

2009 Farm and Rural Life Poll: the next generation of farmers, continued from page 4

year's survey and appreciate their continued participation in the Farm Poll.

Who participates?

The 2009 Farm Poll questionnaires were mailed in January and February to a statewide panel of 2,201 farm operators. Usable surveys were received from 1,268 farmers, resulting in a 58 percent response rate. On average, Farm Poll participants were 64 years old, and had been farming for 39 years. Fifty percent of farmers reported that farm income made up more than half of their overall 2008 household income, and an additional 20 percent earned between 26 and 50 percent of their household income from farming. This report summa-

rizes the results of the 2009 survey.

Copies of this or any other year's reports are available from your local county Extension office, the Extension Distribution Center (www.extension.iastate.edu/store), Extension Sociology (www.soc.iastate.edu/extension/farmpoll.html), or from the authors.

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2010 Iowa farm custom rate survey available

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The 2010 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey followed the recent trend of small, but consistent annual increases in rates. Most tillage operations showed increases of one to two percent over the average rates in the 2009 survey, while harvesting rates were up slightly less than that. Some operations showed no change or a slight decrease from the 2009 survey.

The values reported on the survey are simply the average of all the responses received for each category. The range of the highest and lowest responses received is also reported. Values are rates expected to be charged or paid, including fuel and labor. These values are intended only as a guide. There are many reasons why the rate charged in a particular situation should be above or below the average. These include the timeliness with which operations are performed, quality and special features of the machine, operator skill, size and shape of fields, number of acres contracted, and the condition of the crop for harvesting. The availability of custom operators in a given area will also affect rates.

A total of 187 people responded to this year's survey. Of this group, 30 percent indicated that they performed custom work, 18 percent indicated that they hired work done, and 52 percent indicated that they did both. New in the 2010 survey is information on straw or corn stalk baling listed both with and without wrap. The average price for diesel fuel was assumed to be \$2.25 per gallon. Machinery rental rates can be estimated on the back of the survey publication.

The Ag Decision Maker offers a Decision Tool to help custom operators and other farmers estimate their own costs for specific machinery operations. The Machinery Cost Calculator (file A3-29) can be found under Crops, then Machinery in the Ag Decision Maker table of contents.

The 2010 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey is available at ISU Extension county offices or online as publication FM-1698 from the ISU Extension online store, or as *Information File A3-10, Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey*, on the Ag Decision Maker website.

Average Farm Custom Rates Reported for Iowa

Operation	1978	1988	1998	2010
Chisel plowing, per acre	\$6.00	\$8.40	\$9.65	\$13.30
Planting, per acre	\$4.40	\$6.80	\$8.85	\$14.20
Spraying, per acre	\$2.40	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$6.10
Combining corn, per acre	\$16.20	\$22.00	\$23.40	\$29.90
Combining soybeans, per acre	\$14.00	\$20.60	\$22.55	\$28.70
Baling square bales, per bale	\$.21	\$.29	\$.36	\$.50
Custom farming, corn, per acre	\$58.00	\$71.00	\$75.80	\$102.40
Custom farming, soybeans, per acre	\$50.00	\$65.00	\$70.65	\$91.05
Machinery operating wage, per hour	\$3.50	\$5.10	\$7.20	\$11.70

Source:
Iowa State University, Iowa Farm Custom Rate Surveys, FM-1698.

Updates, continued from page 1

Internet Updates

The following updates have been added on www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm.

Historical Corn Yields by County – A1-12 (10 pages)

Historical Soybean Yields by County – A1-13 (10 pages)

Livestock Enterprise Budgets for Iowa – B1-21 (22 pages)

LGM Dairy - A Risk Management Tool for Milk Producers – B1-53 (3 pages)

Leasing Arrangements and Self-employment (Social Security) Tax – C2-41 (2 pages)

Financial Terms – C3-05 (10 pages)

Transportation Terms – C3-06 (2 pages)

How to Use Grants – C5-08 (3 pages)

Setting Your Price – C5-17 (6 pages)

Product Marketing Terms – C5-14 (7 pages)

Value-added Business Success Factors: The Role of Investor Attitudes and Expectations – C5-181 (2 pages)

Value-added Business Success Factors: The Role of Financial Structure and Performance – C5-182 (2 pages)

Value-added Business Success Factors: Strategic Planning and Implementation – C5-183 (2 pages)

Value-added Business Success Factors: Organizational Issues – C5-184 (2 pages)

Decision Tools and Current Profitability

The following tools have been added or updated on www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm.

SURE Payment Calculator – A1-44

Biodiesel Profitability – D1-15

Season Average Price Calculator – A2-15

Returns for Farrow-to-Finish – B1-30

Corn Profitability – A1-85

Returns for Weaned Pigs – B1-33

Soybean Profitability – A1-86

Returns for Steer Calves – B1-35

Ethanol Profitability – D1-10

Returns for Yearling Steers – B1-35

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