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A Research Report*

Making a Living in Rural Nebraska

2006 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

Rebecca J. Vogt
Randolph L. Cantrell
Bruce B. Johnson
Alan J. Tomkins

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
Lincoln

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Executive Summary

Nebraska has historically had a low unemployment rate but the state's per capita income has also been below the national average. How are rural Nebraskans making a living? How many households have individuals with multiple jobs? Why do individuals hold multiple jobs? How important is agriculture to rural Nebraskans' families, communities and the state?

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 about their jobs and their perceptions about the importance of agriculture in Nebraska. For all questions, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ● ***Rural Nebraska households have an average of 1.3 wage earners.*** One quarter (25%) of the households have no wage earners, 24 percent have one wage earner and 48 percent have two wage earners. Of the households with at least one wage earner, the average number of wage earners is 1.7.

- ● ***Rural Nebraska households with at least one wage earner have an average of two jobs that contribute to the household income.*** Twenty-seven percent of the households have one job contributing to the household income and 55 percent have two jobs that make up their income.

- ● ***Persons living in or near smaller communities have a higher average number of jobs per household than do persons living in or near larger communities.*** Persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 have an approximate average of 2.07 jobs per household, compared to an approximate average of 1.92 jobs per household for persons living in or near communities with more than 5,000 people.

- ● ***Fourteen percent of rural Nebraska households have an individual with more than one job.***

- ● ***Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have an individual with more than one job in their household.***

- ● ***Sixty percent of the households with an individual having more than one job say that more than one job is necessary to pay for living essentials.*** Thirty-seven percent say that individual has more than one job to make additional income for non-essential items.

- ● ***Of the households with a person having more than one job, farmers and ranchers are the occupation group most likely to say that the individual has more than one job to secure employment benefits.*** Twenty-two percent of farmers and ranchers give this reason for having a multiple job holder in their household.

- *Twenty-seven percent of the rural Nebraska households with at least one wage earner have someone that is actively seeking a better paying job.* Only nine percent of the households have someone that is seeking a job with more hours.

- *Nineteen percent of rural Nebraskans currently own a farm or ranch, 11 percent own a business and five percent own both a farm or ranch as well as another type of business.*

- *Persons living in the Southeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to own a farm or ranch.* Twenty-five percent of the Southeast residents own a farm or ranch, compared to 16 percent of persons living in either the Panhandle or South Central regions.

- *Most rural Nebraskans view agriculture as important to the state, their community and their family.* The proportions believing agriculture is important to the various areas are as follows: the state's economy (90%), the state's quality of life (88%), their community's economy (88%), their community's quality of life (85%), their family's quality of life (72%) and their family's personal finances (57%).

Introduction

Nebraska's unemployment rate has been among the lowest in the nation in recent years. However, the state's per capita income has also historically been below the national average and the growth rate of this statistic in 2004 was below the national average (5.6 percent compared to 6.0 percent nationally) (Recent Nebraska Economic Trends, May 2006, Nebraska Department of Economic Development). Given this, how are rural Nebraskans piecing together their incomes? How many households have individuals with multiple jobs? Why do individuals hold multiple jobs? How important is agriculture to rural Nebraskans' families, communities and the state? This paper provides a detailed analysis of 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 jobs and their perceptions of the importance of agriculture in Nebraska.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,482 responses from Nebraskans living in the 84 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered 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 making a living 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.

The average age of respondents is 56 years. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1[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.

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[1] Appendix Table 1 also includes demographic data from 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.

Forty-nine percent of the respondents report their 2005 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $40,000. Thirty-six percent report incomes over $50,000.
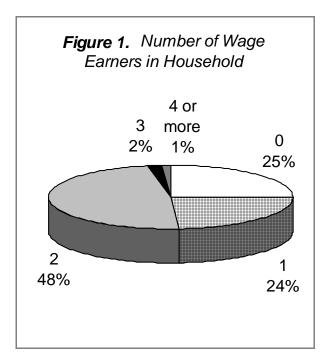
Seventy-two percent were employed in 2005 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed 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.

Household Employment

To better understand how rural Nebraskans' household income is derived, respondents were asked, "How many wage earners (persons) working part-time or more contribute to your household income - including those who are temporarily unemployed?" On average, there are 1.3 wage earners in rural Nebraska households. One quarter (25%) of the households, though, have no wage earners (Figure 1). Another 24 percent of the households have a single wage earner and almost one-half (48%) have two wage earners. Of the households with at least one wage earner, the average number of wage earners is 1.7.

The next series of questions were only asked of the households that had at least one wage earner in it. Respondents were asked how many jobs contribute to their household income. Rural Nebraskan households with at least one wage earner have an average of two jobs contributing to the household income. The answers ranged from 1 to 7.

Figure 1. *Number of Wage Earners in Household*

Twenty-seven percent of the households have 1 job contributing to the household income and 55 percent have two jobs that make up their household income (Figure 2).

The households have an average of 1.4 full-time jobs, 0.5 part-time jobs and 0.1 seasonal jobs. Nine percent of the households have no full-time jobs, 44 percent have one full-time job and 45 percent have two full-time jobs. Sixty-one

Figure 2. *Number of Jobs Per Household*

percent have no part-time jobs, 29 percent have 1 part-time job and 8 percent have two part-time jobs in the household. Most households (91%) have no seasonal employment. Eight percent of the households have one seasonal job.

The average number of wage earners and jobs per household were compared by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Households in the South Central region (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region) have the highest average number of wage earners (1.39) as compared to the other regions. Panhandle households only have an average of 1.17 wage earners.

Households with the highest incomes have a higher average number of wage earners than do households with less income. Households with incomes of $60,000 or more have an average of 1.8 wage earners, compared to 0.6 wage earners in households with incomes under $20,000.

Respondents under the age of 50 have a higher average number of wage earners per household than do older respondents. Other groups with the highest average number of wage earners per household include: males, married respondents, persons with higher education levels, manual laborers and persons who own a business.

Persons living in or near smaller communities have a higher average number of jobs per household than do persons living in or near larger communities. Persons living in or near communities with less than 5,000 population have an average of approximately 2.07 jobs per household, compared to approximately 1.92 jobs per household for persons living in or near

communities with more than 5,000 people. Other groups with the highest average jobs per household include: persons with higher household incomes, respondents under the age of 65, males, married persons and persons who own both a farm or ranch and another type of business.

Households with the highest levels of income have a higher average number of full-time jobs than do households with lower incomes. Households with incomes of $60,000 or more have an average of 1.63 full-time jobs, compared to 0.9 full-time jobs in households with incomes less than $20,000. Other groups with the highest average number of full-time jobs include: persons under the age of 50, married persons, respondents who own a business and the skilled laborers.

Persons living in or near smaller communities have a higher average number of part-time jobs in their household than do persons living in or near larger communities. Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 4,999 have an approximate average of 0.58 part-time jobs, compared to 0.45 part-time jobs for persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more. Other groups with the highest average number of part-time jobs include: lower income households, persons age 65 and older and manual laborers. Groups with the highest average number of seasonal jobs include: persons living in or near the smallest communities, persons age 30 to 39 and respondents who own both a farm or ranch and another type of business.
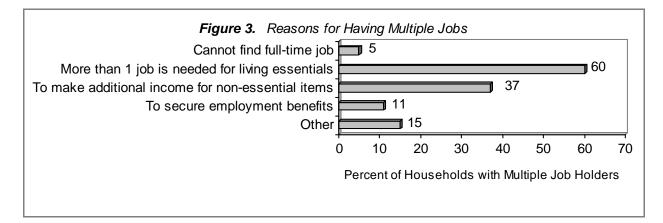
The number of jobs per household were subtracted from the number of wage earners in the household to determine how many

households have individuals with multiple jobs. Fourteen percent of rural Nebraska households have an individual with more than one job. This characteristic was examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3).

Persons who own both a farm or ranch and another type of business are more likely than persons not owning these to have someone in their household with multiple jobs. Thirty percent of persons owning both a farm or ranch and another type of business are in a multiple job holding household, compared to 13 percent of persons owning only a farm or ranch or persons not owning either a farm or ranch or a business.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have someone in their household with multiple jobs. Persons who have never married are more likely than the other marital groups to have a multiple job holder in their household. Twenty-one percent of persons who have never married are in a multiple job holding household, compared to 16 percent of the married respondents and two percent of the widowed respondents. Other groups most likely to be in a multiple job

holding household include: persons with household incomes over $20,000, persons under the age of 64 and respondents with at least some college education.

The households that have a multiple job holder were next asked why that individual has more than one job. Sixty percent of these households say that more than one job is necessary to pay for living essentials and 37 percent answered "to make additional income for non-essential items" (Figure 3). Respondents were allowed to circle more than one answer.

The responses to this question were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Only a few differences emerge. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to say that more than one job is necessary to pay for living essentials. Seventy-five percent of the households with a multiple job holder and household incomes under $20,000 give this reason, compared to 44 percent of the multiple job holding households with incomes of $60,000 or more. Other groups most likely to give this reason for having multiple jobs include: females, divorced/separated persons and persons with less education.

Figure 3. *Reasons for Having Multiple Jobs*

Reason	Percent
Cannot find full-time job	5
More than 1 job is needed for living essentials	60
To make additional income for non-essential items	37
To secure employment benefits	11
Other	15

Percent of Households with Multiple Job Holders

Farmers and ranchers are the occupation group most likely to say that the individual has more than one job to secure employment benefits. Twenty-two percent of farmers and ranchers give this reason for having multiple jobs in their household.

Respondents were next asked how many hours they and their spouse/partner (if they have one) work per week. The respondents work an average of 45.2 hours per week and their spouse/partner works an average of 38.2 hours per week. Fifty-seven percent of the respondents work over 40 hours per week. Thirty-six percent of the spouse/partners work over 40 hours per week.

The average number of hours worked per week were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Persons living in or near the smallest communities have a higher average number of hours worked per week than do persons living in or near larger communities. Persons living in or near communities with less than 1,000 people work an average of 48 hours per week, compared to 43 hours per week for persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Farmers and ranchers are the occupation group with the highest average number of hours worked per week. Farmers and ranchers work an average of 58 hours per week, compared to 38 hours per week for persons with administrative support positions.
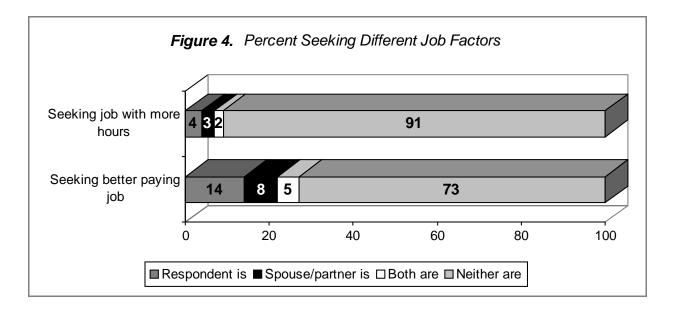
Other groups with the highest average number of hours worked per week include: persons with the highest household incomes, persons age 40 to 49, males, both married

and divorced/separated respondents and persons owning both a farm or ranch and another type of business. The groups with the highest average number of hours worked per week for their spouse/partner include: persons with the highest household incomes, the youngest persons, females, persons who have never married and respondents owning both a farm or ranch and another type of business.

Respondents were next asked if they or their spouse or partner were doing the following items: actively seeking a better paying job or actively seeking a job with more hours. Twenty-seven percent of the households have someone that is actively seeking a better paying job (Figure 4). Only nine percent of the households have someone that is seeking a job with more hours.

The responses to this question were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Persons who are never married are more likely than the other marital groups to be seeking a better paying job. Thirty percent of the persons who have never married are actively looking for a better paying job, compared to 11 percent of the married persons and 5 percent of the widowed persons.

Persons living in or near the larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be seeking a better paying job. Sixteen percent of the persons living in or near communities with more than 5,000 persons are seeking a better paying job, compared to approximately 10 percent of the persons living in or near towns with less than 1,000 persons.

Figure 4. Percent Seeking Different Job Factors

Seeking job with more hours: 4 | 3 | 2 | 91

Seeking better paying job: 14 | 8 | 5 | 73

□ Respondent is ■ Spouse/partner is □ Both are ■ Neither are

Other groups most likely to be seeking a better paying job include: persons with lower household incomes, females, the youngest persons and persons with occupations classified as "other."

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be seeking a job with more hours. Fourteen percent of persons with incomes less than $20,000 are seeking a job with more hours, compared to only one percent of the persons with incomes over $60,000.
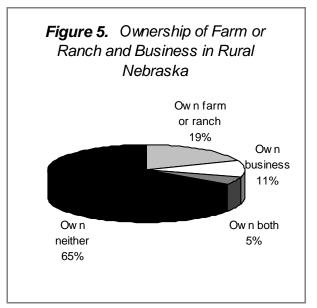
Other groups most likely to be seeking a job with more hours include: persons under the age of 65, females, persons who have never married and persons with either service occupations or occupations classified as "other."

All of the respondents were asked if they currently own a business, farm or ranch in rural Nebraska. Nineteen percent of rural Nebraskans own a farm or ranch, 11 percent own a business and five percent own both a

farm or ranch as well as another type of business (Figure 5).

The responses to this question were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 7). Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living or near larger communities to own a farm or ranch and to own both a farm or ranch and another type of business.

Figure 5. Ownership of Farm or Ranch and Business in Rural Nebraska

Own farm or ranch 19%

Own business 11%

Own both 5%

Own neither 65%

Thirty-six percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 own a farm or ranch, compared to only 10 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more. And, approximately seven percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 5,000 own both a farm or ranch and another type of business, compared to two percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.
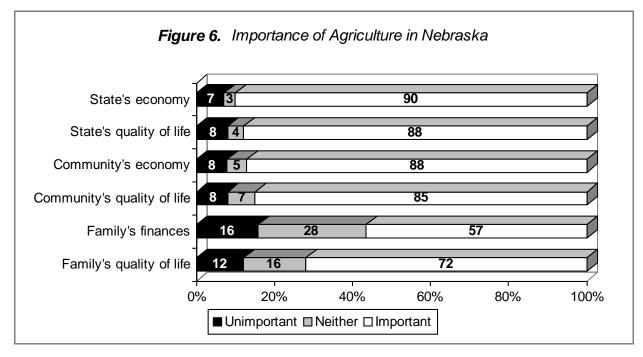
Persons living in the Southeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to own a farm or ranch. Twenty-five percent of the Southeast residents own a farm or ranch, compared to 16 percent of the residents of both the Panhandle and South Central regions.

Other groups most likely to own a farm or ranch include: persons over the age of 65, males, widowed respondents, persons with a high school diploma or less education and farmers/ranchers. The groups most likely to

own only a business include: persons with the highest household incomes, persons age 30 to 64, males, married persons, persons with at least some college education and respondents with sales occupations.

Perceptions of the Importance of Agriculture

Finally, respondents were asked their perceptions of the importance of agriculture in Nebraska to various areas. The majority of rural Nebraskans view agriculture as being important to the state's quality of life (88%) and economy (90%) (Figure 6). Most also believe agriculture is important to their community's quality of life (85%) and economy (88%). Almost three-quarters (72%) say agriculture is important to their family's quality of life and over one-half (57%) say it is important to their family's personal finances.

The responses to this question were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix

Figure 6. *Importance of Agriculture in Nebraska*

Table 8). Some differences emerge.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to view agriculture as being important to their family's quality of life, to their family's personal finances and to their community's quality of life. Sixty-six percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people say agriculture is important to their family's personal finances, compared to approximately 52 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Persons living in the North Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say agriculture is important to their family's personal finances. Sixty-two percent of persons living in this region say agriculture is important to their family's finances, compared to 51 percent of persons living in the Southeast region.

Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to believe agriculture is important to both their community's economy and Nebraska's quality of life. Older persons are more likely than younger persons to say agriculture is important to their family's quality of life and their family's finances.

And, as expected, farmers and ranchers are more likely than persons with different occupations to say agriculture is important to both their family's quality of life and their family's personal finances. Ninety-one percent of farmers and ranchers say agriculture is important to their family's personal finances, compared to 43 percent of persons with administrative support positions.
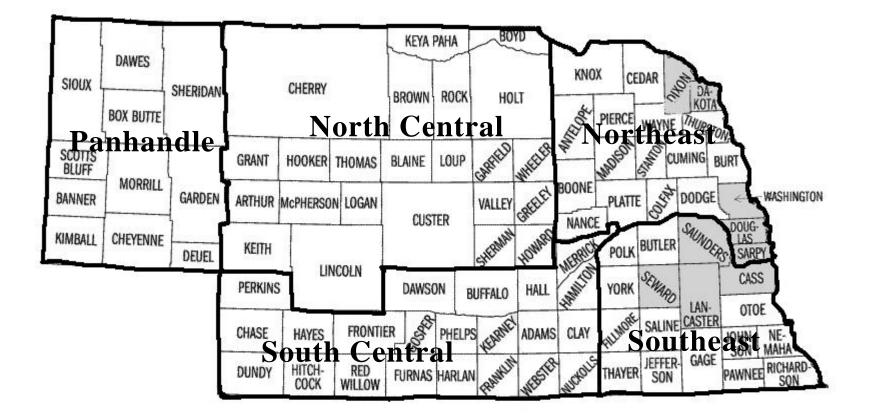
Conclusion

Rural Nebraska households have an average of 1.3 wage earners. Of the households with at least one wage earner, they have an average of two jobs that contribute to the household income. Fourteen percent of the rural Nebraska households have an individual with more than one job. Of those households, the majority say multiple jobs are needed to pay for living essentials. Twenty-seven percent of the rural Nebraska households with at least one wage earner have someone that is actively seeking a better paying job.

Persons living in or near the smaller communities in the state seem to have a tougher time piecing together their household incomes. These individuals have a higher average number of jobs per household and are more likely to have an individual with more than one job in their household. These individuals also have a higher average number of part-time and seasonal jobs in their household than do persons living in or near larger communities.

Most rural Nebraskans believe agriculture is important to the state, their communities and their families. The perceived importance was higher for the state and their community than for their own family, but over one-half still said that agriculture was important to their family's personal finances.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

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

	2006 Poll	2005 Poll	2004 Poll	2003 Poll	2002 Poll	2001 Poll	2000 Census
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 9th grade	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	7%
9th to 12th 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. *Average Wage Earners and Jobs in Household by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Average number of wage earners per household	*Average number of jobs per household*	*Average number of full-time jobs*	*Average number of part-time jobs*	*Average number of seasonal jobs*
			Averages		
Community Size	(n = 2266)	(n = 1714)		(n = 1694)	
Less than 500	1.37	2.07	1.36	0.53	0.19
500 - 999	1.33	2.09	1.38	0.58	0.13
1,000 - 4,999	1.31	2.08	1.38	0.59	0.10
5,000 - 9,999	1.25	1.92	1.36	0.50	0.07
10,000 and up	1.36	1.93	1.43	0.45	0.07
F test (sig.)	F = 0.93 (.447)	F = 3.11 (.015)	F = 0.79 (.534)	F = 2.4 (.046)	F = 5.8 (.000)
Region	(n = 2356)	(n = 1753)		(n = 1733)	
Panhandle	1.17	2.02	1.38	0.52	0.11
North Central	1.36	2.07	1.34	0.58	0.15
South Central	1.39	1.99	1.41	0.49	0.10
Northeast	1.28	1.99	1.39	0.53	0.07
Southeast	1.26	1.98	1.41	0.48	0.09
F test (sig.)	F = 3.98 (.003)	F = 0.56 (.696)	F = 0.6 (.667)	F = 0.9 (.465)	F = 2.2 (.065)
Income Level	(n = 2108)	(n = 1619)		(n = 1599)	
Under $20,000	0.64	1.63	0.90	0.61	0.13
$20,000 - $39,999	1.14	1.87	1.19	0.58	0.10
$40,000 - $59,999	1.68	2.18	1.52	0.57	0.11
$60,000 and over	1.80	2.09	1.63	0.37	0.08
F test (sig.)	F = 224.7 (.000)	F = 22.8 (.000)	F = 85.9 (.000)	F = 8.5 (.000)	F = 1.4 (.246)
Age	(n = 2322)	(n = 1726)		(n = 1706)	
19 - 29	1.76	2.08	1.50	0.47	0.11
30 - 39	1.78	2.10	1.51	0.45	0.15
40 - 49	1.79	2.14	1.53	0.50	0.12
50 - 64	1.63	2.00	1.45	0.50	0.07
65 and older	0.46	1.58	0.79	0.69	0.09
F test (sig.)	F = 412.8 (.000)	F = 16.1 (.000)	F = 56.8 (.000)	F = 3.5 (.008)	F = 2.6 (.032)
Gender	(n = 2299)	(n = 1709)		(n = 1689)	
Male	1.46	2.05	1.45	0.51	0.10
Female	0.97	1.86	1.25	0.53	0.09
F test (sig.)	F = 152.5 (.000)	F = 15.7 (.000)	F = 27.1 (.000)	F = 0.2 (.632)	F = 0.8 (.357)
Marital Status	(n = 2311)	(n = 1719)		(n = 1699)	
Married	1.58	2.15	1.51	0.54	0.11
Never married	1.16	1.66	1.13	0.42	0.11
Divorced/separated	0.94	1.50	1.03	0.42	0.07
Widowed	0.24	1.17	0.58	0.53	0.06
F test (sig.)	F = 274.1 (.000)	F = 63.0 (.000)	F = 78.8 (.000)	F = 1.9 (.136)	F = 0.9 (.431)

	Average number of wage earners per household	*Average number of jobs per household*	*Average number of full-time jobs*	*Average number of part-time jobs*	*Average number of seasonal jobs*
Education	(n = 2292)	(n = 1708)		(n = 1688)	
H.S. diploma or less	1.09	1.94	1.36	0.47	0.11
Some college	1.43	2.05	1.43	0.52	0.11
Bachelors degree or more	1.50	2.03	1.40	0.56	0.09
F test (sig.)	F = 46.8 (.000)	F = 2.2 (.106)	F = 1.5 (.217)	F = 1.5 (.215)	F = 0.6 (.571)
Occupation	(n = 1531)	(n = 1513)		(n = 1496)	
Sales	1.80	1.96	1.48	0.42	0.06
Manual laborer	1.85	2.19	1.43	0.68	0.08
Prof/tech/admin	1.77	2.04	1.48	0.47	0.10
Service	1.69	1.99	1.31	0.60	0.09
Farming/ranching	1.80	2.03	1.33	0.53	0.17
Skilled laborer	1.80	2.02	1.52	0.40	0.08
Admin support	1.60	1.85	1.38	0.36	0.11
Other	1.59	1.79	1.41	0.34	0.03
F test (sig.)	F = 2.48 (.015)	F = 1.64 (.120)	F = 2.6 (.010)	F = 2.9 (.005)	F = 1.9 (.062)
Ownership of Business or Farm/Ranch	(n = 2264)	(n = 1704)		(n = 1694)	
Own farm or ranch	1.23	2.05	1.33	0.57	.15
Own business	1.80	2.14	1.53	0.55	.08
Own farm/ranch and another business	1.73	2.33	1.50	0.62	.21
Own neither	1.25	1.93	1.37	0.48	.09
F test (sig.)	F = 36.4 (.000)	F = 9.03 (.000)	F = 5.11 (.002)	F = 2.1 (.103)	F = 5.4 (.001)

Appendix Table 3. *Multiple Job Holdings by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

Percent of Households with Individuals Holding Multiple Jobs

	Percentages
Community Size	(n = 2248)
Less than 500	18
500 - 999	16
1,000 - 4,999	18
5,000 - 9,999	12
10,000 and up	12
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 12.11$ (.017)
Region	(n = 2336)
Panhandle	17
North Central	15
South Central	14
Northeast	14
Southeast	13
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 2.06$ (.724)
Income Level	(n = 2088)
Under $20,000	8
$20,000 - $39,999	16
$40,000 - $59,999	19
$60,000 and over	14
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 25.12$ (.000)
Age	(n = 2302)
19 - 29	20
30 - 39	22
40 - 49	23
50 - 64	18
65 and older	2
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 141.18$ (.000)
Gender	(n = 2279)
Male	15
Female	13
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 1.50$ (.221)
Marital Status	(n = 2291)
Married	16
Never married	21
Divorced/separated	17
Widowed	2
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 48.31$ (.000)

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	Percent of Households with Individuals Holding Multiple Jobs
Education	(n = 2273)
H.S. diploma or less	10
Some college	17
Bachelors degree or more	19
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 24.63$ (.000)
Occupation	(n = 1513)
Sales	14
Manual laborer	22
Prof/tech/admin	19
Service	22
Farming/ranching	18
Skilled laborer	15
Admin support	17
Other	12
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 7.51$ (.378)
Ownership of Business or Farm/Ranch	(n = 2245)
Own farm or ranch	13
Own business	22
Own farm/ranch <u>and</u> another business	30
Own neither	13
Chi-square (sig.)	$\chi^2 = 34.32$ (.000)

Appendix Table 4. *Reasons for Multiple Jobs by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes**

		If anyone in your household has more than one job, why does that individual have more than one job?			
	Cannot find a full-time job	*More than one job is necessary to pay for living essentials*	*To make additional income for non-essential items*	*To secure employment benefits (i.e., health insurance or retirement benefits)*	*Other*
Community Size			*Percent circling each item* (n = 321)		
Less than 500	7	68	32	15	20
500 - 999	9	61	46	12	12
1,000 - 4,999	5	60	35	11	16
5,000 - 9,999	6	59	44	18	9
10,000 and up	3	57	39	6	14
Significance	(.709)	(.772)	(.652)	(.310)	(.588)
Region			(n = 325)		
Panhandle	7	56	39	15	5
North Central	8	61	43	20	24
South Central	6	59	38	9	16
Northeast	2	57	33	10	17
Southeast	4	73	37	6	10
Significance	(.611)	(.370)	(.824)	(.176)	(.102)
Income Level			(n = 300)		
Under $20,000	16	75	34	19	16
$20,000 - $39,999	4	71	34	13	13
$40,000 - $59,999	4	58	41	10	13
$60,000 and over	4	44	40	8	15
Significance	(.056)	(.002)	(.724)	(.384)	(.968)
Gender			(n = 316)		
Male	4	57	38	11	16
Female	8	71	38	11	10
Significance	(.208)	(.028)	(.914)	(.919)	(.175)

Appendix Table 4 continued

	If anyone in your household has more than one job, why does that individual have more than one job?				
	Cannot find a full-time job	*More than one job is necessary to pay for living essentials*	*To make additional income for non-essential items*	*To secure employment benefits (i.e., health insurance or retirement benefits)*	*Other*
Age			(n = 320)		
19 - 29	0	50	46	8	12
30 - 39	8	51	51	8	16
40 - 49	4	69	30	12	20
50 - 64	7	62	36	12	11
65 and older	0	50	36	7	29
Significance	(.439)	(.141)	(.116)	(.847)	(.208)
Marital Status			(n = 322)		
Married	5	58	36	11	17
Never married	3	54	46	6	9
Divorced/separated	14	83	31	17	3
Widowed	0	67	67	0	33
Significance	(.094)	(.029)	(.254)	(.405)	(.054)
Education			(n = 318)		
H.S. diploma or less	6	71	31	10	11
Some college	4	67	35	15	13
Bachelors/grad degree	7	45	47	7	20
Significance	(.536)	(.000)	(.050)	(.134)	(.189)
Occupation			(n = 269)		
Sales	0	68	42	0	5
Manual laborer	9	70	42	0	3
Prof/tech/admin	2	51	45	6	17
Service	5	66	34	15	12
Farming/ranching	9	59	34	22	22
Skilled laborer	7	66	10	17	31
Admin support	0	100	22	0	11
Other	0	50	50	0	0
Significance	(.441)	(.087)	(.057)	(.011)	(.066)

* Percentages calculated only out of those with multiple job holdings.

Appendix Table 5. *Average Number of Hours Worked Per Week by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Respondent's average number of hours worked per week	Spouse/partner's average number of hours worked per week
	Averages	
Community Size	(n = 1622)	(n = 1305)
Less than 500	48.2	40.3
500 - 999	48.5	38.3
1,000 - 4,999	46.2	39.9
5,000 - 9,999	44.5	37.3
10,000 and up	43.0	36.5
F test (sig.)	F = 5.78 (.000)	F = 2.20 (.067)
Region	(n = 1660)	(n = 1333)
Panhandle	46.3	39.6
North Central	47.1	39.2
South Central	44.8	37.5
Northeast	44.6	37.4
Southeast	44.4	39.1
F test (sig.)	F = 1.25 (.289)	F = 0.72 (.582)
Income Level	(n = 1542)	(n = 1243)
Under $20,000	38.3	33.2
$20,000 - $39,999	44.2	34.6
$40,000 - $59,999	46.0	39.1
$60,000 and over	47.6	39.9
F test (sig.)	F = 12.9 (.000)	F = 6.47 (.000)
Age	(n = 1637)	(n = 1319)
19 - 29	42.7	41.6
30 - 39	48.2	38.8
40 - 49	49.7	40.3
50 - 64	46.0	39.4
65 and older	31.0	27.2
F test (sig.)	F = 42.16 (.000)	F = 15.13 (.000)
Gender	(n = 1620)	(n = 1309)
Male	47.6	36.0
Female	38.3	48.5
F test (sig.)	F = 83.9 (.000)	F = 87.2 (.000)
Marital Status	(n = 1629)	(n = 1318)
Married	45.7	37.9
Never married	45.5	46.4
Divorced/separated	45.7	45.0
Widowed	32.4	30.0
F test (sig.)	F = 11.17 (.000)	F = 2.95 (.032)
Education	(n = 1619)	(n = 1307)
H.S. diploma or less	44.1	37.3
Some college	45.5	38.9
Bachelors degree or more	46.1	38.6
F test (sig.)	F = 1.58 (.206)	F = 0.8 (.444)

Appendix Table 5 continued.

	Respondent's average number of hours worked per week	Spouse/partner's average number of hours worked per week
Occupation	(n = 1433)	(n = 1153)
Sales	46.6	40.2
Manual laborer	43.9	36.0
Prof/tech/admin	46.6	38.3
Service	42.5	37.9
Farming/ranching	58.1	37.5
Skilled laborer	48.8	35.6
Admin support	37.6	45.8
Other	46.1	34.8
F test (sig.)	F = 21.7 (.000)	F = 1.66 (.115)
Ownership of Business or Farm/Ranch	(n = 1621)	(n = 1304)
Own farm or ranch	50.0	39.4
Own business	50.2	39.8
Own farm/ranch <u>and</u> another business	53.6	43.2
Own neither	42.3	36.9
F test (sig.)	F = 28.95 (.000)	F = 3.83 (.010)

Appendix Table 6. *Seeking Different Job Factors by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Actively seeking a better paying job					*Actively seeking a job with more hours*				
	I Am	*Spouse/ Partner Is*	*Both Are*	*Neither Are*	*Significance*	*I Am*	*Spouse/ Partner Is*	*Both Are*	*Neither Are*	*Significance*
					Percentages					
Community Size		(n = 1679)					(n = 1632)			
Less than 500	10	9	8	73		4	6	3	88	
500 - 999	9	12	4	76		3	6	1	90	
1,000 - 4,999	14	9	6	71		4	3	1	91	
5,000 - 9,999	16	8	5	71	$\chi^2 = 21.94$	3	2	3	93	$\chi^2 = 23.95$
10,000 and up	16	7	4	74	(.038)	5	2	2	92	(.021)
Region		(n = 1719)					(n = 1668)			
Panhandle	19	8	5	69		6	2	3	90	
North Central	12	7	6	75		4	3	3	90	
South Central	15	9	4	72		3	3	2	92	
Northeast	14	9	4	73	$\chi^2 = 12.46$	6	4	1	90	$\chi^2 = 15.21$
Southeast	11	8	8	74	(.410)	3	3	3	91	(.230)
Individual Attributes:										
Income Level		(n = 1591)					(n = 1547)			
Under $20,000	27	8	4	62		14	5	3	78	
$20,000 - $39,999	16	9	5	70		6	4	2	88	
$40,000 - $59,999	12	10	8	71	$\chi^2 = 46.14$	3	3	2	92	$\chi^2 = 72.71$
$60,000 and over	11	7	3	79	(.000)	1	1	2	96	(.000)
Age		(n = 1692)					(n = 1642)			
19 - 29	23	9	8	61		6	2	4	88	
30 - 39	20	10	6	64		4	6	1	89	
40 - 49	15	10	6	68		4	4	1	91	
50 - 64	13	8	5	74	$\chi^2 = 83.73$	4	3	3	90	$\chi^2 = 33.03$
65 and older	2	2	0	96	(.000)	1	1	0	99	(.001)
Gender		(n = 1677)					(n = 1629)			
Male	13	9	6	73	$\chi^2 = 13.66$	3	4	2	91	$\chi^2 = 23.71$
Female	18	6	3	72	(.003)	8	2	1	90	(.000)

Appendix Table 6 continued.

	Actively seeking a better paying job					Actively seeking a job with more hours				
	I Am	*Spouse/ Partner Is*	*Both Are*	*Neither Are*	*Significance*	*I Am*	*Spouse/ Partner Is*	*Both Are*	*Neither Are*	*Significance*
Education		(n = 1675)					(n = 1627)			
High school diploma or less	13	9	4	74		4	3	3	90	
Some college	15	10	6	70	$\chi^2 = 9.35$	5	4	2	90	$\chi^2 = 7.87$
Bachelors or grad degree	15	6	5	75	(.155)	3	2	2	93	(.248)
Marital Status		(n = 1687)					(n = 1638)			
Married	11	10	6	74		2	4	2	92	
Never married	30	3	4	62		13	2	2	84	
Divorced/separated	26	3	3	68	$\chi^2 = 88.68$	8	2	1	89	$\chi^2 = 53.06$
Widowed	5	0	0	95	(.000)	7	0	0	93	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1488)					(n = 1441)			
Sales	15	5	4	77		2	1	0	97	
Manual laborer	15	11	12	63		5	3	4	88	
Prof./technical/admin	14	8	4	74		4	2	1	93	
Service	19	8	4	68		8	3	2	87	
Farming/ranching	7	5	2	86		2	1	2	96	
Skilled laborer	15	11	6	69		4	7	3	86	
Admin. support	17	6	8	70	$\chi^2 = 53.0$	2	2	0	96	$\chi^2 = 43.95$
Other	21	3	0	76	(.000)	7	0	0	94	(.002)

Do you currently own a business, farm or ranch in rural Nebraska?

	Own only farm or ranch	Own only a business	Own a farm or ranch _and_ another type of business	No, don't own either	Significance
			Percentages		
Community Size			(n = 2273)		
Less than 500	36	9	7	48	
500 - 999	32	8	8	53	
1,000 - 4,999	21	11	7	62	
5,000 - 9,999	12	12	3	73	$\chi^2 = 188.9$
10,000 and up	10	12	2	76	(.000)
Region			(n = 2372)		
Panhandle	16	12	5	68	
North Central	20	13	8	60	
South Central	16	12	3	69	
Northeast	20	9	5	66	$\chi^2 = 32.9$
Southeast	25	10	4	62	(.001)
Income Level			(n = 2124)		
Under $20,000	17	7	3	73	
$20,000 - $39,999	21	10	3	66	
$40,000 - $59,999	18	10	6	66	$\chi^2 = 42.6$
$60,000 and over	16	17	6	61	(.000)
Age			(n = 2335)		
19 - 29	5	8	2	85	
30 - 39	9	16	5	70	
40 - 49	15	15	5	64	
50 - 64	17	13	7	64	$\chi^2 = 150.3$
65 and older	30	5	2	63	(.000)
Gender			(n = 2306)		
Male	20	13	5	63	$\chi^2 = 31.0$
Female	17	6	4	73	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 2318)		
Married	20	13	6	61	
Never married	12	8	5	75	
Divorced/separated	10	8	1	81	$\chi^2 = 88.4$
Widowed	25	2	1	72	(.000)
Education			(n = 2302)		
H.S. diploma or less	22	7	3	68	
Some college	16	12	5	67	$\chi^2 = 30.7$
Bachelors or grad degree	18	14	5	62	(.000)

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	Do you currently own a business, farm or ranch in rural Nebraska?				
	Own only farm or ranch	*Own only a business*	*Own a farm or ranch and another type of business*	*No, don't own either*	*Significance*
Occupation			(n = 1594)		
Sales	8	29	3	60	
Manual laborer	12	6	2	80	
Professional/tech/admin	9	16	5	70	
Service	9	17	5	69	
Farming/ranching	74	1	9	17	
Skilled laborer	5	18	4	73	
Administrative support	5	11	9	75	$\chi^2 = 631.0$
Other	9	14	3	74	(.000)

Appendix Table 8. *Opinions Regarding the Importance of Agriculture by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	How important is agriculture in Nebraska to the following areas?							
	Your family's quality of life				Your family's personal finances			
	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Significance	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Significance
				Percentages				
Community Size	(n = 2243)				(n = 2235)			
Less than 500	9	11	80		12	22	66	
500 - 999	10	15	76		14	25	61	
1,000 - 4,999	13	13	74		15	25	60	
5,000 - 9,999	13	20	67	$\chi^2 = 27.6$	19	31	50	$\chi^2 = 31.25$
10,000 and up	11	19	70	(.001)	16	32	52	(.000)
Region	(n = 2334)				(n = 2328)			
Panhandle	13	19	69		20	26	53	
North Central	13	13	74		14	24	62	
South Central	11	17	72		16	27	57	
Northeast	11	14	75	$\chi^2 = 10.66$	14	28	58	$\chi^2 = 17.18$
Southeast	12	19	69	(.222)	16	33	51	(.028)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 2094)				(n = 2092)			
Under $20,000	12	16	72		14	29	57	
$20,000 - $39,999	12	19	69		15	31	55	
$40,000 - $59,999	13	16	71	$\chi^2 = 8.43$	19	27	54	$\chi^2 = 11.16$
$60,000 and over	10	14	76	(.208)	15	25	60	(.084)
Age	(n = 2296)				(n = 2291)			
19 - 29	10	27	64		16	38	47	
30 - 39	15	16	69		25	28	47	
40 - 49	10	16	74		16	26	58	
50 - 64	12	14	75	$\chi^2 = 20.27$	14	25	61	$\chi^2 = 31.50$
65 and older	13	17	71	(.009)	14	29	57	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2268)				(n = 2263)			
Male	12	16	73	$\chi^2 = 2.67$	16	27	58	$\chi^2 = 4.56$
Female	11	18	71	(.264)	16	31	53	(.102)
Education	(n = 2264)				(n = 2260)			
High school diploma or less	12	15	72		14	29	58	
Some college	11	18	71	$\chi^2 = 5.34$	16	28	55	$\chi^2 = 6.02$
Bachelors or grad degree	13	15	73	(.254)	18	26	57	(.198)
Marital Status	(n = 2280)				(n = 2275)			
Married	11	15	74		15	27	58	
Never married	9	21	70		18	29	53	
Divorced/separated	14	20	65	$\chi^2 = 10.33$	19	33	49	$\chi^2 = 8.84$
Widowed	12	16	72	(.111)	13	29	58	(.183)
Occupation	(n = 1587)				(n = 1584)			
Sales	12	15	74		12	26	63	
Manual laborer	8	21	71		11	32	57	
Prof./technical/admin	13	18	70		20	29	51	
Service	10	18	72		16	31	53	
Farming/ranching	8	1	91		8	1	91	
Skilled laborer	15	15	69		22	26	53	
Admin. support	11	23	66	$\chi^2 = 55.23$	20	38	43	$\chi^2 = 134.26$
Other	11	23	66	(.000)	9	43	49	(.000)

Unimportant represents the combined responses of "very unimportant" and "unimportant". Similarly, important is the combined responses of "very important" and "important."

How important is agriculture in Nebraska to the following areas?

	Your community's quality of life				Your community's economy			
	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Significance	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Significance
				Percentages				
Community Size	(n = 2245)				(n = 2249)			
Less than 500	7	6	87		6	6	88	
500 - 999	7	6	87		7	5	89	
1,000 - 4,999	9	4	87		10	3	87	
5,000 - 9,999	8	7	85	$\chi^2 = 23.5$	7	4	89	$\chi^2 = 12.96$
10,000 and up	7	10	83	(.003)	6	5	89	(.113)
Region	(n = 2340)				(n = 2343)			
Panhandle	10	7	83		9	4	87	
North Central	8	6	86		8	4	88	
South Central	6	8	87		6	4	91	
Northeast	9	8	83	$\chi^2 = 8.30$	9	6	86	$\chi^2 = 12.04$
Southeast	9	7	84	(.404)	8	6	86	(.150)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 2100)				(n = 2103)			
Under $20,000	8	9	83		9	6	86	
$20,000 - $39,999	8	8	84		8	5	87	
$40,000 - $59,999	8	7	85	$\chi^2 = 12.21$	8	5	87	$\chi^2 = 15.09$
$60,000 and over	6	5	90	(.057)	5	2	93	(.020)
Age	(n = 2302)				(n = 2305)			
19 - 29	7	12	82		5	7	88	
30 - 39	9	6	86		8	4	88	
40 - 49	6	6	88		6	4	90	
50 - 64	7	7	86	$\chi^2 = 14.35$	7	4	88	$\chi^2 = 7.19$
65 and older	10	8	83	(.073)	9	5	86	(.516)
Gender	(n = 2274)				(n = 2277)			
Male	8	8	85	$\chi^2 = 2.39$	7	5	88	$\chi^2 = 0.39$
Female	9	6	85	(.303)	8	5	87	(.822)
Education	(n = 2270)				(n = 2274)			
High school diploma or less	9	8	83		8	5	87	
Some college	8	7	85	$\chi^2 = 4.45$	7	5	88	$\chi^2 = 7.01$
Bachelors or grad degree	7	6	88	(.349)	7	3	91	(.135)
Marital Status	(n = 2286)				(n = 2289)			
Married	7	8	85		7	5	89	
Never married	5	8	87		5	4	91	
Divorced/separated	9	7	84	$\chi^2 = 8.80$	10	4	86	$\chi^2 = 8.89$
Widowed	11	5	84	(.185)	11	4	85	(.180)
Occupation	(n = 1584)				(n = 1586)			
Sales	8	6	86		7	4	89	
Manual laborer	4	10	86		4	7	90	
Prof./technical/admin	7	5	88		7	3	90	
Service	6	7	87		6	4	90	
Farming/ranching	9	4	88		10	3	87	
Skilled laborer	10	10	81		9	4	88	
Admin. support	5	5	89	$\chi^2 = 19.34$	7	5	88	$\chi^2 = 14.39$
Other	9	9	82	(.152)	9	9	83	(.421)

Unimportant represents the combined responses of "very unimportant" and "unimportant". Similarly, important is the combined responses of "very important" and "important."

		How important is agriculture in Nebraska to the following areas?						
		Nebraska's quality of life				Nebraska's economy		
	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Significance	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Significance
			Percentages					
Community Size		(n = 2256)				(n = 2261)		
Less than 500	8	3	89		7	4	90	
500 - 999	7	5	88		7	4	89	
1,000 - 4,999	9	3	88		9	2	89	
5,000 - 9,999	7	5	89	$\chi^2 = 7.68$	6	4	90	$\chi^2 = 9.09$
10,000 and up	6	4	90	(.465)	6	3	91	(.335)
Region		(n = 2352)				(n = 2358)		
Panhandle	7	6	87		7	4	89	
North Central	9	3	88		8	3	90	
South Central	7	3	91		7	2	92	
Northeast	8	5	87	$\chi^2 = 12.12$	8	4	88	$\chi^2 = 10.93$
Southeast	9	4	88	(.146)	8	3	89	(.206)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2113)				(n = 2116)		
Under $20,000	8	6	86		8	4	88	
$20,000 - $39,999	8	4	89		8	3	89	
$40,000 - $59,999	8	5	88	$\chi^2 = 13.87$	7	3	89	$\chi^2 = 10.56$
$60,000 and over	6	2	93	(.031)	5	2	94	(.103)
Age		(n = 2314)				(n = 2320)		
19 - 29	5	5	90		4	4	91	
30 - 39	6	2	92		6	2	92	
40 - 49	5	4	91		5	4	91	
50 - 64	8	4	88	$\chi^2 = 12.84$	7	3	90	$\chi^2 = 10.83$
65 and older	10	4	86	(.117)	9	3	88	(.211)
Gender		(n = 2286)				(n = 2292)		
Male	8	4	88	$\chi^2 = 1.38$	7	3	90	$\chi^2 = 1.76$
Female	8	3	89	(.501)	7	4	89	(.414)
Education		(n = 2283)				(n = 2288)		
High school diploma or less	8	5	87		8	4	88	
Some college	7	3	89	$\chi^2 = 7.53$	7	3	90	$\chi^2 = 7.77$
Bachelors or grad degree	7	3	90	(.110)	6	2	92	(.100)
Marital Status		(n = 2298)				(n = 2304)		
Married	7	4	89		7	3	90	
Never married	6	4	90		6	3	91	
Divorced/separated	8	4	88	$\chi^2 = 5.97$	7	3	89	$\chi^2 = 6.91$
Widowed	11	3	86	(.426)	11	3	86	(.329)
Occupation		(n = 1588)				(n = 1589)		
Sales	8	5	88		7	3	90	
Manual laborer	4	4	92		3	4	94	
Prof./technical/admin	6	3	91		6	3	91	
Service	6	3	91		6	3	91	
Farming/ranching	9	1	90		9	1	90	
Skilled laborer	9	5	86		9	3	89	
Admin. support	5	5	89	$\chi^2 = 11.88$	5	5	89	$\chi^2 = 12.57$
Other	9	6	86	(.616)	9	3	89	(.560)

Unimportant represents the combined responses of "very unimportant" and "unimportant". Similarly, important is the combined responses of "very important" and "important."

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