



# Your Views and Usage of Farming Practices

Dear agricultural producer,

Researchers at South Dakota State University are working with the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council to better understand how agricultural producers in South Dakota are managing their farmland. Your insights will help us understand what farming practices are being used and why and will inform policies that can help South Dakota farmers become more competitive economically. We would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey to help us learn how we might best meet the future needs of agricultural producers and industry in the state.

There are two ways in which you can complete our survey. The most convenient way is for you to enter the following website address online: <https://sdfarmersurvey.questionpro.com/>. If you choose to complete the survey online you will need to enter the following code: \_\_\_\_\_. This will indicate that you completed the survey and we will stop sending reminders.

We have also included this paper version with a postage-paid return envelope if you prefer to respond by mail.

We ask that this survey be completed by the person in your operation who makes most of the land management decisions. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. Your answers will be kept confidential and will be released only as summaries where individual answers cannot be identified. Unless otherwise instructed, please check the selection that best describes your situation or opinion. It should take you about 20 minutes to complete the survey.

For more information about this project, please contact Jessica Schad at [jessica.schad@sdstate.edu](mailto:jessica.schad@sdstate.edu) or at (605) 688-4132 or Jim Ristau at [jimr@sdcorn.org](mailto:jimr@sdcorn.org) or at (605) 730-3474. *Thank you in advance for your help!*

*Many Thanks,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Schad', written over a horizontal line.

Jessica Schad, Assist. Prof. of Sociology  
South Dakota State University

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Ristau', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Ristau, Director of Sustainability,  
South Dakota Corn Utilization Council

## SECTION I: Your Farming Decisions

1. Please rate the importance of the following information sources that may affect your decision making.

|   | Not important            | Slightly important       | Somewhat important       | Very important           | Do not use               |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| SDSU Extension (IGrow, workshops, etc.)             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Government organizations (e.g., NRCS)               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commodity groups/farmer associations                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Private consultants or companies (e.g., agronomist) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family, friends, or neighbors                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (specify):<br><input type="text"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. In this section, we would like to know how you make decisions on farming activities that could influence your success as a business. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

|  | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I am constantly trying to find ways to increase my income or profit (e.g., creating new ideas, finding new innovations, trying various technologies and management practices). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I always have a written business plan for my farm operation.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am always taking steps to protect the land I farm from increased weather variability (e.g., diversify crops, build soil quality, adding drainage or irrigation systems).     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I pay close attention to various funding sources (e.g., government subsidies or private loans) that may impact my operation.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am often looking for ways to diversify my farm operation.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I always look for opportunities to create or build social networks that can help my business.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My social networks help increase my awareness of funding opportunities such as government subsidies or programs.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I use my social networks to learn new innovative ideas that help develop my business.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am always willing to seek training opportunities to grow, improve and/or expand my farm business.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I constantly update my knowledge and skills to ensure my business remains environmentally sustainable.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I regularly attend SDSU Extension training workshops.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## SECTION II: Farm Management Practices

1. In 2017, what type of tillage practices did you predominantly use on the land you farm?

- No-tillage  
 Reduced tillage, strip-till, or mulch-till  
 Conventional tillage

2. What are your typical crop rotations?

- Continuous (any crop)  
 2 year rotation  
 3 year rotation  
 4 year or greater rotation

3. In 2017, what best describes when you applied nutrients to the land you farm?

- Fall only  
 Spring only  
 Fall and Spring  
 Spring and Summer

4. In 2017, on the land you operate, did you use Enhanced Efficiency Nitrogen Fertilizer products that stabilize or provide controlled release of the Nitrogen fertilizer? (e.g., N-Serve, Poly Coated Ureas, Super U, Agrotain, etc.)

- Yes  
 No

5. How knowledgeable are you about the following practices?

| PRACTICES   | LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE       |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Unfamiliar with          | A little                 | Moderately               | Very                     |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## SECTION II: Farm Management Practices, continued

6. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

|  | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           | Not applicable           |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I manage the land I own differently from the land I rent.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In general, I follow the manufacturer's recommended guidelines for fertilizer application. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| In general, I follow the manufacturer's recommend guidelines for pesticide application.    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am willing to change my management practices to reduce my fertilizer and pesticide use.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I understand how the chemicals I apply work.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conducting regular soil tests helps me apply nutrients more efficiently.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Timing nutrient applications with plant uptake needs reduces my fertilizer losses.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Using precision agriculture to vary nutrient application helps me save money.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## SECTION II: Farm Management Practices, continued

7. How many years have you been using the following practices? Please check the relevant box if you haven't adopted certain practices yet or have discontinued usage of certain practices.

| PRACTICES   | CURRENT YEARS OF USAGE   |                          |                          |                          | Never used               | Discontinued usage<br>(Please specify years of usage) |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
|   | Less than 3              | 3-5                      | 6-10                     | 10+                      |                          |   |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> years                            |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> years                            |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> years                            |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> years                            |

8. On what percentage of your operated land in 2017 did you use the following practices? If you did not use these practices in 2017, just write 0.

| PRACTICES   | PERCENTAGE OF USAGE          |
|---|------------------------------|
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="text"/> Percent |
| Cover crops   | <input type="text"/> Percent |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="text"/> Percent |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="text"/> Percent |

9. How likely is it that you will continue (or try if you are not currently using) using each practice in the future?

| PRACTICES   | FUTURE USAGE             |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Not at all likely        | Somewhat likely          | Moderately likely        | Very likely              | Extremely likely         |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Section III: Benefits and challenges to the adoption of farming practices

1. Please rate how much you agree or disagree that each of the following potential **benefits associated with conservation tillage** (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) impact your current or potential usage.

| BENEFITS   | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Builds soil structure and health                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increases crop yields during water-deficient years | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduces fuel and labor costs                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduces wear and tear on equipment                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Please rate how important each of the following potential **challenges associated with conservation tillage** (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) are to your operation (in your current or potential usage).

| CHALLENGES  | Not important            | Slightly important       | Moderately important     | Very important           |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Too much soil moisture                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delayed planting due to slow soil warming in spring | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduced crop yields                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased dependence on herbicide/fungicides        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Negative neighborhood opinions                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Section III: Benefits and challenges to the adoption of farming practices, continued

3. Please rate how much you agree or disagree that each of the following potential **benefits associated with cover crops** impact your current or potential usage.

| BENEFITS                                  | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Improves soil health                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increases water infiltration              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Suppresses weeds                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Breaks pest and disease cycle             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increases subsequent cash crop yields     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduces fertilizer inputs on cash crop    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Helps with livestock cropland integration | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. Please rate how important each of the following potential **challenges associated with cover crops** are to your operation (in your current or potential usage).

| CHALLENGES                               | Not important            | Slightly important       | Moderately important     | Very important           |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Difficulties in cover crop establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High seed cost                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not sure about right seed mix            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Narrow planting window                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of time/labor                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hard to eradicate                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of equipment (e.g. seeder)          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Taking too much soil moisture            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Less predictable N release               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yield reduction in following cash crop   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Negative neighborhood opinions           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Section III: Benefits and challenges to the adoption of farming practices, continued

5. Please rate how much you agree or disagree that each of the following potential **benefits associated with diversified crop rotations** (3 or more crops) impact your current or potential usage.

| BENEFITS                                    | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Breaks pest and disease cycle               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduces herbicide usage                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduces fertilizer requirement              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increases soil fertility and productivity   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increases crop yields                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Promotes ecological diversity               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Protects against commodity price volatility | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. Please rate how important each of the following potential **challenges associated with diversified crop rotation** (3 or more crops) are to your operation (in your current or potential usage).

| CHALLENGES  | Not important            | Slightly important       | Moderately important     | Very important           |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lack of a profitable 3rd / 4th crop               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack access to the specialized planting equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Crop insurance constraints                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of marketing information                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Negative neighborhood opinions                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



### Section III: Benefits and challenges to the adoption of farming practices, continued

7. Please rate how much you agree or disagree that each of the following potential **benefits associated with integrated crop and livestock systems** impact your current or potential usage.

| BENEFITS                                  | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reduced fuel and fertilizer cost          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduced feed purchase cost for livestock  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased soil fertility and productivity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased crop yields                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Please rate how important each of the following potential **challenges associated with integrated crop and livestock systems** are to your operation (in your current or potential usage).

| CHALLENGES                                  | Not important            | Slightly important       | Moderately important     | Very important           |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Soil compaction caused by hoof traffic      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No water available for livestock            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No labor available for livestock management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Negative neighborhood opinions              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Insufficient knowledge on grazing practices | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High fencing cost                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Section IV: Perceptions of costs and benefits

1. On average, how do you rate your **total production cost** change after adopting the following practices? (If you haven't adopted the practice yet, please rate your perceived change).

| PRACTICES   | TOTAL PRODUCTION COST    |                          |                                |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Reduced by >15%          | Reduced by 5%-15%        | Very little change (within 5%) | Increased by 5%-15%      | Increased by >15%        |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. On average, how do you rate your **cash crop yield change** after adopting the following practices? If you haven't adopted the practice yet, please rate your perceived change.

| PRACTICES   | CASH CROP YIELD          |                          |                                |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Reduced by >15%          | Reduced by 5%-15%        | Very little change (within 5%) | Increased by 5%-15%      | Increased by >15%        |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Section IV: Perceptions of costs and benefits, continued

3. On average, how do you rate **your profits** after adopting the following practices? (If you haven't adopted the practice yet, please rate your perceived change).

| PRACTICES   | PROFITABILITY            |                          |                                |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Reduced by >15%          | Reduced by 5%-15%        | Very little change (within 5%) | Increased by 5%-15%      | Increased by >15%        |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. For the practices you already adopted, how much government subsidies did you receive to offset your initial expenses? For the conservation practices that you haven't adopted yet, please provide the amount of subsidies you would require in order to adopt them.

| CONSERVATION PRACTICES  | COST SHARE RECEIVED/REQUIRED |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | None                         | Yes, <10%                | Yes, 10%-20%             | Yes, 20%-30%             | Yes, >30%                |
| Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, strip-till, or mulch-till) | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cover crops   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diversified crop rotation (3 or more crops)                     | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrated crop and livestock management                        | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Which of the following programs did you enroll the land you operated in 2017? (check all that apply)

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Other (please specify: )
- None of the land I currently operate is enrolled in a conservation program.

## SECTION V: Community and Environment

1. The following questions are about how you feel about the land you farm. Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

|  | Strongly disagree        | Somewhat disagree        | Somewhat agree           | Stongly agree            |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| When I think of home, I think of the land I farm.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I feel happiest when I am on the land I farm.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The land I farm is my favorite place to be.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The land I farm is an important part of who I am.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My personal history is closely tied to the land I farm.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Even if I were no longer farming, the land I farm will always be a part of who I am.                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| It is important to me that the land I farm stay in my family.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The friendships I have developed through farming activities in the area where I farm are important to me.                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmers in the area where I farm generally have beliefs and values similar to mine.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have a trusted network of people I talk with about farming in the area where I farm.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There aren't many job opportunities available to me other than farming.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The land I farm is important to my economic well-being.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The characteristics of the land I farm (soil type, topography, etc.) are largely responsible for my success as a farmer. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If I could farm anywhere in the world, it would be the land I farm now.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Even though there might be better places to farm, I would rather farm in the area where I farm than anywhere else.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I would feel out of place farming anywhere else.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**SECTION V: Community and Environment, continued**

2. A sense of responsibility for one's own well-being and for the well-being of others can play an important role in peoples' decisions and actions. Rate how responsible you feel to the following groups of people for conserving the soil and water resources on the land you farm.

|                                   | Not at all responsible   | Slightly responsible     | Moderately responsible   | Very responsible         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Previous generations of my family | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Myself                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My immediate family               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My neighbors                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| People in the area where I farm   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| People in my watershed            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Everyone on planet earth          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Future generations                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Soil and water conservation practices can have on-farm and off-farm benefits for the natural environment such as preventing erosion, reducing loss of nutrients into waterways, improving wildlife habitat, etc. In general, how beneficial do you feel the conservation practices on the land you farm are for the natural environment in the following places?

|                       | Not beneficial           | Slightly beneficial      | Moderately beneficial    | Very beneficial          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| My farm               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The area where I farm | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My watershed          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My state              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Midwest           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The country           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The planet earth      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## SECTION V: Community and Environment, continued

4. Do you plan to move to a new community in the future?

- I do not plan on moving to a new community.
- I plan to move within the next year.
- I plan to move in the next 5 years.

5. These questions are designed to measure your attitudes towards the environment. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. There are no right or wrong answers.

|  | Strongly disagree        | Disagree                 | Agree                    | Strongly agree           |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Technical advances in seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides can offset the adverse effects of soil erosion on productivity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am concerned with how much fuel I use for farming.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I would be willing to use a bio-based fuel.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chemical carry over is a concern for me.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reducing soil erosion makes economic sense for my farm.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmers should bear the clean-up costs associated with chemicals entering waterways beyond the boundaries of their farm. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A farmer's priority task should be profit maximization.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Receiving a conservation award is worth a great deal and can compensate for lower profits.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmers have a responsibility to use farm practices known to cause minimal soil erosion.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maximizing profits this year is more important than maintaining cropland productivity in the future.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Baling stover or straw harms soil development.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## SECTION VI: About You and Your Farm

1. What is the total acreage of farmland you operated this planting season (2017)?

acres

2. Of the land you operated in 2017, how many acres do you own versus rent?

Own:  acres

Lease:  acres

3. On the acres that you lease, what are your lease terms? (check all that apply)

Share lease

Cash lease

I own all of the operated land.

4. In 2017, how many acres of the following did you operate and what was your yield? If none, please enter a zero.

|                                       | Acres operated       | Average yield        |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Corn                                  | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Soybeans                              | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Small grains                          | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Clover/alfalfa                        | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Pasture                               | <input type="text"/> | N/A                  |
| Conservation set aside/CRP            | <input type="text"/> | N/A                  |
| Forest/woodland                       | <input type="text"/> | N/A                  |
| Non-row crops for energy              | <input type="text"/> | N/A                  |
| Other (specify): <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

5. I consider the land I operate to primarily be:

Organic (certified and non-certified)

Non-organic

6. In 2017, was any of the crop acreage that you farmed impacted by salt impacted soils (e.g., saline or sodic conditions)?

Yes If Yes, how many acres?

No

Don't know

7. Approximately, how many years have you been the primary decision-maker for the operation?

years

## SECTION VI: About You and Your Farm

8. In 2017, what percentage of your total household income came from off-farm employment?

- Less than 20%
- 20% to 40%
- 41% to 60%
- 61% to 80%
- 81% or more

9. Please indicate the level of your gross operation sales in a typical year.

- Less than \$50,000
- From \$50,000 up to \$99,999
- From \$100,000 up to \$249,999
- From \$250,000 up to \$499,999
- From \$500,000 up to \$999,999
- \$1 million or more

10. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

11. What is the highest level of school you have completed?

- Less than high school (**skip to question 13**)
- High school diploma/GED (**skip to question 13**)
- Some college/technical school (**skip to question 13**)
- College degree (**continue to question 12**)
- Post-graduate degree (**continue to question 12**)

12. Have you completed an agricultural major or minor in college (e.g., agronomy, animal science, agricultural business)?

- Yes
- No

13. In what year were you born?

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | 9 |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|

*Thank you for your time and assistance! If you would like to receive a copy of the findings from this survey, please email Jessica Schad at [jessica.schad@sdstate.edu](mailto:jessica.schad@sdstate.edu). Please use the space below for any additional comments about this survey or farm management.*

As part of the effort to improve farmers' competitiveness and the state economy, SDSU researchers are also conducting field measurements over the next few years to document the impact of current management practices on soil carbon and nitrogen cycling. Please indicate if you are interested in participating one of the years in this additional field research.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe, I would like more information.