WHAT IS THE IOWA FARM AND RURAL LIFE POLL?

The Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll was established in 1982 to provide timely and relevant information on issues important to Iowa’s agricultural and rural communities. Generally known simply as “The Farm Poll,” it is an annual survey of Iowa farmers. It is a cooperative project between the Iowa State University Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, ISU Extension Service and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The annual survey is managed by ISU Extension Sociology. The overall objective of the Farm Poll is to understand how the ongoing changes in Iowa’s agriculture and rural areas affect farmers and rural society as a whole.

BENEFITS OF THE POLL

Information from the poll is made available to local, state, and elected officials, community leaders, farm organization leaders, policy makers, and many other groups and individuals who have a stake in the vitality of agriculture and rural society. Information from the Farm Poll is used to guide policy decisions and actions and as the basis for public policy seminars, Extension reports, radio and television broadcasts, and newspaper and journal articles.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FARM POLL

Since its inception, the Farm Poll has examined issues related to sustainability in agriculture and rural communities. Over the years, the Farm Poll has tracked farmer perspectives on water quality, soil quality and health, pest and disease management, including pesticide use and resistance, rural-urban migration, and many sustainability-related issues.