



## Union of Concerned Scientists

### A Survey of Registered Voters in IA, MI, MN, NE, and AR

November 26, 2019

As you may know, agriculture makes up a significant portion of our economy. I'm going to read a list of potential risks involving agriculture. Please tell me which you think are significant threats to farmers and communities in your area.

1. Extreme weather like droughts and floods

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Very significant threat	49%	43%	71%	78%	46%
Somewhat significant threat	31%	19%	22%	15%	31%
Not that significant of a threat	15%	33%	7%	4%	16%
Not sure	5%	5%	0%	2%	7%

2. Farmland loss from real estate development

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Very significant threat	21%	56%	26%	31%	26%
Somewhat significant threat	39%	23%	48%	40%	39%
Not that significant of a threat	33%	14%	22%	24%	27%
Not sure	7%	7%	4%	5%	8%

3. Soil that is damaged or lost to erosion

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Very significant threat	39%	37%	42%	45%	27%
Somewhat significant threat	39%	33%	39%	35%	42%
Not that significant of a threat	17%	25%	16%	16%	23%
Not sure	6%	6%	3%	4%	8%

645N, 587N, 600N, 591N, and 608N interviews among voters in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Arkansas respectively were conducted November 20-24, 2019 via automated phone survey and online. The results were weighted to ensure proportional response between the states as well as within each state. Margin of error for these results is roughly +/-4.2% per state. For questions, please email: [info@rabaresearch.com](mailto:info@rabaresearch.com) or call (917) 685-4819.





4. Trade wars and loss of markets for farmers

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Very significant threat	49%	62%	47%	50%	40%
Somewhat significant threat	27%	20%	37%	33%	32%
Not that significant of a threat	16%	13%	11%	10%	17%
Not sure	7%	5%	5%	6%	10%

5. Water pollution caused by pesticides and fertilizers in farm runoff

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Very significant threat	44%	68%	46%	42%	42%
Somewhat significant threat	39%	18%	40%	41%	32%
Not that significant of a threat	12%	10%	10%	13%	21%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	5%	5%

6. High cost of farmland

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Very significant threat	32%	47%	40%	47%	33%
Somewhat significant threat	42%	24%	44%	36%	38%
Not that significant of a threat	19%	20%	10%	11%	20%
Not sure	8%	9%	5%	7%	9%

7. Many scientists and farmers say the best soil for productive, sustainable and resilient farms is “living soil,” which includes lots of living and decaying matter to provide nutrients, hold water, and reduce runoff and pollution. Some farmers have succeeded with agricultural practices that build “living soil.”

Would you support government programs that help farmers try these practices?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Strongly support	44%	58%	53%	45%	48%
Somewhat support	38%	20%	37%	43%	32%
Do not support	11%	16%	4%	2%	11%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	10%	9%



Next I'm going to read a list of ways that the government can help farmers safeguard agriculture and our food supply in the years ahead. Please indicate how important you think each one is in helping the future of farming and our food.

8. Paying farmers to cover the cost of practices that protect soil, reduce vulnerability to floods and droughts, and prevent water pollution

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
One of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	49%	44%	55%	56%	52%
NOT one of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	26%	35%	24%	23%	21%
Not sure	25%	21%	21%	21%	27%

9. Offering tax credits or other tax benefits to farmers who adopt such practices

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
One of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	53%	60%	71%	70%	54%
NOT one of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	27%	25%	18%	16%	27%
Not sure	19%	15%	11%	14%	19%

10. Increasing hands-on technical assistance to help farmers implement such practices

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
One of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	38%	44%	59%	58%	46%
NOT one of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	32%	37%	25%	22%	27%
Not sure	29%	20%	16%	21%	27%



11. Funding research to help farmers cope with extreme weather

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
One of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	45%	48%	54%	64%	52%
NOT one of the most important ways to safeguard agriculture	38%	38%	30%	21%	30%
Not sure	18%	14%	16%	16%	18%

12. Farmers don't need help from the government

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Agree	23%	24%	17%	19%	22%
Disagree	56%	63%	55%	51%	56%
Not sure	22%	13%	28%	30%	23%

13. Some people say that policies and programs that help farmers build healthy, living soil will help all of us, even city dwellers, by keeping our water clean, saving taxpayer money on disaster relief, revitalizing local economies, and ensuring a reliable, healthy food supply. Do you:

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Agree strongly	49%	59%	47%	43%	50%
Somewhat agree	38%	20%	43%	46%	35%
Disagree	7%	5%	3%	4%	8%
Strongly disagree	0%	11%	1%	0%	2%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%

14. If a 2020 presidential candidate or other candidate for public office proposed ways to help farmers and rural communities succeed by protecting and building up the soil instead of depleting it, would you be more or less likely to support that candidate?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
More likely	64%	57%	70%	68%	68%
Less likely	8%	17%	3%	3%	11%
Not sure	28%	25%	27%	29%	21%



15. Which of the following proposals for revitalizing the farm economy would you most like to hear from a 2020 presidential candidate or other candidate for public office?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Winning trade wars and maximizing commodity production for the global market	27%	25%	24%	22%	31%
Diversifying and developing new markets for the products farmers grow	49%	31%	49%	47%	41%
Increasing payments to farmers for loss of crops or markets	10%	21%	12%	15%	15%
Not sure	14%	22%	15%	16%	14%

16. Do you believe climate change is affecting agriculture in your area?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Yes	58%	63%	65%	59%	49%
No	30%	28%	23%	24%	40%
Not sure	12%	9%	12%	17%	12%

17. Given everything we have talked about, do you believe the future for farmers and farming in your area is threatened?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Yes	62%	69%	76%	71%	60%
No	38%	31%	24%	29%	40%

18. Do you or a household member farm?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Yes	29%	28%	12%	15%	30%
No	71%	72%	88%	85%	70%



19. What is your gender?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Male	46%	45%	48%	48%	44%
Female	50%	49%	52%	52%	52%
Other	4%	7%	0%	0%	4%

20. What is your age?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
18-40	35%	32%	34%	34%	30%
41-60	31%	36%	34%	32%	33%
61-74	22%	22%	22%	23%	25%
75+	11%	10%	10%	11%	12%

21. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

	<b>IA</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>MN</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>AR</b>
Republican	33%	28%	35%	44%	45%
Democrat	36%	35%	41%	32%	27%
Something else	31%	37%	24%	24%	29%