

National Public Opinion Poll:

American Farmland Trust and Northern Illinois University

A two-phase telephone survey conducted between June 2 though July 26, 2001

Question: 0

I am calling from Northern Illinois University. Researchers at the university are studying people's opinions on some important public policy issues. We are asking registered voters from all over the country to participate.

We will not try to sell you anything, and the opinions we gather are kept strictly confidential.

The interview will take about 15 minutes,
For your time, we would like to send you ten first-class U.S. postage stamps.

Question: 1

I must first ask to speak to the youngest male [**Age and gender were rotated.**] in your household who is at least 18 years old and is a registered voter.

- 1> MALE ON PHONE IS YOUNGEST REGISTERED VOTER
- 2> MALE COMING TO PHONE IS YOUNGEST REGISTERED VOTER
- 3> REQUESTED MALE NOT AVAILABLE
- 4> NO MALE IN HOUSEHOLD
- 5> NO REGISTERED VOTER IN HH

Question: 2

Ask if Answer to Q1 > 2

If you are a registered voter, I'd like to interview you now.

- 1> YES
 - 2> YES, ANOTHER PERSON IS COMING TO THE PHONE
 - 3> NO
 - 4> YES, BUT NOT NOW, CALL BACK LATER
- IF NEITHER MALE OR PWA, ASK FOR ANYONE 18 OR OVER WHO IS REGISTERED TO VOTE.

Question: 3

Ask if Answer to Q1 = 2

OR Answer to Q2 = 2

I am calling from Northern Illinois University. Researchers at the university are studying people's opinions on some important public policy issues. We are asking registered voters from all over the country to participate.

We will not try to sell you anything and the opinions we gather are kept strictly confidential.

May I interview you now?

- 1> YES
- 2> YES, BUT NOT NOW, CALL BACK LATER
- 3> NO

Question: 4

If Answer to Q2 > 2

OR Answer to Q3 > 2

OR Answer to Q1 = 5

Thank you for your time. THE INTERVIEW IS TERMINATED FOR LACK OF A WILLING ELIGIBLE REGISTERED VOTER.

Question: 5

First let me ask your opinion about the general direction the American economy is taking.

One year from now, do you believe the economy will be...

- 1> better than it is today,
- 2> about the same,
- 3> or worse?

Question: 6

In this section I am going to read you several statements, please tell me if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all.

How concerned are you about gasoline prices being too high for your family's budget?

Are you...

- 1> very concerned,
- 2> somewhat concerned,
- 3> not too concerned,
- 4> or not concerned at all?

Question: 7

How concerned are you about members of your family or friends being laid off from work?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 8

How concerned are you that nuclear missiles may attack United States cities?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 9

How concerned are you that the public schools may not be educating children in your community adequately?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 10

How concerned are you that meat or poultry sold in your community's grocery stores might be unsafe to eat?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 11

That unhealthy levels of residues from agricultural pesticides may remain on fruit or vegetables sold in your community's grocery stores?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 12

That agricultural pesticides or livestock manure may contaminate drinking water in your community?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 13

That too much farmland in your state may be converted to houses, stores, and other nonagricultural developments?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 14

Some foods at stores are produced through genetic engineering, that is, from technology that changes the genetic makeup of plants or animals.

How concerned are you that eating genetically modified food may harm members of your family?

- 1> VERY CONCERNED
- 2> SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
- 3> NOT TOO CONCERNED
- 4> NOT CONCERNED AT ALL

Question: 15

Let's turn to questions about agriculture's other possible impacts on the quality of life.

Some people value farms and ranches for "their scenic beauty" while other people "don't" find farms particularly attractive.

How much do you value farms or ranches for their "scenic qualities?"
Do you:

- 1> Value not at all,
- 2> value slightly,
- 3> value moderately,
- 4> or value highly?

Question: 16

Some people value farms or ranches for "their recreational opportunities," such as providing places to hunt, hike, or camp if the owner permits.

How much do you value farmland or ranchland for its recreational opportunities?

- 1> VALUE NOT AT ALL
- 2> VALUE SLIGHTLY
- 3> VALUE MODERATELY
- 4> VALUE HIGHLY

Question: 17

How much do you value farms or ranches as “habitat for wildlife” like pheasants, wild ducks, and other animals?

- 1> VALUE NOT AT ALL
- 2> VALUE SLIGHTLY
- 3> VALUE MODERATELY
- 4> VALUE HIGHLY

Question: 18

Now let's talk about where food is produced. Some people are concerned about where the food they eat is produced. Other people do not really care.

When you purchase or use food or beverages, how often do you look at the labels to see in which “country or state” they were produced?

Would you say you:

- 1> Never,
- 2> rarely,
- 3> sometimes,
- 4> or frequently look at the labels?

Question: 19

How important is it that the food you eat comes from farms and ranches in the United States rather than from foreign countries?

Would you say you:

- 1> Not at all important,
- 2> not too important,
- 3> somewhat important,
- 4> or very important?

Question: 20

How important is it that your food comes from farms or ranches in your own state rather than outside the state?

Would you say you:

- 1> Not at all important,
- 2> not too important,
- 3> somewhat important,
- 4> or very important?

Question: 21

Next, we need to ask a few questions about federal government payments to farmers.

Some farmers receive such payments either to offset or make up for low market prices for their farm products or to pay for damage to their crops from drought or floods.

Have you seen, read, or heard about federal government payments to farmers to offset the effects of low market prices or severe weather?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 22

Some people approve of these payments while others disapprove.

When farmers face low market prices for their farm products, how do you feel about federal payments to help them stay in business?

Do you..

- 1> approve
- 2> or disapprove?
- 3> NEUTRAL/ MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Question: 23

Ask if Answer to Q22 = 1

Do you strongly approve or somewhat approve?

- 1>SOMEWHAT APPROVE
- 2>STRONGLY APPROVE

Question: 24

Ask if Answer to Q22 = 2

Do you strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

- 1>SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
- 2>STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

Question: 25

When drought or floods damage farmers' crops how do you feel about federal payments to help them stay in business?

Do you..

- 1> approve
- 2> disapprove?
- 3> NEUTRAL/ MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Question: 26

Ask if Answer to Q25 = 1

Do you strongly approve or somewhat approve?

- 1>SOMEWHAT APPROVE
- 2>STRONGLY APPROVE

Question: 27

Ask if Answer to Q25 = 2

Do you strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?

- 1>SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
- 2>STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

Question: 28

Now I have a list of purposes for federal spending.

For each purpose, please tell me whether you favor spending more, less, or about the same amount as currently.

The first purpose is to achieve an effective military defense for the nation.

Do you favor spending:

- 1> more,
- 2> less,
- 3> or about the same amount as currently

Question: 29

to achieve effective treatments for cancer victims?

Do you favor spending:

- 1> more,
- 2> less,
- 3> or about the same amount as currently

Question: 30

to achieve good wildlife habitats on farms and ranches.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

- 1> MORE
- 2> LESS
- 3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 31

to help farmers minimize their uses of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

1> MORE

2> LESS

3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 32

to help farmers store and dispose of livestock manure safely.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

1> MORE

2> LESS

3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 33

to effectively educate children in public schools.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

1> MORE

2> LESS

3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 34

to protect wetlands on farms and ranches.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

1> MORE

2> LESS

3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 35

to keep productive farmland from being converted into housing or commercial developments.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

1> MORE

2> LESS

3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 36

to find economical ways to use corn or other crops as sources of fuel to produce power.

DO YOU FAVOR SPENDING...

1> MORE

2> LESS

3> OR ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS CURRENTLY

Question: 37

Thinking about federal payments to help farmers stay in business,

Some people believe that in exchange for payments farmers should apply some conservation practices such as protecting waterways, wetlands, and wildlife.

Other people prefer that the payments be given without the conservation conditions.

Do you prefer...

- 1> Payments given without the conservation conditions,
- 2> or requiring one or more conservation practices in exchange for payments.

Question: 38

Answer to Q37 = 2

Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should adopt university-tested practices to prevent pollution of streams or other bodies of water?

- 1> APPROVE
- 2> DISAPPROVE

- 3> NEUTRAL/ MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Question: 39

Answer to Q37 = 2

Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should adopt university-tested practices for providing wildlife habitat on their land?

- 1> APPROVE
- 2> DISAPPROVE
- 3> NEUTRAL/ MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Question: 40

Answer to Q37 = 2

Do you approve or disapprove of the condition that farmers receiving federal payments should protect wetlands on their farm or ranch?

- 1> APPROVE
- 2> DISAPPROVE
- 3> NEUTRAL/ MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Question: 41

Not all farmers receive federal payments to help them stay in business.

I am going to read 2 policies. Please tell me which one you prefer...

- 1> First, help farmers currently receiving aid but exclude new farmers
- 2> Or second policy, extend aid to new farmers even though farmers currently receiving aid might receive less money.
- 3> NEITHER/MAKES NO DIFFERENCE

Question: 42

Ask if Answer to Q41 < 3

Do you favor this policy strongly or somewhat strongly?

- 1> STRONGLY FAVOR
- 2> SOMEWHAT FAVOR

Question: 43

Some people believe that farmers willing to use university-tested practices to protect water and air from pollution should receive more federal payments than farmers who refuse to do so.

Other people believe that allocating the limited money available for helping farmers should be based only on financial need.

- 1> Do you favor basing the assistance on financial need alone?
- 2> Or do you favor more federal payments to farmers using anti-pollution practices?
- 3> NEITHER/ MAKES NO DIFFERNECE

Question: 44

Ask if Answer to Q43 < 3

Do you favor this policy strongly or somewhat strongly?

- 1> STRONGLY FAVOR
- 2> SOMEWHAT FAVOR

Question: 45

To keep drinking water safe, some local governments help farmers use practices that prevent polluted water from their fields getting near public wells and reservoirs.

Would you be willing to pay any additional property or sales taxes to help farmers to achieve safe drinking water in this way?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 46

Ask if Answer to Q45 = 1

How much extra money per year would you be willing to pay?

- 11> ZERO DOLLARS
- 12> LESS THAN A DOLLAR
- 13> LESS THAN \$5
- 14> LESS THAN \$10
- 15> LESS THAN \$20
- 16> LESS THAN \$50
- 17> LESS THAN \$100
- 18> LESS THAN \$250
- 19> OTHER RESPONSE

Question: 47

In some parts of this country, citizens have agreed to tax themselves extra each year to keep especially beautiful farmland from being developed.

Would you be willing to pay any additional property or sales taxes to help protect especially beautiful farmland?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 48

Ask if Answer to Q47 = 1

How much extra money per year would you be willing to pay?

- 11> ZERO DOLLARS
- 12> LESS THAN A DOLLAR
- 13> LESS THAN \$5
- 14> LESS THAN \$10
- 15> LESS THAN \$20
- 16> LESS THAN \$50
- 17> LESS THAN \$100
- 18> LESS THAN \$250
- 19> OTHER RESPONSE

Question: 49

In some parts of this country, citizens have agreed to tax themselves extra each year to protect farmland that produces fruits and vegetables sold locally from being developed.

Would you be willing to pay any additional property or sales taxes to help protect farmland that produces locally sold fruits and vegetables?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 50

Ask if Answer to Q49 = 1

How much extra money per year would you be willing to pay?

- 11> ZERO DOLLARS
- 12> LESS THAN A DOLLAR
- 13> LESS THAN \$5
- 14> LESS THAN \$10
- 15> LESS THAN \$20
- 16> LESS THAN \$50
- 17> LESS THAN \$100
- 18> LESS THAN \$250
- 19> OTHER RESPONSE

Question: 51

Let's say that you might get a \$100 tax refund, and there is an opportunity for some of that money to be spent on protecting waterways, wetlands, or wildlife habitat.

Would you prefer...

- 1> to receive the entire \$100
- 2> or have some of the money spent on conservation purposes?

Question: 52

Ask if Answer to Q51 = 2

How much of that money would you be willing to have spent on conservation purposes?

- 11> ZERO DOLLARS
- 12> LESS THAN A DOLLAR
- 13> LESS THAN \$5
- 14> LESS THAN \$10
- 15> LESS THAN \$20
- 16> LESS THAN \$50
- 17> LESS THAN \$100
- 18> \$100 OR ALL OF IT
- 19> OTHER RESPONSE

Question: 53

I have just a few questions left, and they are to see if we have a representative group from around the country.

In what year were you born?

Question: 54

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 11> SOME GRADE SCHOOL (1-8)
- 12> SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)
- 13> GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (12)
- 14> TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (TRADE SCHOOL)
- 15> TWO-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE (ASSOCIATES DEGREE)
- 16> SOME COLLEGE, BUT NO DEGREE
- 17> GRADUATED COLLEGE (BA OR BS)
- 18> SOME GRADUATE SCHOOL (MORE THAN BA OR BS), NO GRADUATE DEGREE
- 19> GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL DEGREE (DOCTOR, LAYWER, Ph.D., MASTERS, ETC)
- 20> OTHER

Question: 55

When thinking about politics and government, do you consider yourself:

- 1> very conservative,
- 2> somewhat conservative,
- 3> somewhat liberal,
- 4> or very liberal?
- 5> MODERATE

Question: 56

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself:

- 1> as a Republican,
- 2> as a Democrat,
- 3> or as an Independent?

Question: 57

Ask if Answer to Q56 = 1

Would you call yourself a strong or a not very strong Republican?

- 1> STRONG
- 2> NOT VERY STRONG

Question: 58

Ask if Answer to Q56 = 2

Would you call yourself a strong or a not very strong Democrat?

- 1> STRONG
- 2> NOT VERY STRONG

Question: 59

Ask if Answer to Q56 # 1

AND Answer to Q56 # 2

Do you think of yourself...

- 1> leaning closer toward the Republican Party,
- 2> or leaning closer to the Democratic Party?
- 3> INDEPENDENT (LEAN IN NEITHER DIRECTION)
- 4> NO PREFERENCE
- 5> OTHER

Question: 60

Is your primary place of residence in ...

- 1> an *Urban* area,
- 2> a *Suburban* area,
- 3> or a *Rural* area?
- 4> OTHER

Question: 61

Do you own or rent your primary place of residence?

- 1> OWN
- 2> RENT

Question: 62

Please consider all sources of income, before taxes, for everyone living with you in 2000.
Please stop me when I get to that annual income level:

- 11> Under \$10,000 dollars
- 12> Under 20,000
- 13> Under 30,000
- 14> Under 40,000
- 15> Under 50,000
- 16> Under 60,000
- 17> Under 75,000
- 18> Under 100,000
- 19> \$100,000 or more?

Question: 63

What do you consider to be your race?

Are you...

- 1> white
- 2> black/African American
- 3> Hispanic
- 4> Asian
- 5> Native American
- 6> Other

Question: 64

What is your current marital status?

- 1> SINGLE
- 2> MARRIED
- 3> SEPARATED
- 4> DIVORCED
- 5> WIDOWED
- 6> OTHER

Question: 65

Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 66

IS THE RESPONDENT:

- 1> MALE
- 2> FEMALE
- 3> NOT SURE

Question: 67

Are you currently

- 11> Employed full time,
- 12> Employed part time,
- 13> Self-employed,
- 14> Unemployed or laid off,
- 15> Homemaker,
- 16> Student, or
- 17> Retired

- 18> OTHER

Question: 68

In the past 12 months did you visit a farm or ranch for business or pleasure?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 69

In the past 12 months did you buy anything directly from a farmer, such as from a farmer's market or a stand at a farm or ranch?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 70

Ask if Answer to Q69 = 1

Did you buy something from:

- 1> a farmers' market,
- 2> a stand on a farm or ranch,
- 3> or from both types of places?

Question: 71

In the past 12 months did you buy any organically produced fruits or vegetables, that is, fruits or vegetables labeled as produced without any chemical pesticides or fertilizers?

- 1> YES
- 2> NO

Question: 72

We are very grateful for your participation in this national survey on important issues.

In order to send you those first class stamps I told you about in the beginning, I need your name and address.

- 1> YES
- 2> NO