

Survey Results

Please give us an idea of your views toward Tippecanoe County and the people who live in your community. Indicate your level of agreement with each statement by marking your response in the provided boxes.

	Strongly Disagree (-2)	Disagree (-1)	Neutral (0)	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (2)	Don't know	Mean (n)
I would like to continue living in Tippecanoe County for a long time.	1.5%	1.5%	8.1%	29.7%	56.1%	3.0%	1.42 (394)
Tippecanoe County provides many opportunities to engage in my favorite activities.	1.5%	6.5%	14.2%	46.6%	29.9%	1.2%	.98 (401)
I identify with the lifestyles and values of the people who live in Tippecanoe County.	.7%	3.2%	16.0%	47.4%	30.7%	2.0%	1.06 (401)
Tippecanoe County is a good place to raise a family.	.5%	.7%	7.9%	44.1%	45.0%	1.7%	1.35 (404)
The forest, farmland and other open spaces of Tippecanoe County are important to me.	.5%	.5%	2.5%	29.5%	66.0%	1.0%	1.62 (403)
Living in Tippecanoe County is a part of who I am.	1.8%	2.0%	16.0%	39.3%	38.3%	2.5%	1.13 (394)
As far as I am concerned there are better places to live than Tippecanoe County.	7.8%	17.8%	37.9%	23.1%	7.8%	5.5%	.06 (398)
I have a positive emotional attachment to Tippecanoe County.	1.0%	2.2%	19.4%	47.1%	28.5%	1.7%	1.02 (403)
In general, I trust people in my community.	.5%	3.3%	11.9%	60.1%	23.2%	1.0%	1.03 (396)
I am willing to help my neighbors.	.5%	.5%	2.5%	50.6%	45.3%	.5%	1.41 (397)
I can depend on my friends and neighbors to help if I have a problem.	.5%	2.5%	6.5%	54.4%	34.1%	2.0%	1.21 (399)
I feel that I am an important part of my community.	.8%	2.0%	24.5%	50.3%	19.9%	2.5%	.89 (396)
My neighbors and I want the same things from my community.	.8%	6.8%	24.1%	46.1%	14.8%	7.4%	.73 (399)
I feel that being a member of my community is like being a member of a group of friends.	1.0%	4.3%	23.9%	49.7%	18.6%	2.5%	.83 (398)

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about current issues affecting American agriculture?

	Strongly Disagree (-2)	Disagree (-1)	Neutral (0)	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (2)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
Efforts to protect farmland from urban development should only focus on areas in close proximity to growing cities or towns.	20.5%	36.8%	11.8%	19.5%	7.5%	4.0%	-.45 (400)
Based upon the productive capacity of their farmland, some farmers should receive more compensation to keep their farmland from being developed.	9.4%	18.9%	18.9%	30.3%	19.4%	3.2%	.32 (403)
In order to protect the rural landscape, the amount of federal cost share and subsidy payments should be associated with the quality of land management activities on each farm.	4.7%	11.9%	21.4%	42.0%	14.7%	5.2%	.53 (402)
Due to differences in location or slopes, using the same agricultural practices on one field may contribute more to water pollution than the same practices on a different field.	.2%	.7%	4.0%	57.3%	35.3%	2.5%	1.30 (405)
Available cost share funding to protect water quality should only be used to assist farmers who own land near streams or rivers with installing management practices like filter strips.	8.5%	32.9%	20.4%	26.4%	7.5%	4.2%	-.09 (401)
Farmers whose fields have the potential to directly impact water resources should be subject to more strict regulations than others who farmland that is likely to have a smaller impact.	7.2%	22.4%	23.7%	34.9%	7.7%	4.0%	.140 (401)

Many agencies and groups working with farmers to improve land management practices that often offer cost share or expertise to implement new practices; however, there are many reasons why people aren't interested in these programs. How important are each of following reasons when you make decisions about changing land management practices on your farm?

	Very Unimportant (-2)	(-1)	Neutral (0)	(1)	Very Important (2)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
Uncertainty about whether the money invested will produce the desired results.	2.0%	2.8%	25.1%	35.8%	29.9%	4.3%	.93 (394)
Concern that changing land management practices might reduce yields or overall farm productivity.	2.7%	3.7%	22.4%	35.7%	30.7%	4.7%	.92 (401)
Concern that neighbors might not approve of the changes.	16.8%	19.3%	33.4%	17.8%	6.5%	6.0%	-.24 (398)
Concern about working with agencies or groups whose views about land management methods may differ from my own.	4.2%	11.5%	29.4%	30.2%	20.0%	4.7%	.53 (401)
The additional time spent doing paperwork isn't worth the cost share provided by organizations working to improve land management practices.	2.0%	10.3%	33.0%	31.2%	16.1%	7.3%	.53 (397)
Not knowing what changes to land management practices will produce the greatest environmental benefit on my farm.	2.3%	5.3%	25.4%	37.5%	21.9%	7.6%	.77 (397)

Please describe your level of agreement on the following scale for each of the statements that relate to general views of environmental stewardship and agriculture.

	Strongly Disagree (-3)	(-2)	(-1)	Neutral (0)	(1)	(2)	Strongly Agree (3)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
As a result of modern agricultural practices, farmers must exert more effort now to protect the environment than was necessary in the past.	4.0%	4.5%	4.8%	8.5%	18.6%	25.4%	32.4%	1.8%	1.43 (398)
Good farming requires using all available acreage as efficiently as possible in order to maximize yields.	3.5%	3.3%	9.3%	9.3%	18.9%	21.2%	33.0%	1.5%	1.36 (397)
A successful farmer is someone who continuously evaluates the environmental impact of their farm and adopts new approaches to	.5%	.8%	2.5%	10.1%	18.3%	30.4%	35.9%	1.5%	1.84 (398)

protect the environment.									
Modifications to my farm that increase production, such as the removal of woodlots, fence rows, or small ponds have little impact on the environment.	20.8%	22.6%	22.1%	16.3%	6.0%	5.8%	4.0%	2.5%	-1.03 (399)
Protecting the natural areas on my farm improves the quality of life for other members of my community.	4.0%	1.3%	4.8%	20.1%	19.8%	24.1%	23.1%	3.0%	1.21 (399)
The environmental effects commonly associated with industrial agriculture are offset by the ability to efficiently produce food products for a growing world population.	6.4%	7.6%	17.8%	25.2%	18.8%	11.5%	7.1%	5.6%	.12 (393)
The natural areas on my farm are part of the heritage of my land and should be maintained for the benefit of future generations of farmers.	1.3%	1.5%	3.8%	15.2%	23.3%	22.8%	30.6%	1.5%	1.52 (395)
Natural areas are only important to maintain if they provide benefits, like improved drainage, for my farm.	14.0%	15.7%	23.1%	17.0%	15.2%	7.4%	6.1%	1.5%	-.49 (394)
Good farming results from placing equal importance on the management of both the agricultural and natural areas of my farm.	1.0%	1.3%	4.5%	9.1%	24.5%	27.8%	30.3%	1.5%	1.63 (396)
Natural areas on my farm are important but they can't be allowed to interfere with agricultural production.	9.3%	10.6%	25.4%	22.2%	16.4%	7.8%	6.8%	1.5%	-.23 (397)
As a farmer, how I farm my land has the potential to negatively impact the quality of the rural landscape.	5.8%	7.1%	7.4%	11.2%	22.8%	24.9%	18.0%	2.8%	.90 (394)
In order to protect the rural landscape, farmers must move away from conventional agricultural practices to approaches that mimic ecological processes.	12.9%	9.4%	15.4%	29.9%	12.9%	6.6%	5.8%	7.1%	-.32 (395)

Please describe your level of agreement on the following scale for each of the statements that relate to the role of government in agriculture.

	Strongly Disagree (-3)	(-2)	(-1)	Neutral (0)	(1)	(2)	Strongly Agree (3)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
Government expertise is essential for addressing problems facing agriculture in a way that benefits society as a whole.	16.2%	10.9%	16.5%	20.1%	20.1%	8.4%	4.8%	3.0%	-.37 (394)
Local residents are better able to address issues that concern the management of the rural landscape than the government.	2.0%	2.5%	5.8%	13.7%	26.1%	24.6%	23.3%	2.0%	1.31 (395)
Private property is a right created by government that can be changed over time according to changing needs of society.	33.9%	15.3%	15.3%	11.2%	11.5%	5.4%	2.8%	4.6%	-1.23 (392)
Alternative approaches to farming, like sustainable agriculture, must rely on the innovation and ingenuity of farmers themselves, not government intervention.	1.0%	2.5%	8.6%	11.9%	25.4%	23.4%	24.6%	2.5%	1.33 (394)
Government intervention is the only way to ensure that agricultural land is protected for the use of future generations.	30.2%	18.0%	20.6%	14.5%	8.1%	3.6%	3.8%	1.3%	-1.22 (394)
Government involvement negatively impacts my ability to manage my farm by attempting to control what practices I use on my land.	3.6%	4.1%	15.8%	25.2%	22.1%	12.7%	13.5%	3.1%	.55 (393)
Government payments are necessary to ensure that farmland is appropriately managed for the benefit of my community.	11.4%	10.9%	16.5%	25.1%	17.8%	8.1%	7.9%	2.3%	-.15 (394)
The government should not be allowed to regulate land management practices on private property, even if current activities have the potential to negatively impact others.	5.4%	12.8%	26.5%	19.6%	13.5%	9.9%	10.5%	1.8%	-.03 (392)
Government agencies are an important partner that assists in the management of my farm.	10.4%	8.1%	13.2%	25.7%	26.7%	6.1%	8.1%	1.5%	.03 (393)

Government programs do not allow for the flexibility that is needed to address problems on my farm.	1.8%	5.9%	15.6%	37.5%	17.1%	10.2%	6.9%	5.1%	.27 (392)
Further governmental regulation of farming should depend on whether or not the public believes that farmers are capable of protecting the rural landscape.	20.2%	14.5%	17.9%	21.4%	11.5%	5.4%	4.6%	4.6%	-.75 (392)
It is okay for government regulations to treat landowners differently, as variations in farmland like location may result in some farms having a larger impact on environmental problems.	9.6%	7.9%	13.2%	20.6%	27.2%	11.9%	6.3%	3.3%	.13 (394)

We would like to understand your level of trust in different organizations working to address issues in the rural landscape. For each of following, how likely are you to work with the organization to identify new opportunities or address issues on your land?

	Very Unlikely (-2)	(-1)	Neutral (0)	(1)	Very Likely (2)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
Indiana State Department of Agriculture -State department working to shape the direction of Indiana agriculture by supporting long-term planning to identify new opportunities for increasing the profitability of agriculture in our state.	6.1%	8.2%	23.7%	40.5%	15.5%	6.1%	1.06 (380)
Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District / Natural Resource Conservation Service -Local specialists working to provide leadership and education to encourage environmental stewardship and protection of our natural resource base.	2.1%	4.5%	14.5%	39.6%	35.1%	4.2%	.28 (379)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management -State department working to implement federal and state regulations to protect human health and the environment.	8.2%	15.0%	26.8%	32.4%	12.6%	5.0%	.28 (380)
Your local agricultural extension specialist -Local specialist working to provide educational opportunities	1.6%	3.2%	15.2%	37.5%	38.6%	4.0%	1.13 (376)

to citizens to improve their use of plants, animals, and the environment.							
American Farmland Trust -National non-profit organization working to preserve our nation's farmland and improve the economic viability of American agriculture.	5.8%	8.2%	29.4%	26.5%	14.6%	15.6%	.42 (378)
The Nature Conservancy -National non-profit organization working to protect ecologically important lands and waters around the globe.	10.8%	12.7%	31.9%	21.1%	11.9%	11.6%	.12 (379)
NICHES Land Trust -Local non-profit organization working to protect scenic quality, wildlife habitat, and other open space for future generations.	11.0%	12.6%	28.1%	20.5%	14.2%	13.6%	.16 (381)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -Federal agency working with others to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plant habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.	5.3%	8.9%	26.3%	36.1%	16.8%	6.6%	.54 (380)
Ducks Unlimited -National non-profit organization working to conserve, restore and manage wetlands for the benefit of people and waterfowl.	7.9%	12.6%	26.8%	26.1%	17.4%	9.2%	.36 (380)
Indiana Farm Bureau -Statewide organization that advocates for policies and programs to improve the economic and social welfare of farmers.	5.2%	7.9%	17.8%	35.7%	28.6%	4.7%	.78 (381)

There are many options for landowners who are interested in increasing their involvement in stewardship of the rural landscape. For each of the following options, how likely are you to . . .

	Very Unlikely (-2)	(-1)	Neutral (0)	(1)	Very Likely (2)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
Donate a conservation easement on a portion of your property that would permanently protect the property as farmland, forest, or other open space.	29.7%	13.7%	25.8%	16.1%	8.2%	6.6%	-.44 (380)
Sell a conservation easement on a portion of your property that would permanently protect the property as farmland, forest, or other open space.	24.1%	14.7%	26.2%	18.8%	9.9%	6.3%	-.26 (382)

Participate in a program that provides financial incentives in exchange for continued production of environmental services, such as the protection of existing wildlife habitat on your farm.	7.8%	10.4%	23.7%	33.6%	20.1%	4.4%	.50 (384)
Support additional zoning restrictions to be placed on farmland that would protect environmental services.	22.6%	17.6%	23.9%	20.8%	9.7%	5.3%	-.24 (380)
Advocate for the shut down of a local agricultural operation that has a record of polluting the natural environment even if it costs local jobs.	10.2%	9.7%	23.9%	29.9%	20.5%	5.8%	.43 (381)

In order to inform what issues the community should begin to address, we would like to know what your priorities are for the rural landscape. How important to you is . . .

	Very Unimportant (-2)	(-1)	Neutral (0)	(1)	Very Important (2)	Don't Know	Mean (n)
Protecting the visual quality of the rural landscape.	3.4%	4.5%	17.3%	44.5%	29.3%	1.0%	.93 (382)
Improving recreational opportunities by protecting areas that support activities like hunting and fishing.	7.0%	8.1%	24.2%	40.1%	19.5%	1.0%	.58 (384)
Improving recreational opportunities by protecting areas that support activities like hiking and wildlife viewing.	8.9%	9.4%	24.4%	37.0%	18.9%	1.3%	.48 (381)
Improving the quality of working lands with an emphasis on controlling erosion and improving soil quality.	1.6%	1.6%	5.5%	42.0%	48.6%	.8%	1.36 (383)
Creating opportunities for new economic activities on farmland, like the development of wind farms or production of alternative bio-fuel inputs.	2.9%	2.1%	13.8%	37.3%	42.8%	1.0%	1.16 (383)
Conserving areas that provide significant environmental benefits by permanently protecting them from disturbances.	4.5%	5.8%	26.0%	38.6%	21.5%	3.7%	.69 (381)
Buffering streams and rivers to protect local water quality.	1.6%	2.4%	13.1%	42.9%	38.5%	1.6%	1.16 (382)
Protecting existing woodlots and improving the health of forested areas.	2.3%	3.6%	16.9%	49.2%	27.3%	.5%	.96 (384)

Connecting existing habitat (or natural areas) to provide pathways for wildlife migration.	6.0%	10.9%	27.9%	33.9%	18.5%	2.9%	.49 (384)
Preserving farmland for future generations by protecting it from further development.	4.2%	6.3%	14.1%	29.5%	45.4%	.5%	1.06 (383)
Expanding markets for locally grown farm products.	1.8%	1.0%	14.4%	37.2%	44.5%	1.0%	1.23 (382)

In what year were you born? (n=386)

Range: 1912-1985, Mean: 1930.88

See Appendix A

What is your gender? (n=388)

81.4% Male

18.6% Female

What is your highest level of formal education? (n=421)

2.1% Some high school

29.2% High school graduate or GED

18.1% Some college

5.7% 2 year degree

22.1% 4 year degree

14.7% Graduate degree

3.1% Other

See Appendix B

How would you describe your political orientation? (n=367)

23.4% Strongly Conservative

46.9% Somewhat Conservative

19.6% Neither Conservative nor Liberal

7.9% Somewhat Liberal

2.2% Strong Liberal

How many years total have you been a resident of Tippecanoe County? (n=379)

Range: 0-93, Mean: 48.57 years

See Appendix C

What is your zip code? (n=380)

25.2% 47905

19.7% 47906

18.3% 47909

4.8% 47992

Top 4—See Appendix D for entire set

Describe your farming operation by marking all of the following that apply to you. (n=421)

37.8% Landlord only -- do not farm

29.2% Rent land from others

54.4% Own whole farm

25.7% Full-time farmer

17.1% Part-time farmer

17.8% Have full-time off-farm job

50.8% Crop farmer (primarily row crops like corn or soybeans)

18.8% Raise livestock

2.1% Market niche products (such as fruits or honey)

1.0% Grow organic products

2.4% Sell products directly to the public (farmer's market)

How far from your farm is the nearest river or stream? (n=421)

31.8% A stream / river runs through my farm.

16.2% My farm is next to a stream or river.

24.7% Less than 1 mile

24.7% More than 1 mile

During 2008, how many acres did you: (n=421)

Own, Range: 0-4000, Mean: 200.58

Rent from others, Range: 0-4200, Mean: 208.59

Rent to others, Range: 0-1600, Mean: 46.28

Leave uncultivated, Range: 0-624, Mean: 17.28

Set aside for conservation, Range: 0-400, Mean: 6.62

See Appendix E

Please indicate which of the following best describes your gross farm sales in a typical year. (n=332)

9.6% Under \$10,000

27.7% \$10,000 -- \$49,999

15.4% \$50,000 -- \$99,999

13.0% \$100,000 -- \$174,999

7.5% \$175,000 -- \$249,999

11.7% \$250,000 -- \$499,999

10.2% \$500,000 -- \$999,999

4.8% \$1,000,000 or more

Please indicate which of the following best describes your current farm assets (land, buildings, equipment, and livestock) (n=332)

- 9.6% Under \$49,999
- 27.7% \$50,000 -- \$249,999
- 15.4% \$250,000 -- \$499,999
- 13.0% \$500,000 -- \$899,999
- 7.5% \$900,000 -- \$1,249,999
- 11.7% \$1,250,000 -- \$2,499,999
- 10.2% \$2,500,000 -- \$4,999,999
- 4.8% \$5,000,000 or more

What percentage of your total farm asset value would remain after selling these assets and paying off debt? (n=308)

- 48.1% 100%
- 11.7% 90
- 12.0% 80
- 9.7% 70
- 4.2% 60
- 4.5% 50
- 2.3% 40
- 1.9% 30
- 1.0% 20
- 1.3% 10
- 3.2% 0

What would you consider to be the most likely outcome for your farm when you decide to retire or quit farming? (n=421)

Check all that apply.

- 50.6% A family member will continue the farm operation.
- 22.8% Sell my land to another farmer.
- 12.1% Sell all or part of the land to a developer.
- 4.3% Sell all or part of the land for conservation.
- 2.1% Donate all or part of the land for conservation.
- 14.3% I don't know what options are available for my land.