# Perceptions of Well-Being Among Rural Nebraskans 

Rebecca J. Vogt<br>Center for Applied Rural Innovation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rvogt2@unl.edu<br>Randolph L. Cantrell<br>Nebraska Rural Initiative, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rcantrell1@unl.edu<br>Bruce B. Johnson<br>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, bjohnson2@unl.edu<br>Alan J. Tomkins<br>University of Nebraska, atomkins@nebraska.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs
Part of the Rural Sociology Commons

[^0]

# CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION 

A Research Report*
Perceptions of Well-Being Among Rural
Nebraskans
2006 Nebraska Rural Poll Results
Rebecca J. Vogt
Randolph L. Cantrell
Bruce B. Johnson
Alan J. Tomkins

## Nebraska

Lincoln

Center Research Report 06-4, October 2006.
© graphic used with permission of the designer, Richard Hawkins, Design \& Illustration, P.O. Box 21181, Des Moines, IA 50321-0101
Phone: 515.288.4431, FAX: 515.243.1979
*These reports have been peer reviewed by colleagues at the University of Nebraska. Any questions, suggestions, or concerns should be sent directly to the author(s).

All of the Center’s research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/

Funding for this project was provided by the Cooperative Extension Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Center for Applied Rural Innovation. Additionally, considerable in-kind support and contributions were provided by a number of individuals and organizations associated with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. A special note of appreciation is extended to the staff at the Pierce County Extension Office for the space needed to conduct this survey and to the Nebraska Library Commission for use of the laptops.

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary ..... i
Introduction ..... 1
Trends in Well-Being (1996-2006) ..... 2
Figure 1. Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996-2006 ..... 2
Figure 2. Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996-2006 ..... 3
Figure 3. Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996-2006 ..... 3
Figure 4. "...People are Powerless to Control Their Lives": 1996-2006 ..... 4
Table 1. Proportions of Respondents Satisfied with Each Factor, 1996-2006 ..... 5
General Well-Being by Subgroups ..... 6
Figure 5. Well-Being Ten Years from Now by Occupation ..... 7
Figure 6. "...People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives" by Education ..... 8
Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups ..... 8
Figure 7. Dissatisfaction with Job Opportunities by Income ..... 9
Conclusion ..... 10

## List of Appendix Tables and Figures

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska ..... 12
Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000 Census ..... 13
Appendix Table 2. Measures of Individual Well-Being in Relation to Community Size, Region, and Individual Attributes ..... 14
Appendix Table 3. Life Has Changed So Much in Our Modern World that Most People Are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives ..... 16
Appendix Table 4. Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2006 ..... 18
Appendix Table 5. Satisfaction with Items by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes ..... 19

## Executive Summary

Nebraska's economy has been relatively stable during the past year. However, some rural areas continue to be economically challenged. How do rural Nebraskans perceive their quality of life? Do their perceptions differ by community size, the region in which they live, or their occupation?

This report details 2,482 responses to the 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll, the eleventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their individual well-being. Trends for these questions are examined by comparing data from the ten previous polls to this year's results. In addition, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- More rural Nebraskans report being satisfied with their job opportunities this year as compared to previous years. After reaching a low of 34 percent in 2004, the proportion satisfied with their job opportunities increased to 42 percent this year (the highest proportion in all 11 years). (page 5)
- Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to feel they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. For example, 52 percent of respondents with household incomes of $\$ 60,000$ or more think they will be better off ten years from now. However, only 22 percent of respondents with household incomes under $\$ 20,000$ believe they will be better off ten years from now. (page 6)
- More rural Nebraskans believe people are powerless to control their own lives this year as compared to past years. The proportion that either strongly agree or agree with the statement that people are powerless to control their own lives each year has averaged about 34 percent. The proportion agreeing with the statement increased slightly, to 38 percent this year, which matches the highest proportion in the 11 years of the Poll (1997 and 1999 were the other two years). (page 4)
- Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty-six percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. However, only 25 percent of persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion. (page 9)
- Rural Nebraskans continue to be generally positive about their current situation.

Except in 2003, each year the proportion of rural Nebraskans that say they are better off than they were five years ago has been greater than the proportion saying they are worse off than they were five years ago. Approximately 36 percent each year have reported that
they were better off than they were five years ago. This year, 35 percent believe they are better off then they were five years ago and 21 percent think they are worse off. (page 2)

- Similarly, rural Nebraskans continue to be generally positive about their future. The proportion that say they will be better off ten years from now has always been greater than the proportion saying they will be worse off ten years from now (although the two were virtually identical in 1996). The proportion stating they will be better off ten years from now has generally remained about 36 percent. This year, the proportion was 34 percent. Twenty-one percent believe they will be worse off ten years from now. (page 3)
- Following trends in previous years, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with their marriage, family, friends, religion/spirituality and the outdoors. They continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level and financial security during retirement. (page 5)


## Introduction

Nebraska has experienced relatively stable economic conditions during the past year. However, due to the ongoing drought and other factors, some rural areas continue to be economically challenged.

Given these conditions, how do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? Have these views changed over the past ten years? How satisfied are they with various items that influence their well-being? This report addresses these questions.

The 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll is the eleventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their general well-being. Trends for these questions will be examined by comparing the data from the ten previous polls to this year's results.

## Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,482 responses from Nebraskans living in the 84 nonmetropolitan counties in the state. A selfadministered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,200 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, new residents, immigration, and making a living. This paper reports only results from the wellbeing portion of the survey.

A 40\% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 2000 U.S. Census data). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Certainly some variance from 2000 Census data is to be expected as a result of changes that have occurred in the intervening six years. Nonetheless, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report.

The average age of respondents is 56 years. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 71 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 48 years
and have lived in their current community 32 years. Fifty-two percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-two percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty percent of the respondents report their 2005 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $\$ 20,000$. Thirty-six percent report incomes over $\$ 50,000$.

Seventy-two percent were employed in 2005 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed respondents who do not work in their home or their nearest community reported having to drive an average of 31 miles, one way, to their primary job.

## Trends in Well-Being (1996-2006)

Comparisons are made between the wellbeing data collected this year to the ten previous studies. These comparisons show a clearer picture of the trends in the wellbeing of rural Nebraskans. However, it is important to keep in mind when viewing these comparisons that these were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

## General Well-Being

To examine perceptions of general wellbeing, respondents were asked four questions.

1. "All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than you were
five years ago?" (Answer categories were worse off, about the same, or better off).
2. "All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than your parents when they were your age?"
3. "All things considered, do you think you will be better or worse off ten years from now than you are today?"
4. "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."

When examining the trends over the past eleven years, rural Nebraskans have generally given positive reviews about their current situation (Figure 1). Except in 2003,

Figure 1. Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996-2006

each year the proportion of rural Nebraskans that say they are better off than they were five years ago has been greater than the proportion saying they are worse off than they were five years ago. Approximately 36 percent each year have reported that they were better off than they were five years ago. However, in 2003, that proportion was 27 percent. The proportion stating they are worse off than five years ago has averaged 21 percent. The most noticeable exception to this pattern occurred in 2003 when the proportion saying they were worse off than they were five years ago hit 30 percent. The proportion believing they are about the same has generally remained fairly steady around 44 percent since 1998. It did increase to 49 percent, though, in 2001.

When asked to compare themselves to their

Figure 2. Well-Being Compared
to Parents: 1996-2006

parents when they were their age, the responses have been very stable over time (Figure 2). The proportion stating they are better off has averaged 59 percent over the eleven year period. Similarly, the proportion feeling they are worse off than their parents has remained steady at approximately 16 percent during this period.

When looking to the future, respondents’ views have had some variation over the eleven year period (Figure 3). The proportion that say they will be better off ten years from now has always been greater than the proportion saying they will be worse off ten years from now (although the two were virtually identical in 1996). The gap between the two proportions was widest in 1998 and narrowed considerably in 2003.

The proportion stating they will be better off
Figure 3. Expected Well-Being
Ten Years from Now:
1996-2006


Research Report 06-4 of the Center for Applied Rural Innovation
Page 3
ten years from now has generally remained about 36 percent. One exception to this general pattern occurred in 1998 when 42 percent of the respondents felt they would be better off in the future. And, in 2003 the proportion fell to 31 percent, the lowest of all 11 years. The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now decreased from 31 percent in 1996 to 16 percent in 1998. This proportion then remained around 20 percent from 1999 to 2002. It then increased to 26 percent in 2003 and has steadily declined to 21 percent this year.

In addition to asking about general wellbeing, rural Nebraskans were asked about the amount of control they feel they have over their lives. To measure this, respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statement:
"Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."

Responses to this question have remained fairly consistent over all eleven years (Figure 4). The proportion who either strongly disagree or disagree with the statement has remained approximately 52 percent each year, with slight deviations from this average. However, the proportion disagreeing with the statement dropped to 45 percent this year, the lowest of the 11year period. Similarly, the proportion that either strongly agree or agree with the statement each year has averaged about 34 percent. The proportion agreeing with the statement increased to 38 percent this year from 32 percent last year. This matches the highest proportion in all 11 years of the study, also occurring in 1997 and 1999. The

Figure 4. "...People are
Powerless to Control Their Lives": 1996-2006

———Strongly agree or agree

- $\ddagger$ - Undecided
-     - Strongly disagree or disagree
proportion of those who were undecided each year has remained fairly constant, averaging 14 percent.


## Satisfaction with Specific Aspects of Life

Each year, respondents were also given a list of items that can affect their well-being and were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with each using a five-point scale ( $1=$ very dissatisfied, $5=$ very satisfied). They were also given the option of checking a box to denote "does not apply."

This same question was asked in the ten previous polls, but the list of items was not identical each year. Table 1 shows the proportions very or somewhat satisfied with each item for each study period.

Table 1. Proportions of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Factor, 1996 2006.*

| Item | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Your |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| marriage | NA | NA | 91 | 92 | 92 | 92 | 93 | 92 | 93 | 91 | 94 |
| Your family <br> Your friends <br> Greenery and | 90 | 92 | 91 | 89 | 92 | 88 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 88 | 90 |
| open space | NA | NA | 90 | 88 | 86 | 86 | 88 | 83 | 82 | 83 | 85 |
| Clean air | NA | NA | NA | NA | 80 | 81 | 82 | 80 | 78 | 79 | 80 |
| Your housing <br> Your religion/ | NA | 77 | 81 | 80 | 81 | 79 | 81 | 81 | 79 | 80 | 78 |
| spirituality | 80 | 80 | 81 | 78 | 83 | 80 | 80 | 79 | 79 | 77 | 76 |
| Clean water | NA | NA | NA | NA | 74 | 76 | 78 | 77 | 74 | 73 | 75 |
| Your <br> education | 73 | 73 | 74 | 74 | 75 | 72 | 75 | 74 | 73 | 71 | 73 |
| Your health <br> Your spare | 76 | 80 | 77 | 74 | 76 | 71 | 72 | 74 | 71 | 69 | 71 |
| time** | 56 | NA | 71 | 67 | 72 | 68 | 70 | 70 | 68 | 67 | 70 |
| Your job <br> satisfaction <br> Your job | 67 | 68 | 68 | 66 | 70 | 69 | 71 | 68 | 72 | 71 | 69 |
| security | 62 | 63 | 62 | 59 | 67 | 65 | 64 | 62 | 65 | 64 | 64 |
| Your <br> community <br> Your current <br> income level | 64 | 65 | 69 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 64 | 63 | 65 | 66 | 63 |
| Job <br> opportunities <br> Financial <br> security <br> during <br> retirement | 38 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 37 | 42 |

Note: The list of items was not identical in each study. "NA" means that item was not asked that particular year.

* The proportions were calculated out of those answering the question. The respondents checking "does not apply" were not included in the calculations.
** Worded as "time to relax during the week" in 1996 study.

The rank ordering of the items has remained relatively stable over the years. In addition, the proportion of respondents stating they were very or somewhat satisfied with each
item also has been fairly consistent over the years. A few items have had some noticeable variation over time, however. The proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with their
financial security during retirement has averaged approximately 40 percent over the 11 year period. This proportion reached a high of 49 percent in 1997 and a low of 31 percent in 2003. The proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with their job opportunities has increased over the past few years. After reaching a low of 34 percent in 2004, the proportion increased to 42 percent this year (the highest proportion in all 11 years).

Items generally fall into three levels of satisfaction ratings. Family, friends, the outdoors, housing and spirituality continue to be items given high satisfaction ratings by respondents. Items in the middle category include job satisfaction, job security and their community. On the other hand, respondents continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, their current income level, and financial security during retirement.

## General Well-Being by Subgroups

In this section, 2006 data on the four general measures of well-being are analyzed and reported for the region in which the respondent lives, by the size of their community, and for various individual characteristics (Appendix Table 2).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Sixty-four percent of persons age 19 to 29 feel they are better off than they were five years ago. However, only 19 percent of persons age 65 and older share this opinion. Both the oldest respondents and the youngest respondents are the groups most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when
they were their age.
Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to feel they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. For example, 52 percent of respondents with household incomes of $\$ 60,000$ or more think they will be better off ten years from now. However, only 22 percent of respondents with household incomes under \$20,000 believe they will be better off ten years from now.

Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than persons with less education to think they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. Forty-eight percent of respondents with at least a fouryear college degree believe they are better off than they were five years ago. Only 28 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education share this optimism.

Males are more likely than females to think they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Females are more likely than males to answer "about the same" to those two questions.

When comparing the marital groups, respondents who have never married are the group most likely to believe they are better off than five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Both the widowed respondents and married respondents are the groups most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were
their age.
Respondents with professional occupations are more likely than persons with other types of occupations to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Fifty percent of persons with professional occupations believe they will be better off ten years from now, compared to only 29 percent of persons with administrative support positions (Figure 5). Persons with sales occupations are the group most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

The respondents were also asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives. Thirty-eight percent either strongly agree or agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (see Figure 4). Seventeen percent are undecided and 45 percent either strongly disagree or disagree.

When analyzing the responses by region, community size, and various individual
attributes, many differences emerge (Appendix Table 3). Persons with lower educational levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty-six percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (Figure 6). However, only 25 percent of persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to believe people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty-six percent of persons age 65 and older agree with this statement. However, only 19 percent of persons age 19 to 29 think people are powerless to control their own lives.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to agree with the statement. Approximately 43 percent of persons with household incomes under $\$ 40,000$ believe people are powerless to control their own lives, compared to 25 percent of persons with

Figure 5. Well-Being Ten Years from Now by Occupation


Research Report 06-4 of the Center for Applied Rural Innovation
Page 7

household incomes of $\$ 60,000$ or more.
Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty-seven percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 agree with this statement, compared to approximately 36 percent of persons living in towns with more than 500 people.

When comparing responses by region, persons living in both the North Central and Northeast regions are the groups most likely to believe this statement. Approximately 41 percent of persons living in either of these regions agree with this statement, compared to 30 percent of persons living in the Panhandle.

The marital status groups most likely to
believe people are powerless are both widowed respondents and respondents who are divorced/separated. When comparing responses by occupation, manual laborers are the group most likely to agree with this statement.

## Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups

The respondents were given a list of items that may influence their well-being and were asked to rate their satisfaction with each. The complete ratings for each item are listed in Appendix Table 4. At least one-third of respondents are very satisfied with their family (54\%), their marriage (48\%), greenery and open space (46\%), their religion/ spirituality (43\%), their friends (43\%), clean air (38\%) clean water (37\%) and their housing (33\%). Items receiving the highest proportion of very dissatisfied responses include: financial security during retirement (20\%), current income level (15\%), and job opportunities for you (11\%).

The top ten items people are dissatisfied with (determined by the largest proportions of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses) will now be examined in more detail by looking at how the different demographic subgroups view each item. These comparisons are shown in Appendix Table 5.

Respondents' satisfaction level with both their financial security during retirement and their current income level differ by most of the individual characteristics examined. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with both of these items. Fifty-three percent of persons with household
incomes under \$20,000 report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to 19 percent of persons with household incomes of $\$ 60,000$ or more.

Respondents who are divorced or separated are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Sixty-one percent of divorced/ separated respondents are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to 27 percent of widowed respondents. Persons who have never married join them as the marital groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their current income level (51\%).

When comparing responses by education level, persons with some college education are the group most likely to report being dissatisfied with these two items. Persons with occupations classified as "other" are the occupation group most likely to be dissatisfied with these two items.

When comparing the age groups, persons between the ages of 30 and 64 are the groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. The youngest persons (age 19 to 29) are the group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their current income level. One-half (50\%) of persons age 19 to 29 are dissatisfied with their current income level.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their job, their job security and their job opportunities. Forty-nine percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 27 percent of persons with

household incomes of \$60,000 or more (Figure 7).

Persons who are divorced/separated are the marital group most likely to express dissatisfaction with these three job-related items (job satisfaction, job security and job opportunities). As an example, 29 percent of divorced/separated persons are dissatisfied with their job, compared to 9 percent of widowed respondents.

Persons with some college education are more likely than the other education level groups to be dissatisfied with these three job factors. When comparing responses by occupation, both persons with occupations classified as "other" and manual laborers are the groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with these three job-related items. Approximately 52 percent of these two groups are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 30 percent of farmers and ranchers.

When comparing responses by age, persons
between the ages of 30 and 49 are the group most likely to be dissatisfied with their job opportunities. Persons between the ages of 30 and 64 are the groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their job security and the youngest persons (age 19 to 39) are the groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their job.

Females are more likely than males to report dissatisfaction with their job opportunities. Forty-three percent of females are dissatisfied with the job opportunities for them, compared to 36 percent of males.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to express dissatisfaction with their job security.

The groups most likely to report being dissatisfied with their community include: persons living in or near the largest communities, persons under the age of 65, and persons who are divorced or separated.

The groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their health include: persons living in or near the smallest communities, persons with the lowest household incomes, older persons and respondents who are divorced/separated.

Persons who are divorced/separated are more likely than other marital groups to be dissatisfied with their spare time. Twentyfour percent of the divorced/separated respondents are dissatisfied with their spare time, compared to five percent of widowed persons.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied
with their spare time include: persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 49, and respondents with some college education.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are more likely than persons living in communities of different sizes to express dissatisfaction with clean water. Twenty percent of persons living in or near communities of this size are dissatisfied with clean water. Only 12 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 share this opinion.

Persons living in the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with clean water. Twenty-two percent of Panhandle residents are dissatisfied with clean water, compared to 12 percent of persons in the North Central region.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with clean water include: younger persons, persons who are divorced or separated and persons with occupations classified as "other".

The groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their housing are: persons with lower household incomes, younger respondents, both divorced/separated respondents and persons who have never married and persons with administrative support positions.

## Conclusion

Rural Nebraskans have generally positive views about their current and future situation. Just over one-third of rural Nebraskans think
they are better off than they were five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Twenty-one percent think they are worse off than they were five years ago and the same proportion (21\%) think they will be worse off ten years from now.

Certain groups remain pessimistic about their situation. Persons with lower household incomes, older persons, persons with lower educational levels and persons who are divorced or separated are the groups most likely to be more pessimistic about the present and the future.

When asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives, 38 percent of this year's respondents agreed, up from 32 percent last year. Widowed persons,
persons who are divorced/separated, persons with lower educational levels, older persons, persons with lower household incomes and manual laborers are the groups most likely to agree that people are powerless to control their own lives.

Rural Nebraskans continue to be most satisfied with family, spirituality, friends, and the outdoors. On the other hand, they continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, their current income level, and financial security during retirement. A positive finding is that more rural Nebraskans report being satisfied with their job opportunities this year as compared to past responses.

## Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska


$\square$ Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000 Census

|  | $\begin{gathered} 2006 \\ \text { Poll } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2005 \\ \text { Poll } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2004 \\ \text { Poll } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2003 \\ \text { Poll } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2002 \\ \text { Poll } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2001 \\ \text { Poll } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2000 \\ \text { Census } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Age : ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20-39 | 16\% | 15\% | 18\% | 18\% | 16\% | 17\% | 33\% |
| 40-64 | 52\% | 51\% | 49\% | 51\% | 51\% | 49\% | 42\% |
| 65 and over | 32\% | 34\% | 32\% | 32\% | 32\% | 33\% | 24\% |
| Gender: ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Female | 31\% | 32\% | 32\% | 51\% | 36\% | 37\% | 51\% |
| Male | 70\% | 69\% | 68\% | 49\% | 64\% | 63\% | 49\% |
| Education: ${ }^{3}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than $9^{\text {th }}$ grade | 3\% | 3\% | 3\% | 2\% | 3\% | 4\% | 7\% |
| $9^{\text {th }}$ to $12^{\text {th }}$ grade (no diploma) | 5\% | 5\% | 5\% | 5\% | 4\% | 5\% | 10\% |
| High school diploma (or equivalent) | 32\% | 33\% | 34\% | 34\% | 32\% | 35\% | 35\% |
| Some college, no degree | 25\% | 24\% | 24\% | 23\% | 25\% | 26\% | 25\% |
| Associate degree | 12\% | 13\% | 12\% | 11\% | 10\% | 8\% | 7\% |
| Bachelors degree | 15\% | 14\% | 15\% | 16\% | 16\% | 13\% | 11\% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 9\% | 10\% | 8\% | 9\% | 10\% | 8\% | 4\% |
| Household income: ${ }^{4}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than \$10,000 | 7\% | 8\% | 9\% | 8\% | 8\% | 9\% | 10\% |
| \$10,000-\$19,999 | 13\% | 14\% | 15\% | 14\% | 15\% | 16\% | 16\% |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 14\% | 16\% | 16\% | 16\% | 17\% | 20\% | 17\% |
| \$30,000-\$39,999 | 15\% | 16\% | 16\% | 16\% | 17\% | 16\% | 15\% |
| \$40,000-\$49,999 | 15\% | 14\% | 13\% | 13\% | 14\% | 14\% | 12\% |
| \$50,000-\$59,999 | 11\% | 10\% | 11\% | 11\% | 11\% | 9\% | 10\% |
| \$60,000-\$74,999 | 11\% | 10\% | 10\% | 11\% | 9\% | 8\% | 9\% |
| \$75,000 or more | 14\% | 13\% | 11\% | 11\% | 10\% | 8\% | 11\% |
| Marital Status: ${ }^{5}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Married | 69\% | 71\% | 69\% | 73\% | 73\% | 70\% | 61\% |
| Never married | 8\% | 7\% | 9\% | 7\% | 6\% | 7\% | 22\% |
| Divorced/separated | 10\% | 11\% | 10\% | 9\% | 9\% | 10\% | 9\% |
| Widowed/widower | 13\% | 11\% | 12\% | 11\% | 12\% | 14\% | 8\% |

${ }^{1} 2000$ Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.
${ }^{2} 2000$ Census universe is total non-metro population.
${ }^{3} 2000$ Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.
${ }^{4} 2000$ Census universe is all non-metro households.
${ }^{5} 2000$ Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

Appendix Table 2. Measures of Individual Well-Being in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

|  | Compared to Five Years Ago |  |  |  | Compared to Parents |  |  |  | Ten Years from Now |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Worse Off | Same | Better Off | Significance | Worse Off | Same | Better Off | Significance | Worse Off | Same | Better Off | Significance |
| Percentages |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 500 | 24 | 44 | 32 |  | 20 | 30 | 51 |  | 25 | 43 | 32 |  |
| 500-999 | 18 | 46 | 37 |  | 15 | 27 | 59 |  | 17 | 49 | 35 |  |
| 1,000-4,999 | 21 | 46 | 33 |  | 18 | 28 | 54 |  | 21 | 46 | 33 |  |
| 5,000-9,999 | 19 | 44 | 37 | $\chi^{2}=6.12$ | 16 | 29 | 56 | $\chi^{2}=15.41$ | 18 | 49 | 33 | $\chi^{2}=10.02$ |
| 10,000 and up | 21 | 43 | 36 | (.634) | 15 | 24 | 61 | (.052) | 22 | 43 | 35 | (.264) |
| Region | $(\mathrm{n}=2371)$ |  |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=2377)$ |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2350$ ) |  |  |  |  |
| Panhandle | 22 | 44 | 34 |  | 15 | 30 | 55 |  | 24 | 45 | 31 |  |
| North Central | 19 | 45 | 37 |  | 16 | 26 | 58 |  | 22 | 44 | 34 |  |
| South Central | 21 | 43 | 36 |  | 16 | 26 | 58 |  | 19 | 43 | 38 |  |
| Northeast | 22 | 46 | 32 | $\chi^{2}=3.96$ | 18 | 25 | 57 | $\chi^{2}=7.62$ | 23 | 46 | 32 | $\chi^{2}=12.08$ |
| Southeast | 22 | 44 | 34 | (.861) | 17 | 30 | 53 | (.471) | 21 | 49 | 30 | (.148) |
| Individual |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attributes: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Household Income | $(\mathrm{n}=2114)$ |  |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=2119)$ |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=2102)$ |  |  |  |  |
| Under \$20,000 | 31 | 50 | 18 |  | 26 | 29 | 45 |  | 29 | 49 | 22 |  |
| \$20,000-\$39,999 | 21 | 49 | 30 |  | 17 | 30 | 53 |  | 23 | 51 | 26 |  |
| \$40,000-\$59,999 | 20 | 43 | 37 | $\chi^{2}=164.02 *$ | 16 | 26 | 58 | $\chi^{2}=76.73 *$ | 20 | 43 | 38 | $\chi^{2}=128.77 *$ |
| \$60,000 and over | 13 | 31 | 56 | (.000) | 11 | 19 | 70 | (.000) | 14 | 34 | 52 | (.000) |
| Age | $(\mathrm{n}=2330)$ |  |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2336$ ) |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=2310)$ |  |  |  |  |
| 19-29 | 7 | 29 | 64 |  | 11 | 26 | 63 |  | 4 | 18 | 78 |  |
| 30-39 | 13 | 36 | 51 |  | 17 | 28 | 55 |  | 6 | 31 | 63 |  |
| 40-49 | 21 | 37 | 42 |  | 20 | 31 | 49 |  | 11 | 37 | 52 |  |
| 50-64 | 27 | 38 | 35 | $\chi^{2}=212.97 *$ | 22 | 26 | 52 | $\chi^{2}=68.27 *$ | 27 | 45 | 29 | $\chi^{2}=498.46 *$ |
| 65 and older | 20 | 61 | 19 | (.000) | 9 | 26 | 65 | (.000) | 29 | 62 | 9 | (.000) |

Appendix Table 2 Continued.

|  | Compared to Five Years Ago |  |  |  | Compared to Parents |  |  |  | Ten Years from Now |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Worse Off | Same | Better Off | Significance | Worse Off | Same | Better Off | Significance | Worse Off | Same | Better Off | Significance |
| Gender | ( $\mathrm{n}=2302$ ) |  |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2308$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2282$ ) |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 22 | 41 | 37 | $\chi^{2}=24.82 *$ | 16 | 26 | 58 | $\chi^{2}=2.06$ | 22 | 43 | 35 | $\chi^{2}=10.49 *$ |
| Female | 20 | 52 | 29 | (.000) | 17 | 28 | 55 | (.357) | 20 | 50 | 30 | (.005) |
| Education | ( $\mathrm{n}=2295$ ) |  |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2301$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2275$ ) |  |  |  |  |
| H. S. diploma or less | 22 | 50 | 28 |  | 14 | 29 | 57 |  |  |  | 23 |  |
| Some college | 24 | 43 | 33 | $\chi^{2}=72.30^{*}$ | 22 | 26 | 52 | $\chi^{2}=29.92 *$ | 22 | 42 | 36 | $\chi^{2}=89.04 *$ |
| Bachelors or graduate degree | 14 | 38 | 48 | (.000) | 13 | 25 | 62 | (.000) | 16 | 38 | 46 | (.000) |
| Marital Status | ( $\mathrm{n}=2314$ ) |  |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2320$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2294$ ) |  |  |  |  |
| Married | 20 | 42 | 38 |  | 15 | 26 | 60 |  | 20 | 43 | 36 |  |
| Never married | 21 | 39 | 41 |  | 19 | 34 | 47 |  | 15 | 35 | 50 |  |
| Divorced/separated | 29 | 37 | 34 | $\chi^{2}=93.40 *$ | 29 | 31 | 41 | $\chi^{2}=48.93 *$ | 26 | 43 | 31 | $\chi^{2}=105.74^{*}$ |
| Widowed | 20 | 67 | 13 | (.000) | 13 | 26 | 61 | (.000) | 27 | 64 | 10 | (.000) |
| Occupation | ( $\mathrm{n}=1562$ ) |  |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=1567$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=1563$ ) |  |  |  |  |
| Sales | 25 | 33 | 42 |  | 15 | 22 | 63 |  | 20 | 38 | 42 |  |
| Manual laborer | 24 | 47 | 30 |  | 21 | 40 | 39 |  | 24 | 43 | 33 |  |
| Prof/tech/admin | 17 | 35 | 48 |  | 16 | 25 | 60 |  | 14 | 36 | 50 |  |
| Service | 27 | 36 | 38 |  | 25 | 29 | 47 |  | 23 | 43 | 35 |  |
| Farming/ranching | 26 | 35 | 38 |  | 20 | 27 | 52 |  | 22 | 43 | 36 |  |
| Skilled laborer | 18 | 40 | 43 |  | 18 | 27 | 56 |  | 15 | 41 | 44 |  |
| Admin. support | 23 | 38 | 39 | $\chi^{2}=32.79 *$ | 20 | 23 | 57 | $\chi^{2}=35.83 *$ | 21 | 50 | 29 | $\chi^{2}=36.80 *$ |
| Other | 26 | 43 | 31 | (.003) | 23 | 29 | 49 | (.001) | 29 | 34 | 37 | (.001) |

[^1]|  | Disagree | Undecided | Agree | Significance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Community Size |  | Percentages $(\mathrm{n}=2343)$ |  |  |
| Less than 500 | 39 | 14 | 47 |  |
| 500-999 | 47 | 18 | 35 |  |
| 1,000-4,999 | 44 | 19 | 38 |  |
| 5,000-9,999 | 46 | 19 | 36 | $\chi^{2}=21.23 *$ |
| 10,000 and up | 49 | 16 | 35 | (.007) |
| Region |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2377$ ) |  |  |
| Panhandle | 51 | 19 | 30 |  |
| North Central | 44 | 15 | 41 |  |
| South Central | 49 | 17 | 35 |  |
| Northeast | 40 | 19 | 42 | $\chi^{2}=21.12^{*}$ |
| Southeast | 45 | 16 | 39 | (.007) |
| Individual Attributes: |  |  |  |  |
| Household Income Level |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2122$ ) |  |  |
| Under \$20,000 | 34 | 22 | 43 |  |
| \$20,000-\$39,999 | 38 | 18 | 44 |  |
| \$40,000-\$59,999 | 50 | 13 | 37 | $\chi^{2}=118.06^{*}$ |
| \$60,000 and over | 64 | 11 | 25 | (.000) |
| Age |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2337$ ) |  |  |
| 19-29 | 63 | 18 | 19 |  |
| 30-39 | 53 | 14 | 34 |  |
| 40-49 | 56 | 15 | 29 |  |
| 50-64 | 46 | 15 | 40 | $\chi^{2}=102.82^{*}$ |
| 65 and older | 32 | 22 | 46 | (.000) |
| Gender |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=2310$ ) |  |  |
| Male | 47 | 15 | 38 | $\chi^{2}=11.15 *$ |
| Female | 41 | 21 | 38 | (.004) |
| Education |  | $(\mathrm{n}=2303)$ |  |  |
| H.S. diploma or less | 34 | 20 | 46 |  |
| Some college | 46 | 16 | 38 | $\chi^{2}=107.12 *$ |
| Bachelors or grad degree | 61 | 14 | 25 | (.000) |
| Marital Status |  | $(\mathrm{n}=2322)$ |  |  |
| Married | 48 | 16 | 37 |  |
| Never married | 51 | 17 | 33 |  |
| Divorced/separated | 42 | 15 | 44 | $\chi^{2}=31.90 *$ |
| Widowed | 32 | 24 | 44 | (.000) |

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

|  | $\underline{\text { Disagree }}$ | $\underline{\text { Undecided }}$ | Agree | Significance |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Occupation |  | $(\mathrm{n}=1567)$ |  |  |
| Sales | 55 | 11 | 33 |  |
| Manual laborer | 35 | 18 | 47 |  |
| Prof/technical/admin. | 60 | 12 | 28 |  |
| Service | 43 | 20 | 38 |  |
| Farming/ranching | 52 | 15 | 33 |  |
| Skilled laborer | 48 | 16 | 36 | $\chi^{2}=49.41^{*}$ |
| Admin. support | 39 | 21 | $(000)$ |  |
| Other | 49 | 11 | 40 | $\left(\begin{array}{ll}\text { * }\end{array}\right.$ |

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4. Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2006.

|  | Does Not <br> Apply | Very <br> Dissatisfied | Somewhat <br> Dissatisfied | No <br> Opinion | Somewhat <br> Satisfied | Very <br> Satisfied |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Item | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $54 \%$ |
| Your family | 33 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 48 |
| Your marriage | 0 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 40 | 46 |
| Greenery and open space | 3 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 32 | 43 |
| Your religion/spirituality | 1 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 41 | 43 |
| Your friends | 0 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 42 | 38 |
| Clean air | 0 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 39 | 37 |
| Clean water | 0 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 44 | 33 |
| Your housing | 2 | 5 | 12 | 13 | 40 | 30 |
| Your spare time | 0 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 46 | 28 |
| Your education | 0 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 47 | 24 |
| Your health | 0 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 45 | 18 |
| Your community | 31 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 31 | 17 |
| Your job satisfaction | 32 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 27 | 17 |
| Your job security | 0 | 15 | 22 | 14 | 39 | 12 |
| Current income level |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Financial security during | 0 | 20 | 25 | 15 | 31 | 10 |
| retirement | 11 | 16 | 15 | 20 | 10 |  |
| Job opportunities for you | 29 |  |  |  |  |  |



[^2]|  | Current income level |  |  |  | Job security No |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percentages |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community Size | ( $\mathrm{n}=2121$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=1589$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 500 | 39 | 15 | 46 |  |  | 5 | 14 | 60 |  |
| 500-999 | 34 | 16 | 50 |  |  | 7 | 21 | 62 |  |
| 1,000-4,999 | 40 | 14 | 46 |  |  | 9 | 16 | 65 |  |
| 5,000-9,999 | 33 | 17 | 50 | $\chi^{2}=18.49 *$ |  | 6 | 23 | 61 | $\chi^{2}=21.38 *$ |
| 10,000 and up | 35 | 10 | 54 | (.018) | 20 | 20 | 13 | 67 | (.006) |
| Region | ( $\mathrm{n}=2204$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=1627$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Panhandle | 35 | 13 | 52 |  |  | 21 | 15 | 64 |  |
| North Central | 38 | 13 | 50 |  |  | 8 | 16 | 65 |  |
| South Central | 36 | 13 | 52 |  |  | 21 | 15 | 64 |  |
| Northeast | 37 | 16 | 47 | $\chi^{2}=5.68$ |  | 11 | 16 | 63 | $\chi^{2}=1.54$ |
| Southeast | 37 | 13 | 50 | (.683) |  | 9 | 17 | 64 | (.992) |
| Individual Attributes: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Household Income Level | ( $\mathrm{n}=2005$ ) |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=1506$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under \$20,000 | 53 | 20 | 27 |  |  | 31 | 24 | 45 |  |
| \$20,000-\$39,999 | 46 | 16 | 39 |  |  | 24 | 19 | 58 |  |
| \$40,000-\$59,999 | 36 | 9 | 55 | $\chi^{2}=236.79 *$ |  | 1 | 13 | 66 | $\chi^{2}=57.00 *$ |
| \$60,000 and over | 19 | 7 | 74 | (.000) |  | 5 | 11 | 74 | (.000) |
| Age | ( $\mathrm{n}=2172$ ) |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=1599)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19-29 | 50 | 4 | 46 |  |  | 4 | 12 | 74 |  |
| 30-39 | 41 | 8 | 52 |  |  | 1 | 12 | 67 |  |
| 40-49 | 41 | 10 | 49 |  |  | 9 | 18 | 63 |  |
| 50-64 | 41 | 11 | 48 | $\chi^{2}=109.32^{*}$ |  | 23 | 14 | 63 | $\chi^{2}=21.25 *$ |
| 65 and older | 22 |  | 56 | (.000) |  | 6 |  | 60 | (.007) |
| Gender | $\text { ( } \mathrm{n}=2147 \text { ) }$ |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=1579)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 35 | 13 | 52 | $\chi^{2}=6.60 *$ |  | 0 | 16 | 64 | $\chi^{2}=0.67$ |
| Female | 40 |  | 46 | (.037) |  | 1 | 15 | 64 | (.717) |
| Education | $(\mathrm{n}=2142)$ |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=1578)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| High school diploma or |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| less | 35 | 19 | 47 |  |  | 20 | 18 | 62 |  |
| Some college | 44 | 12 | 45 | $\chi^{2}=81.72 *$ |  | 3 | 15 | 62 | $\chi^{2}=10.40^{*}$ |
| Bachelors or grad degree | 29 |  | 64 | (.000) |  | 8 | 13 | 69 | (.034) |
| Marital Status | ( $\mathrm{n}=2159$ ) |  |  | $(\mathrm{n}=1588)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Married | 35 | 13 | 53 |  |  | 9 | 15 | 66 |  |
| Never married | 51 | 10 | 40 |  |  | 23 | 15 | 61 |  |
| Divorced/separated | 51 | 11 | 39 | $\chi^{2}=73.27^{*}$ | 26 | 6 | 14 | 60 | $\chi^{2}=12.88 *$ |
| Widowed | 24 | 24 | 52 | (.000) |  | 23 | 26 | 52 | (.045) |
| Occupation | $(\mathrm{n}=1515)$ |  |  | ( $\mathrm{n}=1477$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sales | 35 | 11 | 55 |  |  | 9 | 16 | 65 |  |
| Manual laborer | 44 | 18 | 38 |  | 28 | 8 | 18 | 54 |  |
| Prof./technical/admin | 32 | 8 | 60 |  | 18 | 8 | 11 | 71 |  |
| Service | 53 | 9 | 37 |  | 23 | 23 | 16 | 62 |  |
| Farming/ranching | 42 | 12 | 47 |  | 15 | 5 | 24 | 62 |  |
| Skilled laborer | 41 | 12 | 47 | $\chi^{2}=61.82 *$ | 22 | 22 | 15 | 62 |  |
| Admin. support | 44 | 13 | 43 |  | 24 | 4 | 14 | 63 | $\chi^{2}=33.36 *$ |
| Other | 58 | 6 | 36 | (.000) | 29 | 9 | 20 | 51 | (.003) |

[^3]

[^4]

[^5]

[^6]CARI Research Report 06-4, October 2006
It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.


[^0]:    Vogt, Rebecca J.; Cantrell, Randolph L.; Johnson, Bruce B.; and Tomkins, Alan J., "Perceptions of WellBeing Among Rural Nebraskans" (2006). Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI). 13.
    https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs/13

    This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the CARI: Center for Applied Rural Innovation at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska Lincoln.

[^1]:    * Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

[^2]:    * Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
    ** Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

[^3]:    * Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
    ** Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

[^4]:    * Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
    ** Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

[^5]:    * Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
    ** Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

[^6]:    * Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
    ** Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

