



SAMPLE

Agribusiness or Agency Panel Questionnaire

Introduction for Agribusiness/Agency Survey Panel Participants (include as the introduction with appropriate communications, or read before asking the questions by telephone):

The purpose of asking you these questions is to assess how you as a person working to support agricultural producers see the situation for agriculture in the area around you. We are looking for your immediate reaction to each of the questions. We plan to ask you these questions again from time to time so that we can discern changes for the better or for the worse — so that these changes can be noticed and actions taken to support changes for the better and to counteract any changes for the worse.

Please take a moment to reflect on the geographic area around you that makes up what you think of as the farming “community” that you serve in your business or agency. For some people this area might be one, two or more counties. For others it might be the area surrounding a particular town or village. Whatever that area is, please take that as your frame of reference as you answer the following questions.

Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements using the scale described below:

**SD = Strongly
Disagree**

D = Disagree

**NO = No
Opinion**

A = Agree

**SA = Strongly
Agree**

**LI = Lack
Enough
Information**

A. Economics of Agriculture in Your Area

1. Most farms around here are thriving.

SD D NO A SA LI

2. Around here most farmers will make a profit this year.

SD D NO A SA LI

3. Most farmers are making regular capital improvements on their farms.

SD D NO A SA LI

4. I see good future prospects for agriculture around here.

SD D NO A SA LI

5. Around here we have sufficient new beginning and replacement farmers entering agriculture.

SD D NO A SA LI

6. Too many sons and daughters of farmers who would like to farm are unable to do so.

SD D NO A SA LI

7. Most farmers are saving money for their retirement years.

SD D NO A SA LI

8. Most farmers approaching retirement age feel like they need to keep farming longer than they would like.

SD D NO A SA LI

B. Agricultural Product Marketing Opportunities in Your Area

1. Innovative agricultural producers are finding good markets for their products.

SD D NO A SA LI

2. Farmers who sell to or contract with processors are finding good markets.

SD D NO A SA LI

3. Farmers who sell to brokers and distributors, like grain companies and milk marketing co-ops, are finding good markets.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
4. Farmers who sell directly to local consumers are finding good markets.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
5. Farmers who sell directly to local restaurants or retail stores are finding good markets.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
6. Farmers who sell directly to local schools, hospitals and other institutions are finding good markets.
- SD D NO A SA LI**

C. Agricultural Infrastructure in Your Area

1. We have many businesses that support the farms around here.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
2. Farmers can get the supplies and services they need to run their farms effectively without having to travel long distances.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
3. Farmers get the reliable and timely information they need for running their farms from Extension and other sources.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
4. Farmers around here have little trouble finding reliable hired farm labor.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
5. Farmers around here have little trouble finding affordable hired farm labor.
- SD D NO A SA LI**
6. I think that the prospects for most agricultural support businesses around here will be good in the next 5 or 10 years.
- SD D NO A SA LI**

7. I think that the prospects for my businesses or agency will be good in the next 5 or 10 years.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

D. Land and Agriculture in Your Area

1. Demand for land for non-farm residences and other development has driven the price of good farmland too high for farmers to buy it.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

2. When farmers retire or go out of business, their land is usually left idle.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

3. When farmers retire or go out of business, their land is usually developed.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

4. Around here, agricultural easements have been effective tools for maintaining working farms.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

E. Agricultural Production Practices in Your Area

1. Around here most farmers utilize BMPs and conservation practices related to nutrient management, pesticide use, grazing methods and soil protection.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

2. Around here, most farmers care about protecting the environment including soil, air and water quality.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

3. Farmers around here regularly participate in FSA, NRCS, SWCS, and Extension programming related to environmental protection and conservation.

SD **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**

F. Satisfaction with Agricultural Support As a Career

1. I am really glad that I am in an agricultural support occupation.

SD D NO A SA LI

2. I recommend agricultural support careers to young people.

SD D NO A SA LI

G. The “Agricultural Community” in Your Area

1. I am part of a network of agribusiness or agency people who regularly share production or marketing information.

SD D NO A SA LI

2. I am part of a group of agribusiness or agency people who regularly talk about the challenges facing agriculture.

SD D NO A SA LI

3. I am part of a group of agribusiness or agency people who regularly act to solve problems facing agriculture.

SD D NO A SA LI

4. I regularly discuss the problems and opportunities of agriculture with local farmers.

SD D NO A SA LI

5. Farmers around here tend to be split into different camps (for example, small versus large) and mostly relate to others like themselves.

SD D NO A SA LI

H. Agriculture and Community Relations

1. Most people in this community appreciate having farms in their midst.

SD D NO A SA LI

2. Most farmers feel that other people value them as part of this community.

SD D NO A SA LI

3. Most farmers around here have good relationships with their non-farming neighbors.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
4. I have good friends who are now or have been in occupations that are not closely related to agriculture.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
5. Many farmers feel that it is getting hard to farm because of their neighbors' disapproval or complaints.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
6. Around here, farmers rarely cause environmental problems that attract community attention.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
7. In this community, people involved in agriculture regularly communicate with non-farmers about agricultural topics.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
8. Our local schools do a good job of educating young people about agriculture and agricultural careers.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
9. Our local government officials value having agriculture around here.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
10. Agriculture interests are well represented in the county legislature.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**
11. Our local government decisions usually support and promote farming.
- SD** **D** **NO** **A** **SA** **LI**