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Perceptions of Agriculture and the Economy in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska: 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Vogt, Rebecca J.; Burkhart-Kriesel, Cheryl A.; Cantrell, Randolph L.; Lubben, Bradley; McElravy, L.J.; and Meyer, Timothy L., "Perceptions of Agriculture and the Economy in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska: 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll Results" (2017). *Publications of the Rural Futures Institute*. 20.

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NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Perceptions of Agriculture and the Economy in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

2017 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Nebraska Rural Poll Research Report 17-1 July 2017.

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on its webpage at <http://ruralpoll.unl.edu>

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 Department of Agricultural Economics. Additionally, in-kind support was provided by the University of Nebraska Rural Futures Institute.

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Executive Summary

Agriculture plays a critical role in Nebraska's economy. The agricultural economy has weakened during the past couple years which has impacted the state's economy. Given these challenges, how closely are rural Nebraskans and their communities connected to agriculture? How concerned are they about current economic conditions? How do they rate this downturn compared to those of the past? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,972 responses to the 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 22nd annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about the current agricultural economy. Comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by community size, age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- **Most rural Nebraskans view their economic well-being as being dependent on agriculture.** Over three-fourths of rural Nebraskans (78%) feel their economic well-being is at least somewhat tied to agriculture. Just over one-half (55%) say their economic well-being is very much dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry. An additional 23 percent say some of their economic well-being is tied to the agricultural industry.¹
 - ✓ *Economic dependence on agriculture has changed very little over the past seven years.* The proportions reported in 2017 are almost identical to those from 2010.
 - ✓ *Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say their economic dependence is very much dependent on the agricultural industry.* Over six in ten residents of the North Central region (63%) view their economic well-being as very much dependent on agriculture, compared to approximately 52 percent of residents of other regions of the state.
- **Similarly, most rural Nebraskans believe the economic well-being of their community is very much dependent on agriculture.** Just over eight in ten rural Nebraskans (81%) say their community is very much dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry. An additional 13 percent say the economic well-being of their community is somewhat dependent on agriculture. Overall, over nine in ten rural Nebraskans (94%) feel their community's economic well-being is at least somewhat tied to agriculture.
- **Most rural Nebraskans say their job/income security is about the same as it was a year ago.** Just under six in ten rural Nebraskans (59%) say their job/income security is about the same as a year ago. Just under one-third (31%) are either more concerned or much more concerned about their job/income security than they were a year ago, while nine percent are less concerned or much less concerned.
 - ✓ *The concern about job/income security was greater during the 2009 national economic recession compared to this downturn in the agricultural economy.* Over six in ten rural Nebraskans in 2009 were concerned about job/income security, compared to just over three in ten this year.

¹ Sixteen percent of the respondents reported that their household has a job in the agricultural sector.

- ✓ *Persons with sales or office support occupations and persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to be more concerned about job/income security than they were a year ago.* Over four in ten persons with these types of occupations are more concerned or much more concerned about their job/income security than they were a year ago, compared to 24 percent of persons with food service or personal care occupations and persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations.
- ***Most rural Nebraskans are uncertain they would find the kind of job they are looking for in their community.*** Thirty-one percent are very uncertain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for in their community. An additional 26 percent are somewhat uncertain. Only seven percent are very certain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for and 19 percent are somewhat certain.
 - ✓ *The level of uncertainty of finding the kind of job they would be looking for in their community was higher in 2009 than this year.* Forty-three percent of respondents in 2009 were very uncertain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for in their community, compared to 31 percent this year.
 - ✓ *Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to be uncertain about finding the kind of job they would be looking for in their community.* Almost seven in ten residents living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 (69%) are very or somewhat uncertain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for, compared to just under one-half (46%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.
- ***Many rural Nebraskans believe the current downturn in agriculture is about the same as other agriculture downturns of the past.*** Just over four in ten rural Nebraskans (42%) say the current agriculture downturn is about the same as others in the past. Almost one-quarter (23%) say the current one is worse or much worse than previous downturns. Eleven percent say this one is better or much better and 25 percent answered don't know.
 - ✓ *Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say the current downturn in agriculture is worse or much worse than previous downturns.* Just over one-third of Panhandle residents (34%) feel the current downturn is worse or much worse than other downturns of the past. In comparison, 20 percent of residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions believe the current downturn is worse than previous ones.

Introduction

Agriculture plays a critical role in Nebraska's economy. The agricultural economy has weakened during the past couple years which has impacted the state's economy. Given these challenges, how closely are rural Nebraskans and their communities connected to agriculture? How concerned are they about current economic conditions? How do they rate this downturn compared to those of the past? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,972 responses to the 2017 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 22nd annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about the current agricultural economy.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,972 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.² A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in March and April to 6,244 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being; community; food shopping; the agricultural economy; and media, institutions and voting. This paper reports only results from the agricultural economy section.

² In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint

A 32% 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 manager approximately ten days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately ten days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 20 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 nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2011 - 2015 American Community Survey). 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. Thus, 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 margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and

Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Sixty-eight percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 69 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 42 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-seven percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-seven percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty-eight percent of the respondents report their 2016 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Fifty-eight percent report incomes over \$50,000.

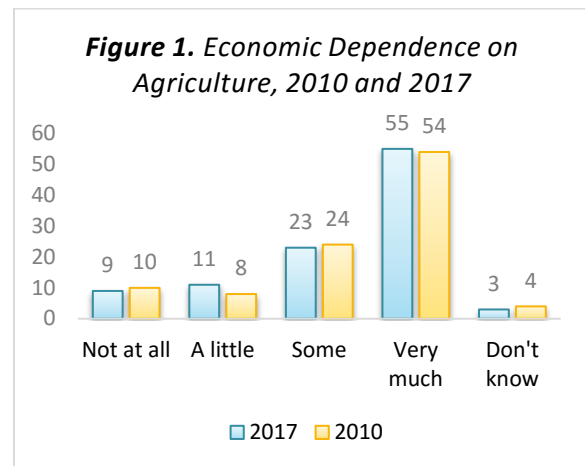
Seventy-eight percent were employed in 2016 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Eighteen percent are retired. Thirty-seven percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Seventeen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Dependence on Agriculture

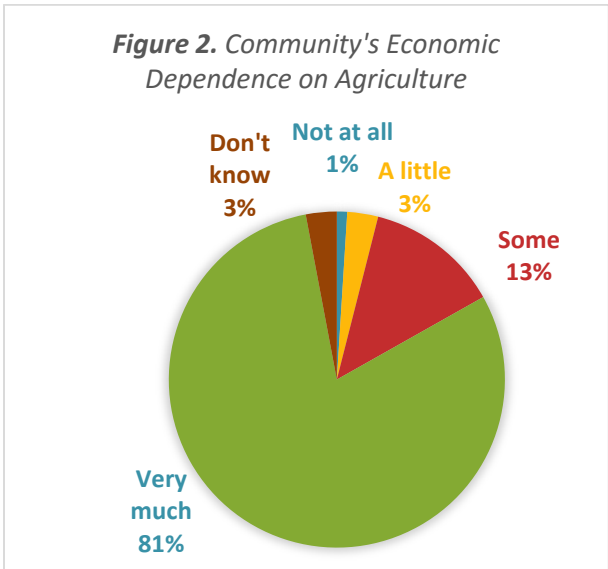
Respondents were asked a series of questions to determine their economic dependence on agriculture. They were first asked to what extent their economic well-being was dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry. Most rural Nebraskans view their economic well-being as being dependent on agriculture. Over three-fourths of rural Nebraskans (78%) feel their economic well-being is at least somewhat tied to agriculture. Just over one-half (55%) say their economic

well-being is very much dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry (Figure 1). An additional 23 percent say some of their economic well-being is tied to the agricultural industry.

This same question was also asked in 2010. Economic dependence on agriculture has changed very little over the past seven years. The proportions reported in 2017 are almost identical to those from 2010 (Figure 1).



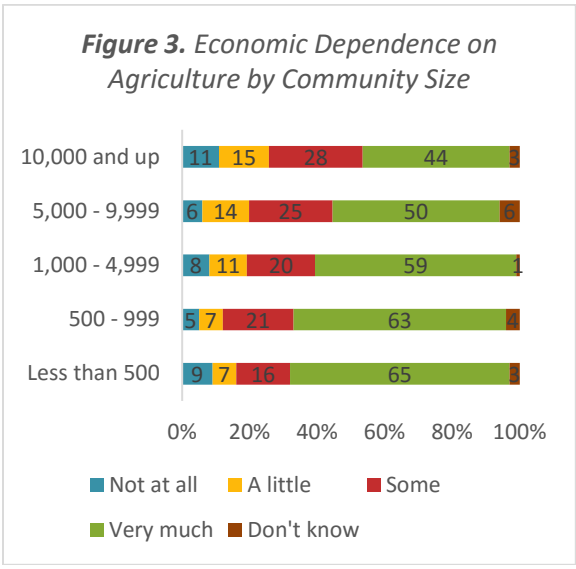
This year, the economic dependence of rural Nebraskans' communities on agriculture was also examined. Specifically, they were asked, "To what extent is the economic well-being of your community dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry?" Most rural Nebraskans believe the economic well-being of their community is very much dependent on agriculture. Just over eight in ten rural Nebraskans (81%) say their community is very much dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry (Figure 2). An additional 13 percent say the economic well-being of their community is somewhat dependent on agriculture. Overall, over nine in ten rural Nebraskans (94%) feel their community's economic well-being is at least somewhat tied to agriculture.



The economic dependence of the respondent and their community on agriculture differs by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2).

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say their economic well-being is very much dependent on the agricultural industry. Over six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 view their economic well-being as very much dependent on agriculture, compared to 44 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (Figure 3).

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say their economic dependence is very much dependent on the agricultural industry. Over six in ten residents of the North Central region (63%) view their economic well-being as very much dependent on agriculture, compared to approximately 52 percent of residents of other regions of the state (see Appendix Figure



1 for the counties included in each region).

Other groups most likely to view their economic well-being as being very much dependent on the agricultural industry include: persons with higher household incomes, older persons, males, and persons with occupations in agriculture.

When asked about the economic dependence of their community on agriculture, persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say their community is very much dependent on the agricultural industry. At least 85 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 10,000 think their community is very much dependent on the economic well-being of the agricultural industry, compared to 69 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Other groups most likely to say their community is very much dependent on the agricultural industry include: persons with higher household incomes, males, persons with higher education

levels and persons with occupations in agriculture.

Impacts of Current Economic Conditions

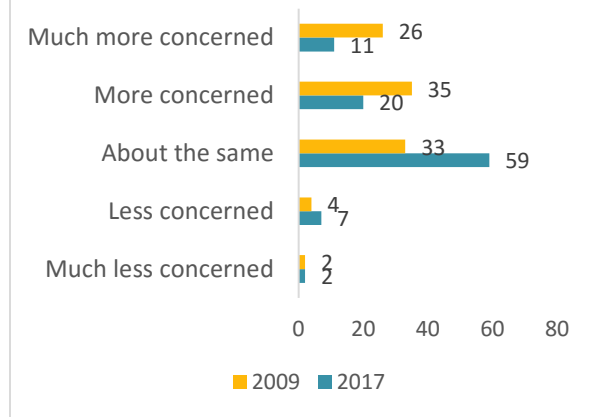
Next, respondents were asked their level of concern about their job or income security. The specific question wording was, “Are you more or less concerned about job/income security than you were a year ago, or is your job/income security about the same?” Most rural Nebraskans say their job/income security is about the same as it was a year ago. Just under six in ten rural Nebraskans (59%) say their job/income security is about the same as a year ago (Figure 4). Just under one-third (31%) are either more concerned or much more concerned about their job/income security than they were a year ago, while nine percent are less concerned or much less concerned. Nine percent answered not applicable and were excluded from these proportions.

This same question was asked in 2009 during a national recession. The concern about job/income security was greater during that recession compared to this downturn in the agricultural economy. Over six in ten rural Nebraskans in 2009 were concerned about job/income security, compared to just over three in ten this year (Figure 4).

Certain groups are more likely than others to be concerned about their job or income security this year (Appendix Table 3). In general, persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near the largest communities to be more concerned about their job/income security than they were a year ago.

Persons with the lowest household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be more concerned about their job or income

Figure 4. Concern about Job/Income Security Compared to a Year Ago, 2009 and 2017

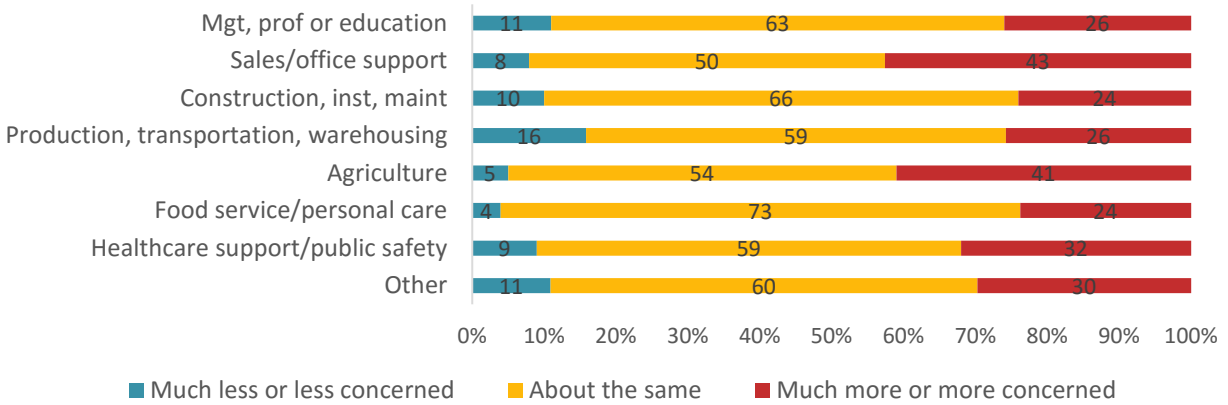


security than they were a year ago. Over four in ten persons with household incomes under \$20,000 are more or much more concerned about their job/income security than they were a year ago, compared to 27 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Persons with sales or office support occupations and persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to be more concerned about job/income security than they were a year ago. Over four in ten persons with these types of occupations are more concerned or much more concerned about their job/income security than they were a year ago, compared to 24 percent of persons with food service or personal care occupations and persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations (Figure 5).

Next, respondents were asked how certain they were of being able to find a job in their community. The exact question wording was, “If you were to look for a job in your community, how certain are you that you would find the kind of job that you would be looking for?”

Figure 5. Level of Job/Income Security Compared to a Year Ago by Occupation



Eleven percent answered not applicable. Those respondents are excluded from the following proportions. Most rural Nebraskans are uncertain they would find the kind of job they are looking for in their community. Thirty-one percent are very uncertain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for in their community (Figure 6). An additional 26 percent are somewhat uncertain. Only seven percent are very certain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for and 19 percent are somewhat certain.

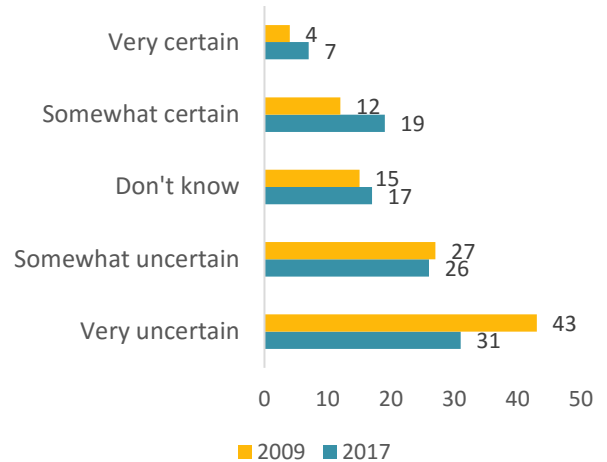
Almost seven in ten residents living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 (69%) are very or somewhat uncertain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for, compared to just under one-half (46%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Residents of the Southeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be uncertain about finding the kind of

This same question was also asked in 2009. The level of uncertainty of finding the kind of job they would be looking for in their community was higher in 2009 than this year. Forty-three percent of respondents in 2009 were very uncertain they would find the kind of job they would be looking for in their community, compared to 31 percent this year (Figure 6).

Some groups are more likely to be uncertain about finding a job in their community than others (Appendix Table 4). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to be uncertain about finding the kind of job they would be looking for in their community.

Figure 6. Certainty of Finding Job in Community, 2009 and 2017



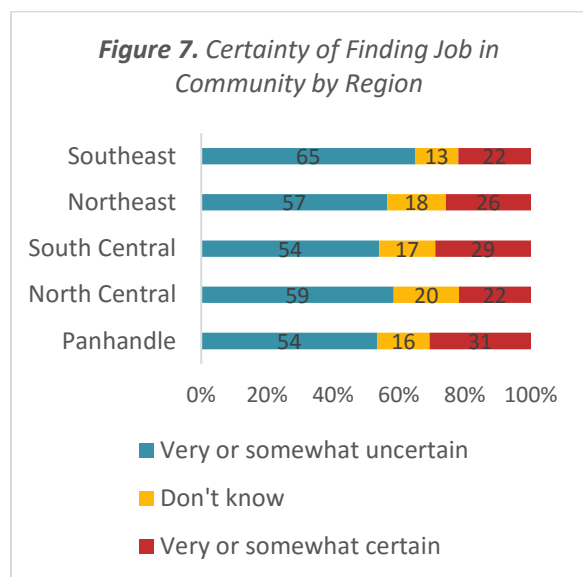
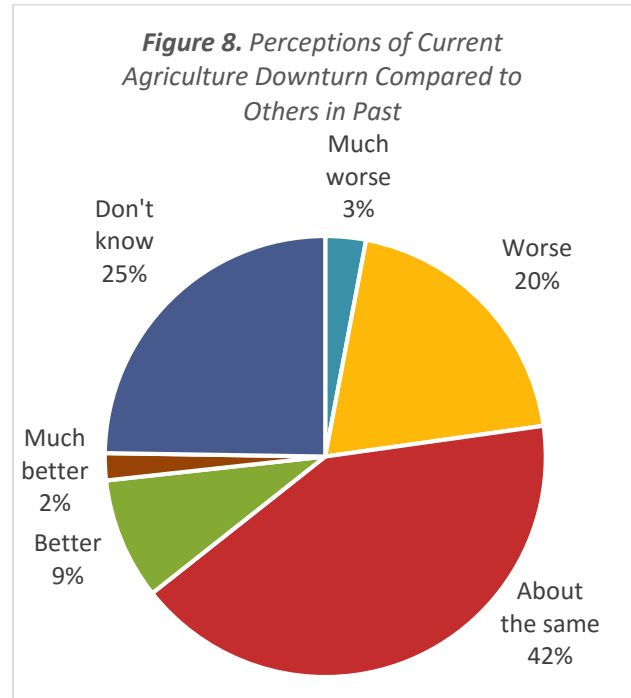
job they would be looking for in their community. Almost two-thirds of Southeast region residents (65%) are very or somewhat uncertain they would find the job they would be looking for in their community, compared to 54 percent of residents of both the Panhandle and South Central regions (Figure 7).

Other groups most likely to be uncertain about finding a job in their community include: younger persons, females, divorced/separated respondents, persons with higher education levels and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Finally, respondents were asked to rate the current downturn in agriculture compared to others in the past. The specific question asked, “Given your experience and/or knowledge, how do you feel the current downturn in agriculture compares to other agriculture downturns of the past?”

Many rural Nebraskans believe the current downturn in agriculture is about the same as other agriculture downturns of the past. Just over four in ten rural Nebraskans (42%) say the

current agriculture downturn is about the same as others in the past (Figure 8). Almost one-quarter (23%) say the current one is worse or much worse than previous downturns. Eleven percent say this one is better or much better and 25 percent answered don’t know.



The perceptions of the current downturn in agriculture differ by community size, region and all the individual attributes examined (Appendix Table 5).

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say the current downturn in agriculture is worse or much worse than previous downturns. Just over one-third of Panhandle residents (34%) feel the current downturn is worse or much worse than other downturns of the past. In comparison, 20 percent of residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions believe the current downturn is worse than previous ones.

Certain groups are more likely than others to believe the current downturn in agriculture is about the same as others in the past: persons over the age of 50, males, divorced/separated respondents, widowed respondents, and persons with higher education levels.

Conclusion

Most rural Nebraskans view their economic well-being as being dependent on agriculture. Over three-fourths feel their economic well-being is at least somewhat tied to agriculture. Economic dependence on agriculture has changed very little over the past seven years. The proportions reported in 2017 are almost identical to those from 2010.

Similarly, most rural Nebraskans believe the economic well-being of their community is very much dependent on agriculture. Overall, over nine in ten rural Nebraskans feel their community's economic well-being is at least somewhat tied to agriculture.

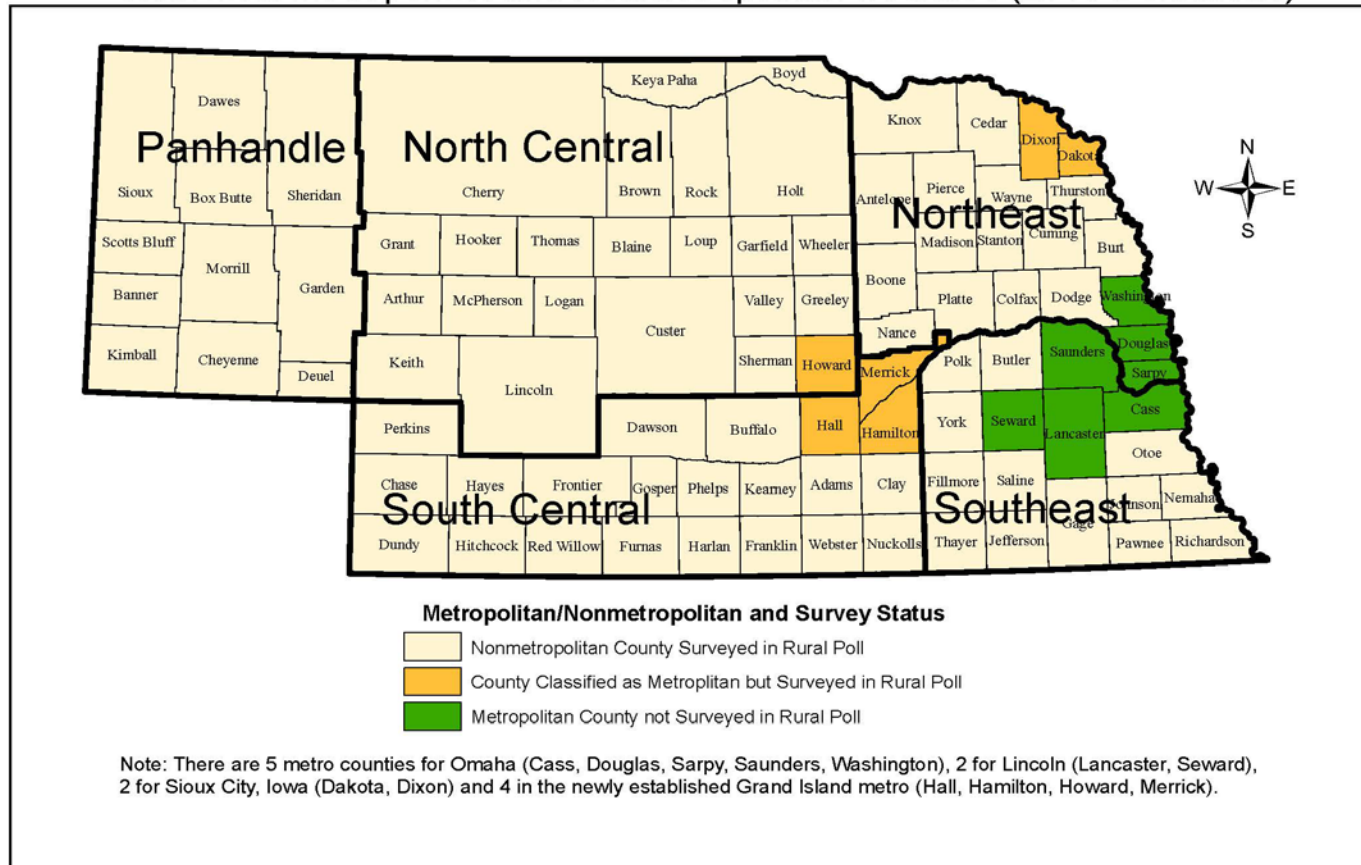
Most rural Nebraskans say their job/income security is about the same as it was a year ago. The concern about job/income security was greater during the 2009 national economic recession compared to this downturn in the agricultural economy.

However, most rural Nebraskans are uncertain they would find the kind of job they are looking for in their community. The level of uncertainty of finding the kind of job they would be looking for in their community was higher in 2009 than this year. This uncertainty was higher for persons living in or near smaller communities compared to those living in or near larger communities.

Finally, many rural Nebraskans believe the current downturn in agriculture is about the same as other agriculture downturns of the past. Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say the current downturn in agriculture is worse or much worse than previous downturns.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents¹ Compared to 2011 – 2015 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska*

	2017 Poll	2016 Poll	2015 Poll	2014 Poll	2013 Poll	2012 Poll	2011 - 2015 ACS
Age : ²							
20 - 39	32%	31%	31%	32%	31%	31%	31%
40 - 64	44%	45%	45%	46%	44%	44%	44%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	23%	24%	24%	24%
Gender: ³							
Female	56%	59%	58%	57%	51%	61%	51%
Male	44%	41%	42%	43%	49%	39%	49%
Education: ⁴							
Less than 9 th grade	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	7%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	18%	21%	22%	18%	23%	22%	33%
Some college, no degree	22%	21%	23%	23%	25%	25%	26%
Associate degree	16%	19%	15%	16%	15%	15%	11%
Bachelors degree	25%	23%	24%	24%	22%	24%	13%
Graduate or professional degree	16%	14%	13%	16%	12%	11%	5%
Household Income: ⁵							
Less than \$10,000	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	10%	11%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	7%	11%	9%	8%	13%	11%	12%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	11%	11%	9%	14%	10%	10%	11%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	13%	11%	12%	12%	15%	12%	10%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	13%	11%	11%	13%	10%	13%	9%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	12%	14%	15%	13%	11%	14%	11%
\$75,000 or more	34%	32%	32%	29%	29%	25%	28%
Marital Status: ⁶							
Married	68%	69%	68%	68%	70%	70%	62%
Never married	13%	11%	13%	12%	12%	10%	18%
Divorced/separated	11%	10%	10%	12%	9%	11%	12%
Widowed/widower	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%	8%

¹ Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

² 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

³ 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

⁴ 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁵ 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

⁶ 2011-2015 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. Economic Dependence on the Agricultural Industry by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>To what extent is your economic well-being dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry?</i>					
	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Some</i>	<i>Very much</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	9	11	23	55	3	
Community Size			(n = 1749)			
Less than 500	9	7	16	65	3	
500 - 999	5	7	21	63	4	
1,000 - 4,999	8	11	20	59	1	
5,000 - 9,999	6	14	25	50	6	$\chi^2 = 73.63^*$
10,000 and up	11	15	28	44	3	(.000)
Region			(n = 1786)			
Panhandle	10	11	24	53	3	
North Central	10	10	11	63	5	
South Central	9	11	26	52	3	
Northeast	9	12	23	54	2	$\chi^2 = 28.60^*$
Southeast	8	12	24	53	3	(.027)
Income Level			(n = 1689)			
Under \$20,000	6	12	21	49	12	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11	9	23	55	2	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	10	11	24	54	2	$\chi^2 = 69.61^*$
\$60,000 and over	8	12	23	56	2	(.000)
Age			(n = 1793)			
19 - 29	12	15	28	42	3	
30 - 39	11	13	22	53	2	
40 - 49	8	12	22	55	3	
50 - 64	7	10	21	61	2	$\chi^2 = 40.57^*$
65 and older	8	8	22	59	4	(.001)
Gender			(n = 1784)			
Male	8	9	24	57	1	$\chi^2 = 19.52^*$
Female	9	13	22	53	4	(.001)
Marital Status			(n = 1776)			
Married	8	11	22	57	2	
Never married	11	15	29	42	3	
Divorced/separated	9	7	23	56	4	$\chi^2 = 27.07^*$
Widowed	10	10	20	54	6	(.008)
Education			(n = 1776)			
H.S. diploma or less	10	7	23	55	6	
Some college	7	11	22	57	3	$\chi^2 = 31.67^*$
Bachelors degree	10	14	23	52	2	(.000)
Occupation			(n = 1300)			
Mgt, prof or education	11	16	22	49	3	
Sales or office support	9	11	28	51	1	
Constrn, inst or maint	13	9	26	52	0	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	6	7	37	49	2	
Agriculture	1	1	10	89	1	
Food serv/pers. care	10	21	10	44	15	
Hlthcare supp/safety	6	17	30	42	5	$\chi^2 = 207.6^*$
Other	14	19	30	35	3	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 2 continued

<i>To what extent is the economic well-being of your community dependent on the well-being of the agricultural industry?</i>						
	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Some</i>	<i>Very much</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<i>Percentages</i>						
Total	1	3	13	81	3	
Community Size			(n = 1746)			
Less than 500	1	0.3	11	85	3	
500 - 999	0.4	1	5	90	4	
1,000 - 4,999	0.2	1	11	87	1	
5,000 - 9,999	0	1	10	86	4	$\chi^2 = 112.34^*$
10,000 and up	2	6	20	69	4	(.000)
Region			(n = 1788)			
Panhandle	0	1	12	82	5	
North Central	1	2	10	84	4	
South Central	2	3	14	79	2	
Northeast	1	4	10	82	2	$\chi^2 = 33.31^*$
Southeast	1	2	17	78	2	(.007)
Income Level			(n = 1692)			
Under \$20,000	2	3	17	68	10	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	1	5	14	78	2	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	2	1	13	81	2	$\chi^2 = 62.74^*$
\$60,000 and over	1	2	12	84	2	(.000)
Age			(n = 1793)			
19 - 29	1	1	10	82	5	
30 - 39	2	3	11	81	4	
40 - 49	1	5	16	76	3	
50 - 64	1	2	13	83	2	$\chi^2 = 24.53$
65 and older	1	3	12	81	3	(.079)
Gender			(n = 1785)			
Male	1	3	12	83	1	$\chi^2 = 20.88^*$
Female	2	2	13	79	4	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 1776)			
Married	1	2	12	83	3	
Never married	1	5	15	76	4	
Divorced/separated	1	2	17	77	4	$\chi^2 = 16.92$
Widowed	3	3	14	76	4	(.153)
Education			(n = 1780)			
H.S. diploma or less	3	3	16	73	5	
Some college	0.3	4	13	80	3	$\chi^2 = 45.80^*$
Bachelors degree	1	1	11	85	2	(.000)
Occupation			(n = 1304)			
Mgt, prof or education	1	3	14	79	3	
Sales or office support	2	2	14	82	1	
Constrn, inst or maint	2	4	13	81	0	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	1	2	13	83	1	
Agriculture	0	0	7	93	1	
Food serv/pers. care	4	0	17	65	14	
Hlthcare supp/safety	0	3	14	78	5	$\chi^2 = 77.19^*$
Other	5	5	11	76	3	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 3. Concern About Job/Income Security by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

Are you more or less concerned about job/income security than you were a year ago, or is your job/income security about the same?

	<i>Much less concerned</i>	<i>Less concerned</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>More concerned</i>	<i>Much more concerned</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
Total	2	7	59	20	11	
Community Size	(n = 1591)					
Less than 500	1	5	59	24	11	
500 - 999	4	4	53	23	17	
1,000 - 4,999	1	9	61	19	9	
5,000 - 9,999	2	3	54	26	14	$\chi^2 = 43.82^*$
10,000 and up	2	9	63	15	10	(.000)
Region	(n = 1622)					
Panhandle	4	7	49	26	13	
North Central	3	8	61	16	12	
South Central	2	6	60	21	11	
Northeast	1	7	61	20	11	$\chi^2 = 17.71$
Southeast	3	7	61	20	9	(.341)
Income Level	(n = 1549)					
Under \$20,000	2	2	55	22	19	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	2	4	63	17	13	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	2	7	54	23	14	$\chi^2 = 43.22^*$
\$60,000 and over	2	9	62	20	7	(.000)
Age	(n = 1626)					
19 - 29	3	8	65	16	8	
30 - 39	2	7	58	22	11	
40 - 49	2	8	58	20	12	
50 - 64	2	5	55	24	14	$\chi^2 = 22.63$
65 and older	3	6	61	19	10	(.124)
Gender	(n = 1619)					
Male	4	9	57	22	9	$\chi^2 = 28.87^*$
Female	1	5	62	19	13	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 1611)					
Married	2	7	59	22	10	
Never married	3	5	61	15	16	
Divorced/separated	2	8	55	21	14	$\chi^2 = 18.48$
Widowed	1	3	67	18	11	(.102)
Education	(n = 1619)					
H.S. diploma or less	4	4	58	21	13	
Some college	1	7	59	21	12	$\chi^2 = 15.92^*$
Bachelors degree	3	8	60	20	10	(.044)
Occupation	(n = 1278)					
Mgt, prof or education	1	10	63	16	10	
Sales or office support	0	8	50	29	14	
Constrn, inst or maint	3	7	66	12	12	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	14	59	17	9	
Agriculture	3	2	54	29	12	
Food serv/pers. care	2	2	73	10	14	
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	4	59	20	12	$\chi^2 = 69.99^*$
Other	3	8	60	27	3	(.000)

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

Persons answering "Not applicable" were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 4. Certainty of Finding Job in Community By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

If you were to look for a job in your community, how certain are you that you would find the kind of job that you would be looking for?

	<i>Very uncertain</i>	<i>Somewhat uncertain</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Somewhat certain</i>	<i>Very certain</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<i>Percentages</i>						
Total	31	26	17	19	7	
Community Size			(n = 1553)			
Less than 500	32	27	18	18	5	
500 - 999	43	26	15	13	3	
1,000 - 4,999	35	29	14	16	7	
5,000 - 9,999	34	22	18	22	5	$\chi^2 = 66.34^*$
10,000 and up	21	25	20	24	10	(.000)
Region			(n = 1583)			
Panhandle	31	23	16	23	8	
North Central	38	21	20	16	6	
South Central	27	27	17	19	10	
Northeast	29	28	18	20	6	$\chi^2 = 34.13^*$
Southeast	36	29	13	19	3	(.005)
Income Level			(n = 1520)			
Under \$20,000	37	22	17	18	7	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	37	25	19	16	2	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	27	28	16	19	10	$\chi^2 = 25.47^*$
\$60,000 and over	31	26	16	21	7	(.013)
Age			(n = 1590)			
19 - 29	31	35	8	17	9	
30 - 39	32	28	16	18	6	
40 - 49	36	24	16	18	6	
50 - 64	31	27	18	18	6	$\chi^2 = 58.05^*$
65 and older	24	19	26	23	8	(.000)
Gender			(n = 1583)			
Male	27	25	21	19	8	$\chi^2 = 24.51^*$
Female	35	27	13	19	6	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 1574)			
Married	30	28	16	19	6	
Never married	30	26	16	20	9	
Divorced/separated	40	23	16	17	4	$\chi^2 = 26.12^*$
Widowed	24	17	31	18	9	(.010)
Education			(n = 1578)			
H.S. diploma or less	30	21	26	18	6	
Some college	33	26	14	20	7	$\chi^2 = 23.60^*$
Bachelors degree	30	29	16	19	7	(.003)
Occupation			(n = 1245)			
Mgt, prof or education	31	32	11	20	6	
Sales or office support	40	30	15	11	4	
Constrn, inst or maint	27	22	30	15	6	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	29	21	24	18	8	
Agriculture	30	24	19	17	11	
Food serv/pers. care	24	42	12	18	4	
Hlthcare supp/safety	32	25	10	26	7	$\chi^2 = 67.14^*$
Other	39	19	22	17	3	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
Persons answering "Not applicable" were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 5. Perceptions of Current Downturn in Agriculture by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Given your experience and/or knowledge, how do you feel the current downturn in agriculture compares to other agriculture downturns of the past?</i>							
	<i>Much worse</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Much better</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	3	20	42	9	2	25	
Community Size				<i>Percentages</i>			
				(n = 1727)			
Less than 500	3	18	42	13	1	22	
500 - 999	5	22	38	10	1	24	
1,000 - 4,999	2	22	44	6	2	24	
5,000 - 9,999	6	21	41	8	3	21	$\chi^2 = 44.04^*$
10,000 and up	1	18	40	10	2	29	(.001)
Region				(n = 1767)			
Panhandle	5	29	39	4	1	23	
North Central	2	22	45	8	2	22	
South Central	2	20	42	9	1	26	
Northeast	3	17	37	12	2	28	$\chi^2 = 47.72^*$
Southeast	2	18	48	11	1	20	(.000)
Income Level				(n = 1678)			
Under \$20,000	6	20	38	6	1	29	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	3	18	46	4	3	27	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	3	22	39	10	1	25	$\chi^2 = 34.95^*$
\$60,000 and over	2	20	43	11	2	24	(.003)
Age				(n = 1773)			
19 - 29	1	27	27	9	0	35	
30 - 39	3	15	38	10	1	34	
40 - 49	4	21	39	11	4	21	
50 - 64	3	19	51	9	1	16	$\chi^2 = 98.90^*$
65 and older	3	19	46	8	2	22	(.000)
Gender				(n = 1764)			
Male	3	19	48	13	2	15	$\chi^2 = 86.31^*$
Female	2	21	36	6	2	32	(.000)
Marital Status				(n = 1757)			
Married	2	21	41	11	2	24	
Never married	4	19	37	8	2	31	
Divorced/separated	6	19	46	5	2	22	$\chi^2 = 27.65^*$
Widowed	2	20	45	6	1	27	(.024)
Education				(n = 1758)			
H.S. diploma or less	4	17	39	7	2	32	
Some college	3	21	42	10	1	24	$\chi^2 = 19.99^*$
Bachelors degree	2	21	43	10	2	22	(.029)
Occupation				(n = 1292)			
Mgt, prof or education	2	17	41	11	3	28	
Sales or office support	2	30	39	9	2	19	
Constrn, inst or maint	5	15	44	13	1	22	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	4	24	47	7	0	19	
Agriculture	4	22	48	17	1	9	
Food serv/pers. care	6	9	32	2	0	51	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	16	42	3	2	36	$\chi^2 = 121.22^*$
Other	5	34	24	11	0	26	(.000)

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

