

**The 2007 Farm Bill:  
U.S. Producer Preferences for  
Agricultural, Food, and Public Policy**

**Southern Region Outlook Conference  
September, 2006**

**Presenter:  
James Novak**

**Authors: Bradley D. Lubben, Nelson Bills, James B. Johnson,  
James Novak, State Collaborators and NASS/USDA\***

**\*South: Rod Clouser, Mark Cochrane, Michele Marra/Nick  
Piggott, Joe Outlaw, Nathan Smith,**



## BUT FIRST A STRESS TEST

**IF YOU SEE 2 JUMPING DOLPHINS  
YOU'RE OK.**

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING ELSE...YOU  
NEED A REST.**





---

# **The 2007 Farm Bill: What are the Issues??**

---



- ◆ Keith Collins, Chief Economist USDA last week – Key Issues for Technical and Economic Analysis, 2006 NPPEC.
  - ◆ Budget
  - ◆ WTO Consistency
  - ◆ Dairy and Sugar
  - ◆ Marketing Loan
  - ◆ Payments Limits
  - ◆ Specialty Crops
  - ◆ Energy
  - ◆ Conservation



---

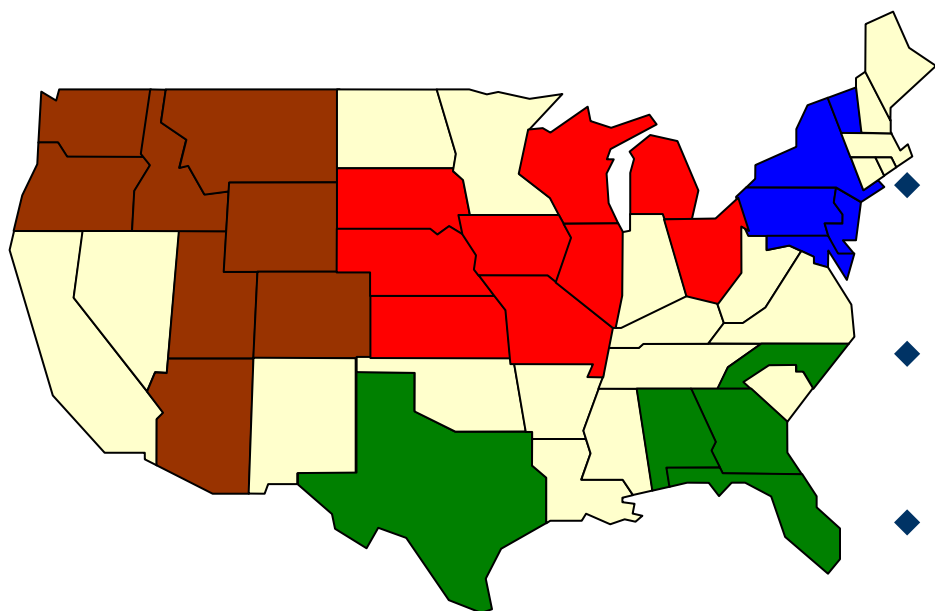
# The 2007 Farm Bill Survey: What's Shaping Producer Opinions?

---



- ◆ Economic Setting
- ◆ Budget Setting
- ◆ Trade Setting
- ◆ Political Setting

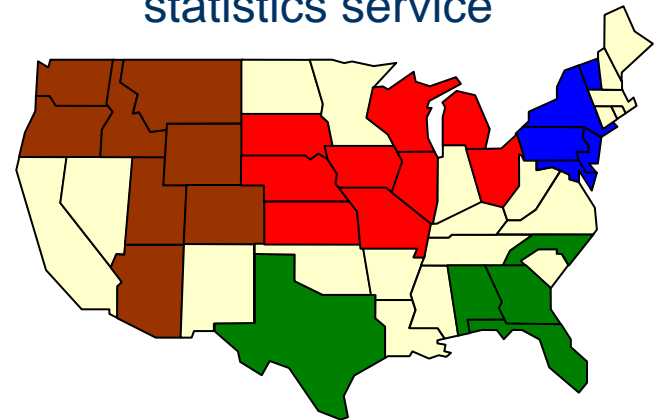
# Participating States



- ◆ North Central (9)
  - IA, IL, KS, MI, MO, NE, OH, SD, WI
- ◆ Northeast (5)
  - MD, NJ, NY, PA, VT
- ◆ South (5)\*\*
  - AL, FL, GA, NC, TX
- ◆ West (8)
  - AZ, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY

# Survey Protocol

- ◆ Questionnaire design
  - National questions
  - Optional multi-state questions
  - State-specific questions
- ◆ Mail-out survey process
  - NASS mailing list
  - Stratification by sales
    - < \$100K
    - \$100K to <\$250K
    - \$250K +
  - Window
    - Oct 2005 – Apr 2006
- ◆ Funding and support
  - Task force
    - Farm Foundation
  - Participating states
    - State land grant university
    - State agricultural statistics service



# Producer Response by Size

State/Region	Small (<\$100K)	Medium (\$100K - <\$250K)	Large (\$250K +)	Total	Sample Size	Usable Response Rate
Alabama	218	21	23	262	1,498	17
Florida	181	29	34	244	1,910	13
Georgia	184	19	44	247	1,477	17
North Carolina	434	118	97	649	3,000	22
Texas	554	217	182	953	4,000	24
South	1,571	404	380	2,355	11,885	20
North Central	3,177	1,625	1,211	6,013	26,114	23
Northeast	1,723	545	509	2,777	9,025	31
West	5,017	2,506	956	995	16,911	26
Nationwide	8,977	3,530	3,095	15,602	63,935	24

Note: Size strata defined for survey purposes only.



# The 2007 Farm Bill Survey: What's Shaping Producer Opinions?

- ◆ Sample Size Tabulated for National Report.
  - **Approximately 64,000 useable responses nationwide.**
  - **11,885 in the south.**



# Respondent Characteristics

- **88% Male**
- **98% White – 1% Black – 1% Other**
- **5.98% Organic (6.1% South, 15% FI)**
- **2% Hispanic Origin**
- **Commodity Program Participation**
  - **51% Nationwide,**
  - **35% South,**
  - **71% N. Central.**

# Survey Respondent Enterprises

Enterprises	Nationwide	Southern
1. Cattle	29.3%	38.6%
2. Grain	19.1%	9.6%
3. Oilseed	10.1%	2%
4. Forages	6.3%	5.8%
5. Dairy	5.5%	1.2%
....Cotton	2.5%	7.9%
....Peanuts	.6%	1.9%
....Other	8.7%	9.4%

# Survey Respondent – Farm Proportion Owned

<b>% Ownership</b>	<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>Southern</b>
None	7%	6%
1-25%	12%	12%
26-50%	11%	10%
51-75%	10%	8%
76-100%	61.6%	63%

# Respondent Characteristics

Table A-23. Age of Respondent (Question 30)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Under 25	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and Over
Alabama	0	2	9	19	30	39
Florida	0	1	11	33	23	32
Georgia	0	1	6	26	34	34
North Carolina	0	3	9	28	31	30
Texas	0	1	8	22	29	40
<b>South</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>
North Central	0	3	13	29	27	28
Northeast	0	4	12	27	30	27
West	0	3	9	27	30	32
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the age categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# Respondent Characteristics

Table A-23. Age of Respondent (Question 30)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Under 25	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and Over
South	0	1	8	24	29	37
North Central	0	3	13	29	27	28
Northeast	0	4	12	27	30	27
West	0	3	9	27	30	32
Nationwide	0	2	11	27	28	31

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the age categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# Respondent Characteristics

Table A-28. Share of Farm or Ranch Cash Receipts by Commodity Group (Question 35)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Program Crops					
	Grains	Oilseeds	Cotton	Pulses**	Peanuts	Sugar
Alabama	7.4	6.2	15.4	0.3	4.9	0.0
Florida	3.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.3	0.4
Georgia	6.9	3.0	8.1	0.3	5.3	0.2
North Carolina	6.8	6.8	2.2	0.2	0.7	0.0
Texas	12.3	0.3	9.1	0.0	1.0	0.2
<b>South</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>
North Central	27.7	19.9	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
Northeast	10.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
West	17.7	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.4
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts by each of the commodity groups. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

\*\* Pulses are included in the broad category of "Program Crops" though not all pulse crops are eligible for commodity loan programs.

# Respondent Characteristics

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Non-Program Crops					
	Fruits	Vegetables	Nursery Crops	Forages	Tobacco	Other
Alabama	5.1	1.8	0.9	7.4	0.0	12.9
Florida	23.3	4.3	19.3	4.1	0.4	5.9
Georgia	6.9	12.1	2.4	9.5	1.1	10.1
North Carolina	1.1	3.5	10.4	3.1	10.5	4.7
Texas	2.1	0.6	1.5	5.7	0.0	1.5
<b>South</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>
North Central	1.9	1.0	2.0	4.5	0.2	3.4
Northeast	4.6	5.2	8.8	9.6	0.2	5.9
West	6.7	3.1	6.1	10.6	0.0	6.2
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts by each of the commodity groups. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# Respondent Characteristics

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*						
	Livestock						
	Dairy	Sheep and Goats	Aquaculture	Cattle	Hogs	Poultry	Other Livestock
Alabama	0.3	2.7	1.1	26.2	1.1	3.3	3.3
Florida	0.7	0.8	5.6	21.6	0.5	2.4	5.3
Georgia	0.2	3.5	0.8	18.8	0.3	2.1	8.4
North Carolina	1.4	2.2	0.5	23.7	4.8	14.4	2.9
Texas	1.7	4.8	1.0	51.5	0.5	1.7	4.5
<b>South</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>
North Central	6.8	1.4	0.3	24.5	2.4	0.9	2.5
Northeast	18.3	3.7	0.8	16.3	2.0	3.1	7.2
West	2.1	3.4	0.5	32.9	0.5	1.3	7.2
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of farm or ranch cash receipts by each of the commodity groups. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# Respondent Characteristics

Table A-33. Farm or Ranch Tenure (Question 40)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*				
	None	1 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%
Alabama	4	10	10	4	72
Florida	10	7	6	3	75
Georgia	3	6	9	7	75
North Carolina	7	13	10	9	61
Texas	7	14	11	10	58
<b>South</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>
North Central	6	14	13	11	56
Northeast	6	7	7	9	72
West	7	8	8	9	68
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>61</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm tenure categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

\*\* Tenure = Percent of land farmed owned by operator.

# Respondent Characteristics

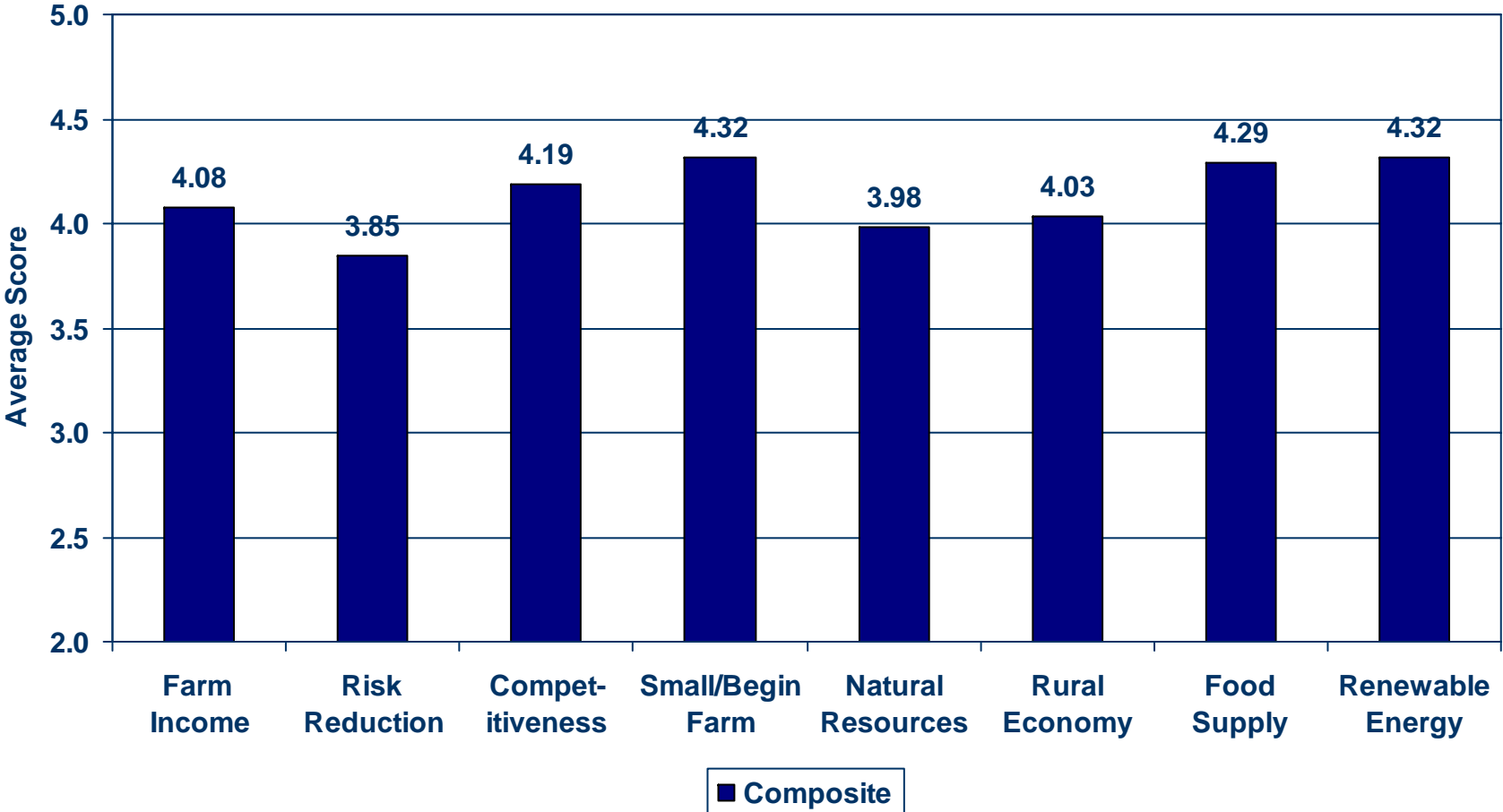
Table A-34. Expected Farm or Ranch Transition (Question 41)

State/Region	Percent Composite Responses by State/Region*					
	Operated by Spouse	Operated by Children	Operated by Other Relatives	Operated by Non-Relatives in Current Operation	Operated by Individuals Outside Current Operation	Converted to Non-Farm Use
Alabama	8	51	4	2	11	23
Florida	6	32	5	3	9	45
Georgia	10	38	6	1	11	33
North Carolina	8	40	7	4	13	27
Texas	9	47	7	4	20	14
<b>South</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>
North Central	5	43	8	4	27	12
Northeast	4	41	5	3	18	29
West	6	38	6	3	24	23
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the farm or ranch transition categories. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# Why do we need a Farm Bill?

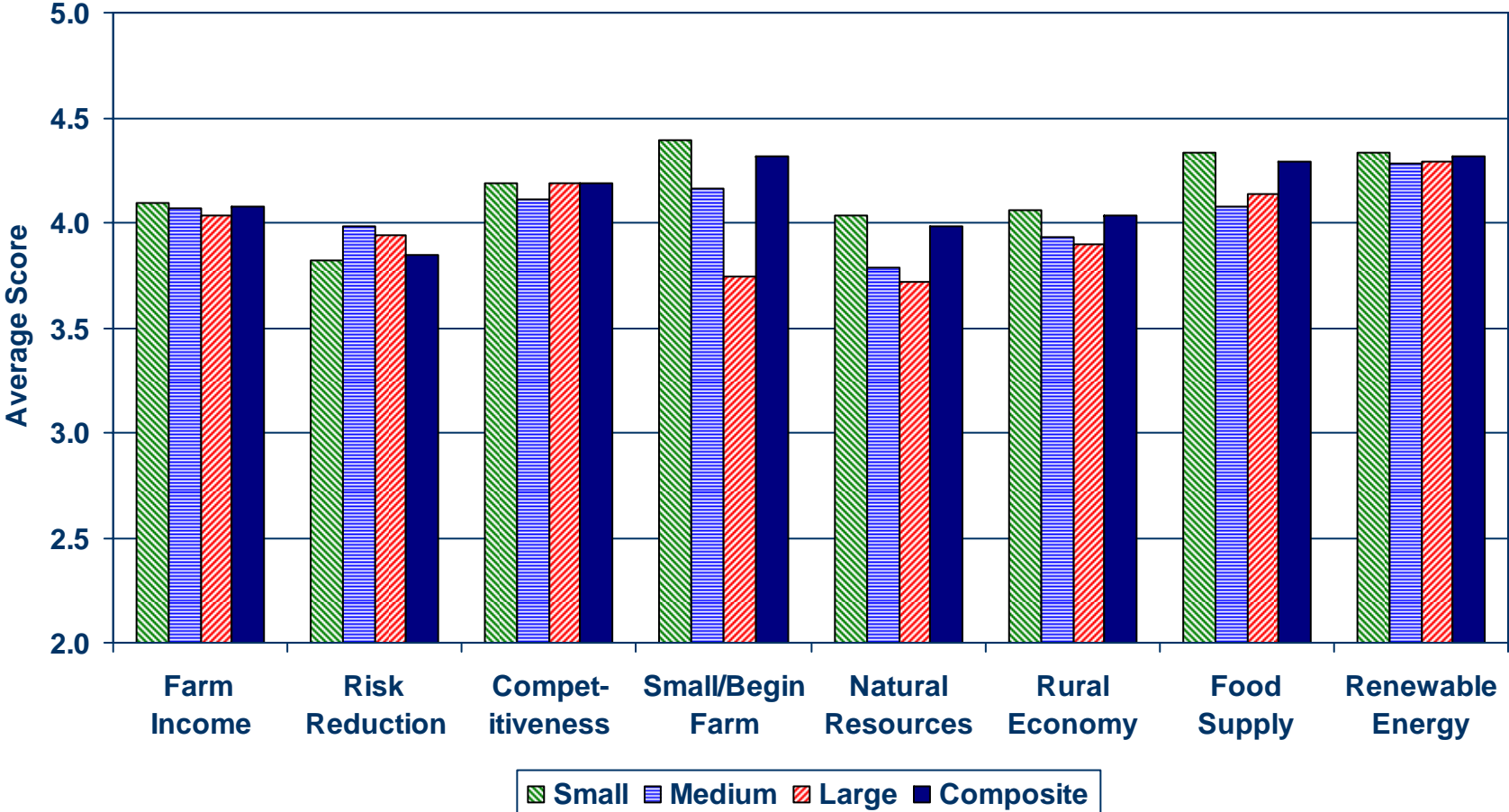
## Q1: Goals for the Farm Bill Nationwide



Note: Average scores by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

# Why do we need a Farm Bill?

## Q1: Goals for the Farm Bill – Nationwide by Size



Note: Average scores by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

## Why do we need a Farm Bill?

### Q1: Goals for the Farm Bill – Nationwide by Size, Another View

Goal	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Rank
Farm Income	4.09	4.07	4.03	4.08 <sup>d</sup>	5
Risk Reduction	3.82	3.98	3.94	3.85 <sup>g</sup>	8
Competitiveness	4.19	4.11	4.19	4.19 <sup>c</sup>	4
Small/Beginning Farms	4.39	4.16	3.74	4.32 <sup>a</sup>	2
Natural Resources	4.03	3.79	3.72	3.98 <sup>f</sup>	7
Rural Economies	4.06	3.93	3.90	4.03 <sup>e</sup>	6
Food Supply	4.33	4.08	4.14	4.29 <sup>b</sup>	3
Renewable Energy	4.33	4.28	4.29	4.32 <sup>a</sup>	1

Note: Average scores by size. Composite scores with different superscripts are statistically significant (P<0.05). Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

# Why do we need a Farm Bill?

## Q1: Goals for the Farm Bill – By Region

Table A-1. The Goals for the New Farm Bill Should Be? (Question 1)  
State/Region Average Composite Scores by State/Region\*

	Enhance Farm Income	Reduce Risk	Increase Competitiveness	Enhance Small/Beginning Farm Opportunities	Protect Natural Resources	Enhance Rural Economies	Assure Food Supply	Reduce Dependence on Non-Renewable Energy
Alabama	4.26	4.00	4.42	4.33	4.29	4.17	4.58	4.42
Florida	3.83	3.51	4.12	4.37	3.97	3.75	4.45	4.19
Georgia	3.98	3.82	4.19	4.37	4.16	4.11	4.54	4.45
North Carolina	4.31	3.89	4.23	4.36	4.05	3.99	4.44	4.40
Texas	4.23	4.01	4.32	4.32	4.03	4.12	4.50	4.37
<b>South**</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>4.28</b>	<b>4.34</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>4.37</b>
<b>South Rank</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
North Central	4.04	3.87	4.17	4.32	3.96	4.03	4.16	4.35
Northeast	4.15	3.71	4.01	4.34	4.07	3.95	4.23	4.27
West	3.98	3.68	4.16	4.27	3.81	4.00	4.30	4.16
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>3.85</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>3.98</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>4.29</b>	<b>4.32</b>
<b>National Rank</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

\*\* Arkansas to be added.

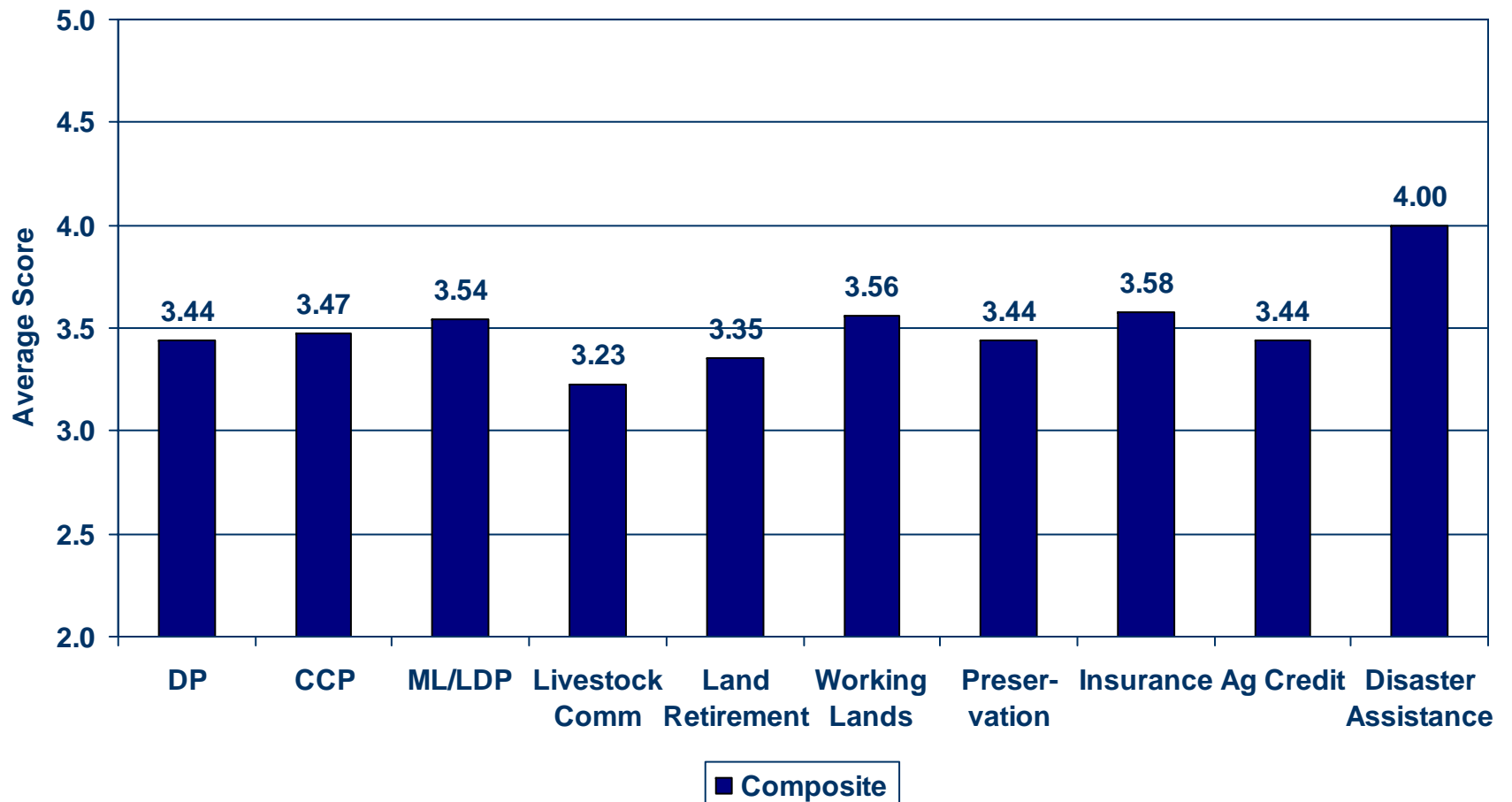
## Q1: Goals for the Farm Bill – By Region

### Ponder Points: Regional Differences Exist

- NC region with most corn and soybeans rated “*reduce non-renewable fuel*” sources highest.
- Northeast with most small farmers rated “*small farmer opportunities*” highest.
- South and West rated “*assurance of a safe, secure, abundant and affordable food supply*” #1.

What will we fight to keep?

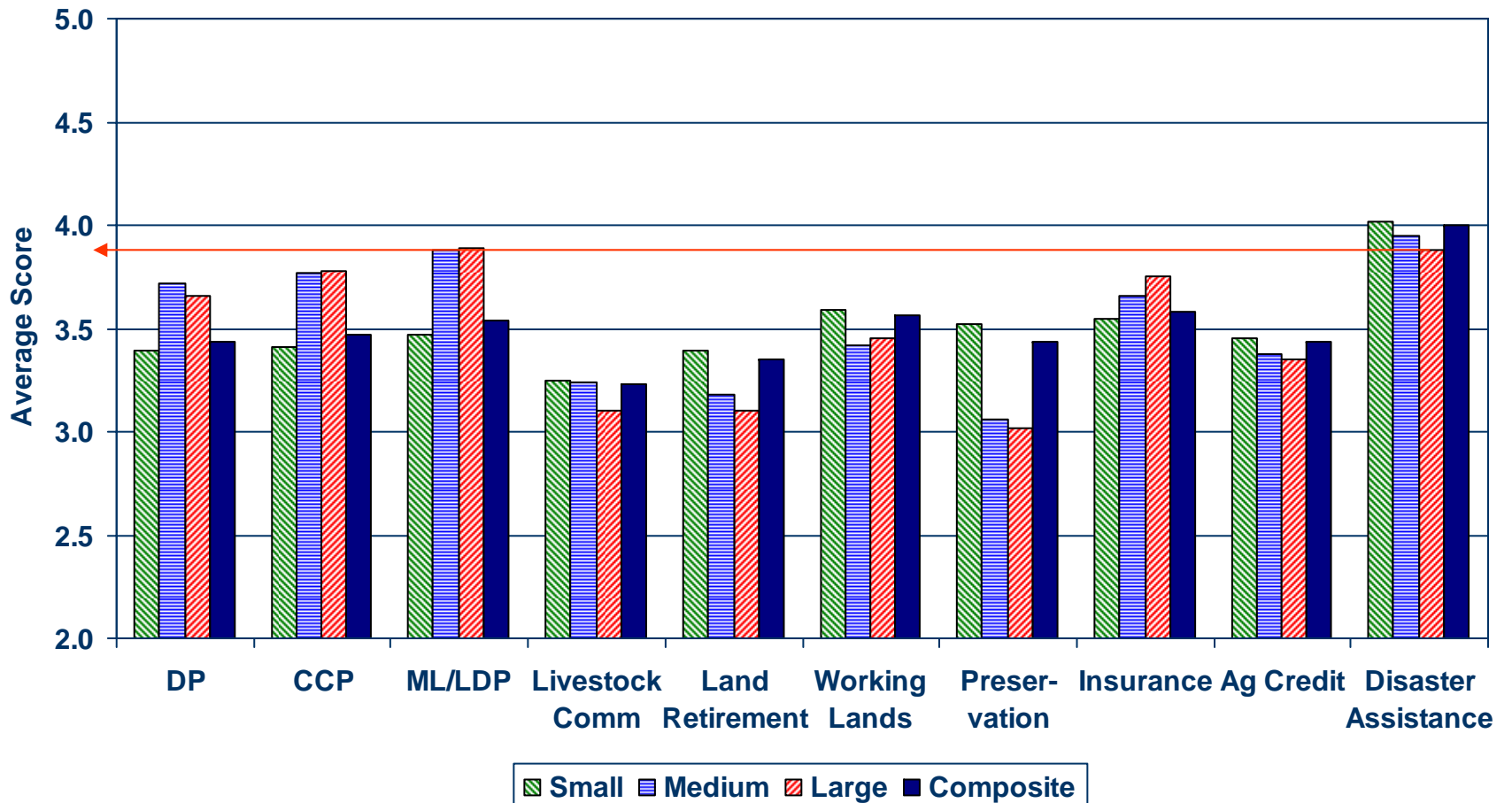
## Q2: Maintain Existing Program Funding - Nationwide



Note: Average scores by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

What will we fight to keep?

# Q2: How Important is it to Maintain Existing Funding?



Note: Average scores by size.

## What will we fight to keep?

### Q2: Maintain Existing Program Funding Nationwide by Size

Program	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Rank
Direct Payments	3.39	3.72	3.66	3.44 <sup>e</sup>	6
CC Payments	3.41	3.77	3.78	3.47 <sup>d</sup>	5
Loans/LDPs	3.47	3.88	3.89	3.54 <sup>c</sup>	4
Livestock Commodities	3.25	3.24	3.10	3.23 <sup>g</sup>	10
Land Retirement Programs	3.39	3.18	3.10	3.35 <sup>f</sup>	9
Working Lands Programs	3.59	3.42	3.45	3.56 <sup>bc</sup>	3
Preservation Programs	3.52	3.06	3.02	3.44 <sup>e</sup>	7
Insurance Programs	3.55	3.66	3.75	3.58 <sup>b</sup>	2
Credit Programs	3.45	3.38	3.35	3.44 <sup>e</sup>	8
Disaster Assistance	4.02	3.95	3.88	4.00 <sup>a</sup>	1

Note: Average scores by size. Composite scores with different superscripts are statistically significant (P<0.05). Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

# What will we fight to keep?

## Q2: Maintain Existing Program Funding Nationwide and by Region

Table A-2. Maintenance of Funding for Existing Programs (Question 2)  
Average Composite Scores by State/Region\*

State/Region	Direct Payments	Counter-Cyclical Payments	Commodity Loans and LDPs	Livestock Commodity Supports	Land Retirement Programs	Working Land Programs	Land Preservation Programs	Insurance Programs	Agricultural Credit Programs	Disaster Assistance Programs
Alabama	3.63	3.62	3.59	3.60	3.56	3.77	3.76	3.66	3.60	4.22
Florida	2.79	2.66	2.81	2.73	3.22	3.48	3.75	3.66	3.57	4.17
Georgia	3.43	3.42	3.43	3.24	3.74	3.89	3.91	3.70	3.46	4.05
North Carolina	3.32	3.33	3.39	3.36	3.33	3.68	3.72	3.63	3.52	4.06
Texas	3.59	3.58	3.62	3.28	3.38	3.67	3.54	3.83	3.58	4.32
<b>South</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>3.48</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>3.69</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>3.76</b>	<b>3.56</b>	<b>4.23</b>
South Rank	7	8	6	10	9	3	4	2	5	1
North Central	3.60	3.65	3.76	3.27	3.40	3.50	3.31	3.54	3.36	3.91
Northeast	3.06	3.15	3.21	3.43	3.17	3.59	3.49	3.33	3.39	3.86
West	3.12	3.15	3.17	2.92	3.14	3.47	3.35	3.47	3.43	3.91
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>3.54</b>	<b>3.23</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>3.56</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>3.58</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>4.00</b>
Nationwide Rank	6	5	4	10	9	3	7	2	8	1

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

## Q2: Maintain Existing Program Funding

### Ponder Points: No Disagreement on #1

- **Disaster Assistance Funding Should be Maintained.**
- **Second Priority Varies By Region.**
  - **Farm Land Preservation in States With Most Development Pressure.**
  - **Working Lands in Alabama and Northeast.**
  - **Insurance Programs in Texas and West.**
  - **LDP/Loan Program in North Central.**

## Z2: Risk Management Program Alternatives – Insurance Ranked #2...What Should be Considered if Funding Increased?

Program	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Rank
Coverage/Subsidies for Crop Insurance	3.28	3.63	3.70	3.35 <sup>c</sup>	3
Coverage/Subsidies for Livestock Insurance	3.16	3.09	3.13	3.15 <sup>e</sup>	5
Coverage/Subsidies for Farm Income Insurance	3.24	3.17	3.27	3.24 <sup>d</sup>	4
Tax-Deferred Savings Accounts	4.05	3.90	3.83	4.02 <sup>a</sup>	1
Incentive Payments for Risk Management Tools	3.47	3.32	3.38	3.44 <sup>b</sup>	2

Note: Average scores by size in 13 states asking the question. Composite scores with different superscripts are statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

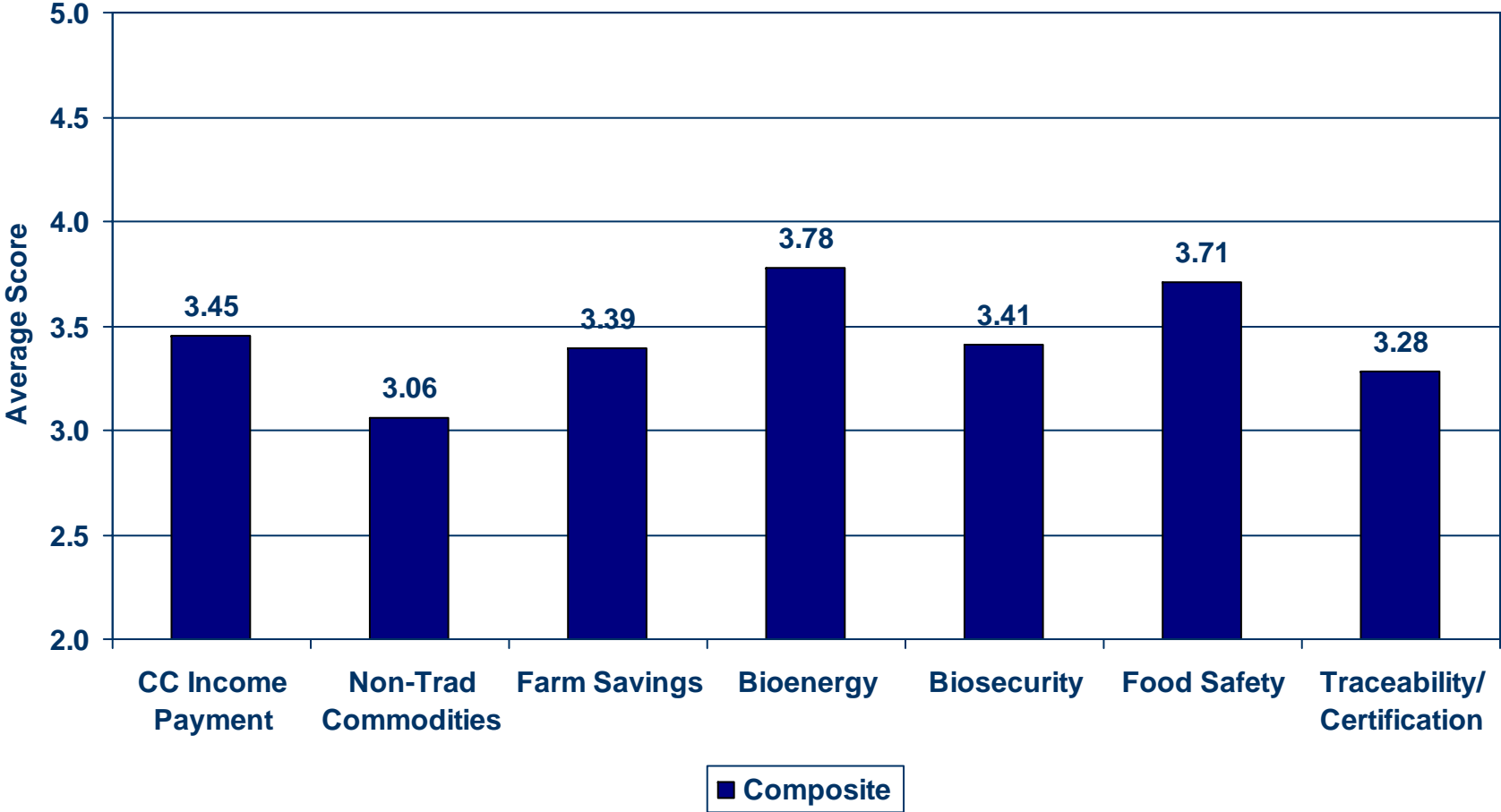
## Z2: Risk Management Program Alternatives – Insurance Ranked #2...What Should be Considered if Funding Increased?

Program	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Rank
Coverage/Subsidies for Crop Insurance	3.28	3.63	3.70	3.35 <sup>c</sup>	3
Coverage/Subsidies for Livestock Insurance	3.16	3.09	3.13	3.15 <sup>e</sup>	5
Coverage/Subsidies for Farm Income Insurance	3.24	3.17	3.27	3.24 <sup>d</sup>	4
Tax-Deferred Savings Accounts	4.05	3.90	3.83	4.02 <sup>a</sup>	1
Incentive Payments for Risk Management Tools	3.47	3.32	3.38	3.44 <sup>b</sup>	2

## Z2: Risk Management Program Alternatives – Insurance Ranked #2...What Should be Considered if Funding Increased?

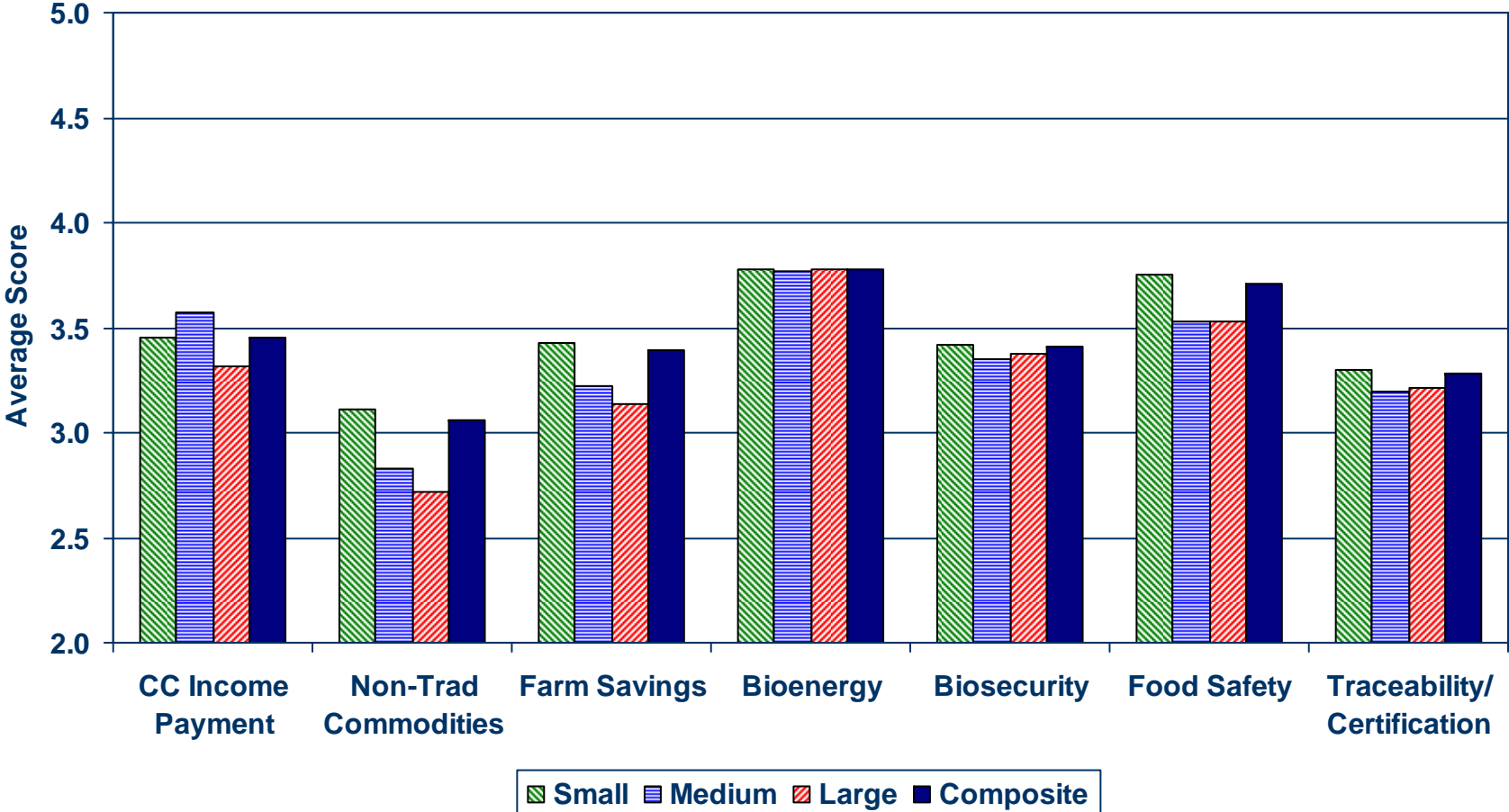
State	Increase Coverage Levels and Premium Subsidies for Crops and Rev. Ins.	Increase Coverage Levels and Premium Subsidies for Livestock Rev. Ins.	Increase Coverage, Protection Level and Premium Subsidies for AGR and AGR-Lite	Tax-Def. Savings Accts Allow to Withdraw in Low-Income Years or Retirement	Incentives for use of Risk Mgmt Tools Incl. Hedging, Insurance, Savings, Education
Alabama	3.41	3.30	3.46	4.11	3.62
North Carolina	3.23	3.26	3.33	4.12	3.71
Texas	3.41	3.36	3.42	4.23	3.58

# Q3: New Program Funding Priorities



Note: Average scores by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

# Q3: New Program Funding Priorities



Note: Average scores by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

## What will we fight to add?

### Q3: New Program Funding Priorities

Program	Small	Medium	Large	Composite	Rank
CC Income Payment	3.45	3.57	3.32	3.45 <sup>c</sup>	3
Supports for Non-Program Commodities	3.11	2.83	2.72	3.06 <sup>f</sup>	7
Farm Savings Accounts	3.43	3.22	3.14	3.39 <sup>d</sup>	5
Bioenergy Incentives	3.78	3.77	3.78	3.78 <sup>a</sup>	1
Biosecurity Incentives	3.42	3.35	3.38	3.41 <sup>d</sup>	4
Food Safety Programs	3.75	3.53	3.53	3.71 <sup>b</sup>	2
Traceability and Certification	3.30	3.20	3.21	3.28 <sup>e</sup>	6

Note: Average scores by size. Composite scores with different superscripts are statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

## Q3: New Program Funding Priorities

Table A-3. Provision of New or Reallocated Funding for Select Programs (Question 3)  
Average Composite Scores by State/Region\*

State/Region	Supports Tied to Farm Income	Supports for Non-Program Commodities	Incentives for Farm Savings Accounts	Bioenergy Production Incentives	Biosecurity Incentives	Food Safety Programs	Traceability and Certification
Alabama	3.49	3.36	3.61	3.99	3.64	4.12	3.74
Florida	3.09	3.17	3.63	3.78	3.52	3.87	3.46
Georgia	3.26	3.37	3.53	3.96	3.63	3.95	3.51
North Carolina	3.45	3.33	3.67	3.92	3.64	3.86	3.46
Texas	3.56	3.22	3.55	3.69	3.37	3.82	3.22
<b>South</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>3.58</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>3.48</b>	<b>3.88</b>	<b>3.36</b>
<b>South Rank</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
North Central	3.53	2.96	3.27	3.78	3.38	3.61	3.21
Northeast	3.34	3.12	3.42	3.85	3.42	3.71	3.25
West	3.24	2.89	3.34	3.69	3.33	3.67	3.36
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>3.39</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>3.41</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>3.28</b>
<b>Nationwide Rank</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.

## Q4-Q9: Commodity Program & Risk Mgt.

Table A-4. Commodity Program Implementation (Questions 4-9)  
Average Composite Scores by State/Region\*

State/Region	Phase Out Commodity Payments	Reduce Commodity Payments Don't Eliminate	Target Payments to Small Farmers	Reduce Program Payment Limits	Eliminate the Three Entity Rule	Eliminate Unlimited Commodity Loan Gains
Alabama	2.31	2.25	3.51	2.83	3.52	3.18
Florida	3.14	2.78	3.83	3.24	3.75	3.50
Georgia	2.56	2.59	3.65	2.91	3.56	3.37
North Carolina	2.45	2.51	3.63	2.90	3.30	3.24
Texas	2.23	2.35	3.58	2.76	3.47	3.24
<b>South</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.27</b>
South Rank	6	5	1	4	2	3
North Central	2.21	2.45	3.87	3.18	3.83	3.51
Northeast	2.71	2.72	3.86	3.17	3.70	3.49
West	2.59	2.53	3.79	3.07	3.63	3.38
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>3.78</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>3.69</b>	<b>3.42</b>
Nationwide Rank	6	5	1	4	2	3

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

## Q10: Buy Out Commodity Programs? Slight Majority Says No.

Table A-5. Commodity Program Buy-Out (Question 10)  
Percent Composite Responses by State/Region\*  
Offer Products a Buy-Out?

State/Region	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Opinion
Alabama	24	43	33
Florida	25	35	40
Georgia	29	36	33
North Carolina	23	44	33
Texas	24	38	37
<b>South</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>
North Central	21	47	32
Northeast	24	31	45
West	23	41	35
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents answering "Yes", "No" or "No Opinion/Don't Know" for each separate part of the question. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Q11: Dairy Support Programs? Majority Says Retain All.

Table A-6. Dairy Programs (Question 11)  
Percent Composite Responses by State/Region\*

State/Region	Eliminate All Dairy Programs	Eliminate MILC Program	Eliminate Price Support Program	Retain All Dairy Programs
Alabama	25	12	10	53
Florida	43	16	8	34
Georgia	24	16	15	46
North Carolina	22	12	9	57
Texas	29	18	11	42
<b>South</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45</b>
North Central	26	16	15	43
Northeast	22	12	13	53
West	34	16	14	36
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>43</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

# What do we want in conservation?

## Q12: Federal Funding to Land Owners for Conservation Programs

Table A-7. Environmental Goals and Conservation Programs (Question 12)  
Percent Composite Responses by State/Region\*

State/Region	No Assist.	Tech. Assist.	Tech./Fin . Assist.	Don't Know
<b>Water Quality</b>				
South	8	20	66	7
Nationwide	7	19	65	9
<b>Soil Erosion</b>				
South	6	23	66	6
Nationwide	7	23	65	7
<b>Air Quality</b>				
South	9	30	49	11
Nationwide	11	30	46	13
<b>Wildlife Habitat</b>				
South	14	28	49	9
Nationwide	17	28	44	10
<b>Open Space Protection</b>				
South	16	28	37	20
Nationwide	19	25	35	21
<b>Animal Waste Management</b>				
South	14	32	40	15
Nationwide	13	31	43	12
<b>Carbon Sequestration</b>				
South	12	25	24	39
Nationwide	13	24	26	39
<b>Biodiversity Maintenance</b>				
South	12	25	30	33
Nationwide	13	24	30	33

## What do we want in conservation?

### Q13: Federal Funding to State Block Grants for Conservation Programs

State Block Grants	Small	Medium	Large	Composite
Strongly Disagree or Disagree	19	18	21	19
Neutral	17	19	18	17
Agree or Strongly Agree	53	53	55	53
No Opinion/Don't Know	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

Over ½ Agree or Strongly Agree That Block Grants be Given to the States for Implement Conservation Efforts. South Agrees With This Result.

# What do we want in conservation?

## Q14: Conservation Reserve Program?

CRP Option	Small	Medium	Large	Composite
Allow Contract to Expire and Compete for Re-Enrollment	34	34	32	34
Allow Highest-Ranking Contracts to Re-Enroll Automatically	28	31	31	29
Restrict Future Enrollments to Env.-Sensitive Land	18	20	20	18
Eliminate the CRP as Current Contracts Expire	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100

Note: Percent response by size.

# What do we want in conservation?

## Q14: Conservation Reserve Program? – South Generally Agrees With National Results

Table A-9. Conservation Reserve Program (Question 14)  
Percent Composite Responses by State/Region\*

State/Region	Re-Bid Expiring Contracts	Re-Enroll High-Ranking Contracts	Restrict CRP to Enviro-Sensitive Lands	Eliminate CRP
Alabama	36	26	17	21
Florida	35	28	10	27
Georgia	41	29	13	16
North Carolina	38	28	16	18
Texas	36	22	19	23
<b>South</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>
North Central	34	32	19	15
Northeast	31	27	21	20
West	30	27	19	24
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the four policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## What do we want in conservation?

### Q15: Conservation Security Program? – South Agrees With National Result.

CSP Option	Small	Medium	Large	Composite
Continue Implementation on Watershed-by-Watershed Basis	55	58	57	55
Increase Funding for Immediate Nationwide Implementation	22	20	21	22
Eliminate the CSP as Current Contracts Expire	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>
	100	100	100	100

Note: Percent response by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

# What do we want in conservation?

## Q15: Conservation Security Program?

Table A-10. Conservation Security Program (Question 15)  
Percent Composite Responses by State/Region\*

State/Region	Implement CSP by Watershed	Implement CSP Nationwide	Eliminate CSP
Alabama	58	22	20
Florida	47	24	28
Georgia	55	26	19
North Carolina	56	23	21
Texas	52	23	27
<b>South</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>
North Central	58	21	20
Northeast	57	23	19
West	51	23	26
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

\* Responses shown are the percent of respondents choosing each of the three policy alternatives. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Q16 – Q20: Trade Policy Issues

Program	Small	Medium	Large	Composite
Pursue Free-Trade Agreements	3.41	3.41	3.55	3.42
Comprehensive Labor, Env., and Food Safety Negotiations	4.11	3.95	3.94	4.08
Eliminate Export Credits/ Step 2 to Comply with WTO	3.22	3.05	3.00	3.19
Emphasize Domestic Policy over Trade Policy	3.31	3.20	3.04	3.28
Withdraw from WTO	2.83	2.80	2.71	2.82

Note: Average scores by size. Preliminary data for discussion only, not for public release.

## Q16 – Q20: Trade Policy Issues

Table A-11. Trade Policy Issues (Questions 16-22)  
Average Composite Scores by State/Region\*

State/Region	Continue to Pursue Free-Trade Agreements	Include Labor, Enviro., and Food Safety Negotiations	Comply with WTO Ruling on Cotton	Pursue Domestic Goals over Trade Goals	Withdraw from WTO	Forsee Market Access Problems if Withdraw from WTO	Eliminate Unilateral Food Trade Sanctions
Alabama	3.24	4.35	2.92	3.21	2.96	3.34	2.97
Florida	2.84	4.33	3.55	3.49	2.96	3.26	3.14
Georgia	3.47	4.36	3.11	3.40	2.86	3.39	2.97
North Carolina	3.17	4.09	3.04	3.43	2.87	3.44	3.14
Texas	3.70	4.10	2.99	3.22	2.89	3.44	3.26
<b>South</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>4.18</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>3.17</b>
North Central	3.54	3.99	3.22	3.22	2.73	3.47	3.30
Northeast	3.39	4.16	3.38	3.33	2.66	3.58	3.13
West	2.94	4.10	3.26	3.39	3.06	3.23	3.12
<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>3.22</b>

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.

  = Strongest Agreement.

# What about food system and regulatory issues?

## Q23-Q29: COOL, Animal ID, BSE, Biotech

Table A-12. Food System and Regulatory Policy Issues (Questions 23-29)

State/Region	Average Composite Scores by State/Region*						
	Mandatory COOL	Voluntary COOL Guidelines	Food Product Traceability	Mandatory Animal Id.	Gov't-Mandated BSE Testing	Voluntary Industry BSE Testing	Biotech Food Labels
Alabama	4.58	3.43	4.33	4.09	3.83	3.43	3.92
Florida	4.54	3.05	4.23	3.93	3.53	3.42	3.90
Georgia	4.60	3.42	4.24	3.93	3.72	3.58	3.74
North Carolina	4.44	3.37	4.17	3.83	3.31	3.44	3.76
Texas	4.26	3.35	3.82	3.25	2.98	3.38	3.58
South	4.38	3.34	4.01	3.56	3.25	3.42	3.69
North Central	4.19	3.31	3.80	3.47	3.15	3.36	3.33
Northeast	4.45	3.33	4.05	3.69	3.34	3.37	3.73
West	4.43	3.21	3.95	3.63	3.30	3.37	3.58
Nationwide	4.31	3.31	3.91	3.54	3.22	3.38	3.51

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree among respondents expressing an opinion.



---

## **Other Issues – 7 States – Generally Higher Scores in the 2 North Central States**

---

**If Fruits and Vegetables are eligible for Commodity Program Payments What Should They Get?  
(1 = Least Important to 5 = Most Important.)**

- **Disaster Assistance (3.76)**
- **Other Options Ranging from DCP and Loan Programs were Fairly Neutral (2.84-3.1)**
- **Crop Insurance Scored 3.31.**
- **Block Grants to State Scored 3.14.**



---

## Other Issues – 6 States

---



**Implement Supply Control Measures?  
(1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree.)**

- **Voluntary Paid Set-Aside (3.22)**
- **Farmer Owned Reserve (3.14)**
- **Mandatory Non-Paid Set-Aside (2.41).**
- **Missouri, NJ and N. Carolina prefer FOR.**



---

## **Other Issues – 10 States**

---



### **Preservation of Open Space and Farmland? (1 = Least Important to 5 = Most Important.)**

- **Support Entrepreneurial Programs to Make Farm and Food Production More Competitive with Non-Farm. (4.03)**
- **Encourage Voluntary C/E Programs. (3.35)**
- **Increase Fed Funding for Programs to Purchase Development Rights & Cons. Easements (2.90).**
- **Emphasize Private Funding for Purchase of C/E's. (2.89).**
- **Provide Federal Support &/or Grants to Local Govt for Transfer of Development Rights. (2.56).**



---

## **Other Issues – 13 States**

---



### **Rural Development Programs Most Preferred? (1 = Least Important to 5 = Most Important.)**

- **Improve Access to Capital (3.59).**
- **Improve Education and Training (3.72).**
- **Increase Rural High Speed Internet Access (3.43).**
- **Increase Funds for Rural Infrastructure & Services (3.31).**
- **Increase Grants for Business Development and Job Creation (3.61).**



---

## **Other Issues – 6 States**

---



### **Formula Vs Competitive Funding for Ag Research and Extension? (Percent Composite Responses by State.)**

- **Keep Current Mix of Formula and Competitive Funding (56%).**
- **Increase Formula Funding (21%).**
- **Shift to Competitive Funding (15%).**
- **Eliminate Funding for Research and Extension (9%).**

## Other Issues – 15 States

Question Z9: If Research Funds Were Available, Which of The Following Are Most Important?

Research Funding Priority	Alabama	Florida	Georgia	N Carolina	Texas	Composite
Biofuels and Renewable Energy	4.53	4.35	4.55	4.46	4.28	4.42
Biotechnology	3.91	3.77	3.76	3.82	3.65	3.68
Production Agriculture	4.03	4.06	4.00	4.04	4.04	3.92
Biosecurity	3.93	3.84	3.84	3.84	3.72	3.68
Food Security	4.29	4.07	4.25	4.18	4.05	3.97
Food Safety	4.39	4.29	4.39	4.27	4.17	4.11
Nutrition and Obesity	3.55	3.52	3.54	3.51	3.38	3.34
Air Quality	3.90	3.94	4.02	3.86	3.80	3.73
Soil Quality	4.10	4.05	4.04	3.95	3.94	3.91
Water Quality	4.31	4.27	4.36	4.22	4.31	4.22
Private Forest Land Management	3.55	3.62	3.59	3.52	3.23	3.21
Community and Economic Development	3.45	3.24	3.38	3.33	3.29	3.31

\* Average scores are based on a scale of 1 = least important, 2 = less important, 3 = neutral, 4 = important, and 5 = most important among respondents expressing an opinion.



---

# Preliminary Conclusions

---



## Survey Results....

- ◆ **Timing, Size, and Region Matters As to What Producers Want.**
- ◆ **Generally...Support for the Status Quo Reaffirmed.**
- ◆ **Big Surprises to Me?**
  - **Support for Trade Agreements but with the inclusion of labor, environmental and food safety issues.**
  - **Support for Mandatory COOL.**
  - **Southern Rating of Food Safety and Security as #1 Issue.**

**Detailed Survey Results Can Be Found At:**  
**[www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org)**



# **So...2007 Farm Bill?**



**November Elections?**

**Budgetary Issues?**

**Start in the Spring?**

**Wait Until Late '07 for the Results?**

# WAR EAGLE!!!

