

2005 National Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy Preference Survey
Washington State Survey Results
(919 usable questionnaires)

This survey asks for your preferences and opinions on the 2007 Farm Bill. Congress will face many challenges, constraints, and trade-offs in writing this legislation. Budget deficits, trade issues and agreements, changing farm policy priorities, and new emerging issues will all affect the debate. The opinions of farm or ranch operators who respond to this survey will be reported in a national Extension publication that will help guide what is proposed, what is traded off, and what is ultimately authorized and funded in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Section A – Farm Programs and Budget Priorities

The 2007 Farm Bill may need to reduce or reallocate federal funding for current farm programs. The 2007 FARM Bill may also support new programs with new or reallocated federal funding. With these significant questions and possible trade-offs, your opinions are sought of the overall goals and priorities for federal legislation.

Please indicate how important you feel each of the following goals or programs is by indicating “1” as the least important and “5” as the most important. “DK” represents no response or no opinion.

	LI				MI	DK
1. The goals of the Farm Bill should be to:	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Enhance farm income.....	5.66	4.13	14.91	20.46	50.38	4.46
b. Reduce price/income risk.....	5.77	7.62	22.20	26.01	29.16	9.25
c. Increase the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace.....	3.37	4.03	10.23	25.68	52.23	4.46
d. Enhance opportunities for small farms/ ranches and beginning farms/ranches	3.92	5.98	18.72	25.24	43.31	2.83
e. Contribute to protecting the nation’s land, water, and environmental resources.....	6.42	10.01	26.88	24.59	28.51	3.59
f. Enhance rural economies.....	3.59	5.01	19.48	34.28	33.95	3.70
g. Assure a safe, secure, abundant, and affordable food supply	2.83	3.37	12.30	26.01	53.10	2.39
h. Reduce the nation’s dependency on non-renewable sources of energy.....	5.44	5.11	13.28	23.18	48.86	4.13

	LI				MI	DK
2. How important is it to maintain funding for the following existing programs?	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Fixed, decoupled crop commodity payments (direct payments)	14.80	10.77	19.91	13.06	25.14	16.32
b. Crop commodity payments tied to price (counter-cyclical payments).....	12.95	9.03	20.89	18.39	21.65	17.08
c. Crop commodity payments tied to price and production (commodity loans, LCPs, etc.)	11.53	9.03	21.98	18.61	22.42	16.43
d. Livestock commodity supports tied to price and production (milk support programs/ MILC payments, etc.)	17.30	12.40	27.20	13.82	9.58	19.70
e. Land retirement conservation programs (CRP, WRP).....	17.74	12.84	23.94	18.72	17.41	9.36
f. Working land conservation programs (EQIP, WHIP, CSP, etc.).....	12.95	9.47	21.22	25.35	21.00	10.01
g. Wildlife habitat, agricultural land and grassland preservation programs (WHIP, FRPP, GRP)	15.67	14.36	25.90	20.57	17.19	6.31
h. Risk management programs (crop and livestock insurance programs)	7.62	8.49	23.29	30.58	20.57	9.47
i. Agricultural credit programs (FSA direct and guaranteed loans)	8.81	9.58	23.72	28.07	21.33	8.49
j. Disaster assistance programs	4.13	6.09	18.82	30.47	35.26	5.22
3. How important is it to provide new or reallocated funds for the following programs?						
a. Support payments tied to farm income level....	11.53	9.68	24.27	22.52	20.57	11.43
b. Support payments for commodities not included in existing programs (fruits, vegetables, nursery crops, livestock, wood products, etc.).....	18.17	14.58	27.75	15.13	13.38	10.99
c. Incentives for farm savings accounts	11.97	7.94	27.31	25.79	15.89	11.10

	LI				MI	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
d. Bioenergy production incentives	6.53	7.94	20.46	28.18	29.92	6.96
e. Biosecurity incentives and assistance	8.38	10.12	27.86	24.05	16.32	13.28
f. Food safety programs and assistance.....	5.88	8.81	27.20	30.47	20.35	7.29
g. Traceability and certification programs	9.79	11.21	31.12	23.07	14.58	10.23

Section B – Commodity Programs and Risk Management Policy

Commodity programs and related risk management programs have been a fundamental part of federal farm policy over the years. The design of these programs and their impact on producers and production decisions is a critical part of the Farm Bill debate. Because of the impact of these programs, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, DK = don't know/no opinion).

	SD				SA	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
4. Farm program commodity payments should be phased out over the length of the 2007 Farm Bill	35.91	13.93	17.08	8.71	11.97	12.40
5. Farm program commodity payments should be reduced, but not phased out in the 2007 Farm Bill	34.60	13.06	18.39	14.58	6.98	12.40
6. Farm program commodity payments should be targeted to small farms.....	13.60	10.12	16.32	20.24	31.34	8.38
7. Existing commodity program payment limits should be reduced to lower levels.....	22.96	12.30	21.33	13.93	15.02	14.47
8. Existing commodity program payment limits should be changed to apply to a single individual, eliminating what is known as the three-entry rule.....	10.66	6.53	18.82	13.17	24.37	26.44

	SD				SA	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
9. Existing commodity program payment limits on marketing loans should be changed to eliminate the unlimited use of certificate and forfeiture gains	7.40	5.22	26.44	9.68	11.53	39.72
10. Some have suggested that current commodity programs could offer a buy-out program similar to that recently implemented for tobacco. In a buy-out program, producers would be offered a lump-sum payment or series of payments in exchange for eliminating all future rights to federal commodity program payments. Please indicate your preference for each of the following buy-out options.						
				Yes	No	No Opinion
				%	%	%
a. Producers should be offered a buy-out of existing commodity programs				24.81	40.91	34.28
b. If a buy-out were offered in a single lump-sum equal to 15 years worth of my current commodity payments in today's dollars, I would take it.....				21.11	34.39	44.50
c. I would accept an equal value of the buy-out described in 10b if it were paid in a series of annual installments.....				20.13	31.56	48.31
d. If a buy-out were offered in a single lump-sum equal to 25 years worth of my current commodity payments in today's dollars, I would take it.....				29.16	26.77	44.07
e. I would accept an equal value of the buy-out described in 10d if it were paid in a series of annual installments.....				25.57	27.20	47.23
11. Federal dairy programs have included both a dairy support program backed by government purchases and a direct payment program based on milk prices called the milk income loss contract (MILC). What should be the policy regarding future dairy programs? (Check one)						
a. Eliminate all dairy support programs						22.96%
b. Eliminate the MILC program and retain only the dairy price support program.....						13.60%
c. Eliminate the dairy price support program and provide direct payments only in a method similar to the MILC program.....						10.34%
d. Reauthorize both the current dairy price support program and the MILC program.....						27.97%
e. No response.....						25.14%

Section C – Conservation and Environmental Policy

Conservation of the nation’s land and water resources is a well-recognized national priority. Effective federal program design must deal with targeting conservation priorities, streamlining program delivery, managing partnerships with state and local governments, recognizing changes in farming and rural landowners to be conservation-minded. Because of the significant issues involved in these programs, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

12. Considering the following environmental goals, please indicate your preference for organizing federal technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

	No Fed. Assist.	Tech. Assist. Only	Tech. and Fin. Assist.	No Opin.
	%	%	%	%
a. Water quality protection.....	9.03	17.52	64.96	8.49
b. Soil erosion control.....	7.94	24.81	58.76	8.49
c. Air quality protection.....	12.40	27.97	46.90	12.73
d. Wildlife habitat protection.....	15.89	24.92	48.64	10.55
e. Open space protection.....	17.08	21.11	48.53	13.28
f. Management of animal wastes.....	12.30	27.64	45.59	14.47
g. Carbon sequestration.....	14.47	21.22	31.23	14.47
h. Maintenance of biodiversity.....	14.69	22.42	35.80	27.09

13. One option for tailoring conservation programs to local needs is to transfer federal funding through block grants to states and give them more authority to implement conservation programs. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with this approach.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Opinion
%	%	%	%	%	%
14.25	7.73	12.84	28.40	23.39	13.38

14. Most contracts for land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will expire by 2010. If changes to the CRP policy are considered, which of the following alternatives would you prefer?

a. Keep current rules and allow current contracts to expire on schedule and compete for re-enrollment against other land being offered for enrollment.....	26.01%
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- b. Allow current contracts ranking highest in environmental benefits to be automatically eligible for re-enrollment at existing annual rental rates27.53%
 - c. Reduce the acreage in the CRP as current contracts expire by restricting future enrollments to high-priority, environmentally sensitive lands21.65%
 - d. Eliminate the CRP as current contracts expire18.17%
 - e. No response 6.64%
15. The Conservation Security Program (CSP) provides cost-share assistance, incentive payments, and technical assistance to producers for adopting and/or maintaining targeted conservation practices on working lands. How should the CSP be addressed in the next Farm Bill?
- a. Continue the current policy of implementing the CSP on a watershed-by-watershed basis as funding allows40.26%
 - b. Increase funding to allow immediate nationwide implementation of the CSP22.96%
 - c. Eliminate the CSP as existing contracts in pilot watersheds expire.....28.07%
 - d. No response..... 8.71%

Section D – Trade Policy

Most U.S. agricultural commodities are substantially impacted by international trade and competition from imports or demand for exports. The United States participates in bilateral and regional trade agreements and in the multinational World Trade Organization (WTO). Because of the impact of international trade, your opinions are sought on these issues.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, DK = don't know/no opinion).

	SD				SA	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
16. The United States should continue to pursue free trade agreements (WTO, CAFTA, etc.) to reduce and eliminate trade barriers	21.87	10.99	13.38	18.72	25.79	9.25
17. Labor laws, environmental impacts, and food safety standards should be included as part of international trade negotiations.....	5.98	4.13	10.88	23.50	47.44	8.05

	SD				SA		DK
	1	2	3	4	5		
	%	%	%	%	%		%
18. To comply with the recent WTO ruling on cotton the United States should eliminate export credits and industry payments such as Step 2 cotton payments.....	7.29	4.90	15.02	7.83	10.34		54.62
19. The United States should emphasize domestic economic and social policy goals rather than trade policies	11.86	10.34	22.09	16.76	18.72		20.24
20. The United States should withdraw from the WTO	16.87	13.60	20.13	8.60	21.33		19.48
21. If the United States withdraws from the WTO, U.S. producers will face greater market access problems getting agricultural exports into other countries.....	10.01	10.01	19.37	21.22	17.63		21.76
22. The United States should eliminate unilateral sanctions prohibiting food trade with certain other countries.....	11.97	8.92	15.34	19.26	23.50		21.00

Section E – Food System and Regulatory Policy

There are many policies developed in the Farm Bill or in closely related legislation that affect the nation's food system and regulatory framework. Because of the impact of these food system policies on U.S. agriculture, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree, DK = don't know/no opinion).

	SD				SA		DK
	1	2	3	4	5		
	%	%	%	%	%		%
23. The government should implement mandatory labeling rules to identify the country of origin on food products	3.48	3.05	6.53	22.09	61.04		3.81
24. The government should develop voluntary labeling guidelines to better establish what the identification of the country of origin means for food products.....	18.93	10.45	15.02	19.59	28.62		7.40

	SD				SA	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
25. The government should increase efforts to improve traceability of food products from the consumer back to the producer	3.92	6.31	20.02	27.86	36.24	5.66
26. The government should adopt mandatory animal identification rules to improve animal health and food safety monitoring efforts	6.96	7.40	24.59	25.79	28.62	6.64
27. The government should adopt mandatory BSE testing of all cattle over 30 months of age	10.45	11.75	22.63	17.30	24.92	12.95
28. The government should establish guidelines for voluntary BSE testing of cattle by private industry	12.08	8.81	20.57	25.57	19.48	13.49
29. Food products made with biotechnology should be labeled regardless of whether there is a scientifically-determined difference in the product	16.97	10.99	16.32	18.72	26.22	10.77

Section F – Related Policy Issues

Many other policy issues affect agriculture and rural America. Because of the significance of these various policies, your opinions are sought on the following issues.

30. If funding for risk management programs is increased, which approaches are most preferred? Please indicate how important you feel each of the following approaches by indicating “1” as the least important and “5” as the most important. “DK” represents no response or no opinion.

	LI				MI	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Increased coverage levels and premium subsidies for crop production and revenue insurance products (APH, RA, IP, CRC, etc.).....	12.30	5.98	20.46	20.35	15.67	25.24
b. Increased coverage, protection levels, and premium subsidies for livestock revenue insurance (LRP)	13.60	8.16	27.09	13.60	6.20	31.34
c. Increased coverage, production levels, and premium subsidies for whole-farm or ranch income insurance (AGR, AGR Lite)	10.12	6.96	21.98	21.11	16.00	23.83

	LI				MI	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
d. Tax-deferred savings accounts for farmers, providing for withdrawals in low-income years or at retirement	5.22	2.83	10.99	25.68	42.98	12.30
e. Incentive payments to producers to encourage the use of various risk management tools, including hedging, insurance, savings accounts, and educational programs	9.90	6.96	20.57	26.01	19.37	17.19
31. Among possible rural development programs, which programs are most preferred?						
a. Improve access to capital for business growth and development in rural areas.....	7.62	7.07	19.26	30.36	26.01	9.68
b. Improve education and training programs for rural development.....	7.07	5.98	23.94	31.66	22.42	8.92
c. Increase rural high-speed access to the Internet	10.99	7.83	25.57	23.07	22.09	10.45
d. Increase funds provided to local governments for infrastructure and services....	11.32	9.36	27.53	26.88	14.58	10.34
e. Increase grants for business development and job creation in rural areas.....	10.34	8.05	20.13	29.82	23.07	8.60
32. If applied research and extension funds were available to allocate to certain areas, which ones are most important?						
a. Alternative uses and value-added products.....	5.22	4.57	21.22	33.51	21.11	14.36
b. Biofuels and renewable energy	3.16	3.16	11.64	27.75	48.20	6.09
c. Biotechnology and its applications	6.31	8.27	23.83	29.71	21.11	10.77
d. Community and economic development	7.40	8.16	30.25	32.43	13.71	8.05
e. Food safety and quality	3.59	5.88	20.89	36.56	27.97	5.11
f. Forest and range land management	7.18	12.08	33.41	27.09	12.19	8.05
g. 4-H youth and family development	6.96	9.36	25.68	32.97	19.15	5.88
h. Nutrition and health	6.53	8.71	28.07	31.77	18.72	6.20

	LI				MI	DK
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
i. Organic agricultural systems	19.80	17.95	29.05	14.91	11.64	6.64
j. Plant, animal, and food biosecurity systems.....	8.81	11.43	32.21	25.14	12.19	10.23
k. Production agriculture systems	5.44	6.53	28.84	31.66	16.76	10.77
l. Soil, water, and air quality	3.92	8.05	23.18	33.62	26.22	5.01
33. The 2007 Farm Bill may reallocate funding from crop support payments to what are termed “Green Box” programs, such as conservation, renewable energy, research and extension, and diversifying rural economies. Please indicate how important each of the following is to you.						
a. Increased research and extension funding.....	8.27	9.79	20.89	30.47	23.39	7.18
b. Increased conservation funding	10.88	12.95	23.07	27.53	18.17	7.40
c. More investments in rural infrastructure, water, sewer, broadband, bridges, etc.	10.01	13.28	28.73	26.66	13.60	7.73
d. More diversified investment in entrepreneurship training and value-added programs	10.45	14.36	28.73	28.83	12.84	9.79
34. Imagine you have \$100 of taxpayer money to spend on agricultural teaching, research and extension. How would you distribute this money?						
a. Teaching students on campus.....	\$ 26.07					
b. Off-campus education and technical help.....	\$ 34.57					
c. Doing research	<u>\$ 39.36</u>					
d. Total	\$100.00					

Section G – Personal Data

35. What is your age?

Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	No response
%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0.11	2.18	10.23	30.36	31.56	24.92	0.65

36. What is your gender?

Male	Female	No response
87.6%	11.2%	1.2%

37. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin or background such as Mexican, Cuban, or Puerto Rican, regardless of race?

Yes	No	No response
1.41%	93.48%	5.11%

38. What is your race or ethnicity?

a. White	94.89%
b. Black or African American.....	.22%
c. American Indian or Alaska Native.....	.44%
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander00%
e. Asian76%
f. No response	3.70%

39. What is the approximate average annual market value of agricultural products sold from your farm or ranch in recent years, **not including government payments?** (Check one)

a. Under \$10,000.....	19.37%
b. \$10,000 - \$49,999	17.41%
c. \$50,000 - \$99,999	12.19%
d. \$100,000 - \$249,999	23.18%
e. \$250,000 - \$499,999	13.38%
f. \$500,000 - \$999,999	7.29%

- g. \$1,000,000 and over..... 7.18%
 - h. No response..... 0.00%
40. What percent of your total farm or ranch cash receipts in recent years came from the following sources? (Percentage-numbers should add to 100%)
- a. Food and feed grains27.67%
 - b. Soybeans and other oilseeds 0.09%
 - c. Cotton..... 0.00%
 - d. Dry beans, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas 1.75%
 - e. Peanuts 0.02%
 - f. Sugar beets and sugar cane..... 0.00%
 - g. Tobacco..... 0.00%
 - h. Fruits, tree nuts, and berries18.68%
 - i. Vegetables, melons, and potatoes 4.26%
 - j. Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod..... 5.70%
 - k. Forages..... 7.77%
 - l. All other crops 7.23%
 - m. Aquaculture..... 0.65%
 - n. Cattle and calves13.82%
 - o. Dairy cattle and dairy products 4.69%
 - p. Hogs and pigs..... 0.59%
 - q. Sheep, goats, and their products 1.54%
 - r. Poultry and poultry products 1.84%
 - s. All other livestock and livestock products 3.70%

41. What percent of your total farm or ranch cash receipts in recent years came from sales of organic products?

(Insert percentage as a whole number)8.81%

42. What percent of your family income is typically earned from farming or ranching? (Check one)

None	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%	No response
4.68%	25.57%	12.84%	10.66%	45.27%	0.98%

43. What was the last year of school you completed? (Check one)

Grade School	Some High School	High School/ GED	Some College/ Tech School	College Bachelor's Degree	College Advanced Degree	No Response
0.76%	1.63%	16.54%	36.78%	30.79%	11.86%	1.63%

44. What federal farm programs did your operation participate in or receive benefits from in recent years? (Check all that apply)

- a. Commodity programs (direct payments, price supports, commodity loans, LDPs, etc.)45.05%
- b. Land retirement conservation programs (CRP, WRP)23.50%
- c. Working land conservation programs (EQIP, CSP, etc.)17.30%
- d. Wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and grassland preservation programs (WHIP, FRPP, GRP) 4.35%
- e. Risk management programs (crop and livestock insurance programs)21.22%
- f. Agricultural credit programs 3.16%
- g. Disaster assistance programs27.53%
- h. Trade adjustment assistance programs..... 0.83%
- i. Other federal farm programs..... 5.77%

45. What percent of the land operated in your farm or ranch do you own? (Check one)

None	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%	No response
6.42%	11.32%	12.62%	11.10%	57.89%	0.65%

46. When you are no longer operating your farm or ranch, what do you expect will happen to the operation? (Check one)

- a. It will be operated by my spouse..... 4.24%
- b. It will be operated by my children36.67%
- c. It will be operated by other relatives..... 5.22%
- d. It will be operated by a non-relative who is currently involved in the operation..... 3.37%
- e. It will be operated by individuals not involved in the current operation25.03%
- f. It will be converted to a non-farm use20.02%
- g. No response..... 5.44%

47. If farm size is defined by the value of agricultural products sold, what size level would you suggest defines a small farm? (Check one)

- a. Under \$10,000..... 9.58%
- b. Under \$50,000.....18.50%
- c. Under \$100,000.....18.93%
- d. Under \$250,000.....15.34%
- e. Under \$500,000..... 7.62%
- f. Under \$1,000,000 4.79%
- g. Small farms cannot be easily defined by sales.....20.35%
- h. No response..... 4.90%