	10	3	4
Under \$1,000,000	1	1	6	1	2
Not Defined by Sales	12	10	21	12	19
	100	100	100	100	100

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm size definition categories. Totals may not add due to rounding.

## CONCLUSION

The National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey elicited agricultural producers' preferences on current policy issues and future policy directions related to the next farm bill. Twenty-seven states participated in the survey, representing 60 percent of all U.S. farms and ranches (Figure 1). As one of the 27 participating states, faculty in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University worked with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Kansas Field Office to survey Kansas farmers and ranchers.

Producers were asked questions regarding farm bill goals, budget priorities, commodity programs and risk management, conservation and environmental policy, trade policy, food system and regulatory policy, and some other related policy issues. Overall, Kansas producers generally had opinions similar to those of producers nationwide. However, there were also some differences. For example, Kansas producers favored the traditional goals of farm bills such as enhancing opportunities for small/beginning farmers, increasing competitiveness, enhancing farm income over new goals like reducing dependence on non-renewable energy. Kansas producers also tended to be more supportive of free trade than producers nationwide.

In sum, the survey analysis helps inform the upcoming farm bill debate. The complex issues and the potential policy trade-offs will make policy choices for the next farm bill extremely challenging. Having a comprehensive analysis of policy alternatives and a clear understanding of producer preferences will be vital to the farm bill development process.