
Consent

You are being asked to be a participant in a research study. The purpose of this study is to understand the practices you follow on your farm.

If you agree to be in this study, your part will involve completing the survey, which should take approximately 15 minutes. The first 40 participants will receive \$10, otherwise you will be entered into a raffle for \$100. If you agree to be in this study, there are no foreseeable risks to you, above those that you experience in your daily life. There is no direct benefit to you by participating in this study, but the results of this study will be used to improve the technical assistance offered to farmers.

We will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of study information that identifies you, but we cannot guarantee total confidentiality. Study records will be kept on password-protected computers. Data will be collected using the Internet; no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third party. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Your information will only be viewed by the study team at UConn, the University of Vermont, Yale University and American Farmland Trust, as well as other people within UConn who help administer and oversee research. If information from this study is published or presented at scientific meetings, your name and other identifiable information will not be used.

Please contact Dr. Cristina Connolly at cristina.connolly@uconn.edu if you have any questions about the study, or if you believe you have experienced harm or injury because of being in this study. In addition, for any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the UConn IRB Office at irb@uconn.edu or at (860) 486-8802.

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You may decide not to participate at all or, if you start the study, you may withdraw at any time without any penalty. Withdrawal or refusing to participate will not affect your relationship with UConn in any way.

If you click the 'I consent' button below, it means that you read this consent form and agreed to participate in this study.

Do you consent?

- ☐ I consent
- ☐ I do not consent

Grazing Plan

Do you have a grazing plan for your farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does your grazing plan meet the NRCS standards and specifications?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In general, how well do you understand your grazing plan?

- ☐ Not well at all
- ☐ Slightly well
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Extremely well

To what extent will you follow the recommendations in your grazing plan?



If you will not implement 100% of your grazing plan, how much are each of the following a barrier in implementing your plan?

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
The plan costs too much to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear implementing the plan will reduce product yields and/or product quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the infrastructure or equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
to implement the plan			
I don't have the time to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the on-farm labor capacity to follow the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are not adequate support services (i.e. custom applicators/ advisors) available to implement this.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have enough acreage to follow the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My land isn't appropriately configured to implement the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adverse weather has made it too difficult to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the technical assistance to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't believe the plan will have an impact on pasture condition or my grazing systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The plan does not match my values/ goals/ risk tolerance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear judgment from other farmers or my neighbors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What changes do you hope to see as a result of implementing this plan? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Soil tests- changes in nutrients or organic matter
- ☐ Changes in plant growth patterns
- ☐ Changes in plant diversity
- ☐ Increased water retention in my soil
- ☐ Changes in livestock behavior
- ☐ Changes in wildlife behavior (i.e. insects, songbirds, wildlife)
- ☐ Changes in manure samples
- ☐ Changes in product quality
- ☐ Changes in product yields
- ☐ Other

Nutrient Mgmt Plan

Do you have a nutrient management plan for your farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does your nutrient management plan meet the NRCS standards and specifications?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In general, how well do you understand your nutrient management plan?

- ☐ Not well at all
- ☐ Slightly well
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Extremely well

To what extent will you follow the recommendations in your nutrient management plan?



If you will not implement 100% of your nutrient management plan, how much are each of the following a barrier in implementing your plan?

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
The plan costs too much to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear implementing the plan will reduce product yields and/or product quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the infrastructure or equipment to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the time to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
I don't have the on-farm labor capacity to follow the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are not adequate support services (i.e. custom applicators/advisors) available to implement this.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have enough inputs to follow the plan (i.e. I don't have enough manure)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My land isn't appropriately configured to implement the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adverse weather has made it too difficult to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the technical assistance to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't believe the plan will have an impact on my nutrient management systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The plan does not match my values/ goals/ risk tolerance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear judgment from other farmers or my neighbors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What changes do you hope to see as a result of implementing this plan? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Soil tests- changes in nutrients or organic matter
- ☐ Changes in plant growth patterns
- ☐ Changes in plant diversity
- ☐ Increased water retention in my soil
- ☐ Changes in livestock behavior
- ☐ Changes in wildlife behavior (i.e. insects, songbirds, wildlife)
- ☐ Changes in manure samples
- ☐ Changes in product quality
- ☐ Changes in product yields
- ☐ Other

Pollinator Plan

Do you have a pollinator plan for your farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does your pollinator plan meet the NRCS standards and specifications?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In general, how well do you understand your pollinator plan?

- ☐ Not well at all
- ☐ Slightly well
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Extremely well

To what extent will you follow the recommendations in your pollinator plan?



If you will not implement 100% of your pollinator plan, how much are each of the following a barrier in implementing your plan?

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
The plan costs too much to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear implementing the plan will reduce product yields and/or product quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the infrastructure or equipment to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the time to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the on-farm labor capacity to follow the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not at all a barrier

Somewhat of a barrier

A Major Barrier

There are not adequate support services (i.e. custom applicators/ advisors) available to implement this.

☐☐☐

I don't have enough acreage to follow the plan

☐☐☐

My land isn't appropriately configured to implement the plan.

☐☐☐

Adverse weather has made it too difficult to implement the plan

☐☐☐

I don't have the knowledge

☐☐☐

I don't have the technical assistance to implement

☐☐☐

I don't believe the plan will have an impact on pollinators or pollinator habitat

☐☐☐

The plan does not match my values/ goals/ risk tolerance

☐☐☐

I fear judgment from other farmers or my neighbors

☐☐☐

What changes do you hope to see as a result of implementing this plan? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Soil tests- changes in nutrients or organic matter
- ☐ Changes in plant growth patterns
- ☐ Changes in plant diversity
- ☐ Increased water retention in my soil
- ☐ Changes in livestock behavior
- ☐ Changes in wildlife behavior (i.e. insects, songbirds, wildlife)
- ☐ Changes in manure samples
- ☐ Changes in product quality
- ☐ Changes in product yields
- ☐ Other

Soil Health Plan

Do you have a soil health plan for your farm?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does your soil health plan meet the NRCS standards and specifications?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In general, how well do you understand your soil health plan?

- ☐ Not well at all
- ☐ Slightly well
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Extremely well

To what extent will you follow the recommendations in your soil health plan?



If you will not implement 100% of your soil health plan, how much are each of the following a barrier in implementing your plan?

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
The plan costs too much to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear implementing the plan will reduce product yields and/or product quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the infrastructure or equipment to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the time to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the on-farm labor capacity to follow the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are not adequate support services (i.e. custom applicators/ advisors) available to implement this.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Not at all a barrier	Somewhat of a barrier	A Major Barrier
I don't have enough inputs to follow the plan (i.e. I don't have enough compost or organic matter)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My land isn't appropriately configured to implement the plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adverse weather has made it too difficult to implement the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't have the technical assistance to implement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't believe the plan will have an impact on soil health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The plan does not match my values/ goals/ risk tolerance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear judgment from other farmers or my neighbors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What changes do you hope to see as a result of implementing this plan? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Soil tests- changes in nutrients or organic matter
- ☐ Changes in plant growth patterns
- ☐ Changes in plant diversity
- ☐ Increased water retention in my soil
- ☐ Changes in livestock behavior
- ☐ Changes in wildlife behavior (i.e. insects, songbirds, wildlife)
- ☐ Changes in manure samples
- ☐ Changes in product quality
- ☐ Changes in product yields
- ☐ Other

Motivations

Please rank your **top 5** reasons for implementing conservation practices on your farm in order of importance (1=most important; you only need type numbers into the boxes for your top 5).

Financial (farm viability, economics, long-term cost savings, risk mitigation)

- ☐ Stewardship of your farmland (i.e. improving soil health or water quality)
- ☐ Stewardship of the environment off your farm (water quality, soil health, ecosystem health, wildlife/plant biodiversity)
- ☐ Help with farm management issues (ex. Nutrient management)
- ☐ Animal health and well-being
- ☐ Improvements to product quality
- ☐ Independence (I have more ability to control my costs; less reliance on external factors or inputs)
- ☐ Adapting to changing weather patterns (i.e. reducing my susceptibility to drought)
- ☐ Mitigating the effects of climate change (i.e. reducing carbon emissions from my farm)
- ☐ Compliance with agricultural laws (ex. VT RAPs)
- ☐ Benefiting my community
- ☐ Benefiting my landscape (i.e. scenic beauty)
- ☐ Legacy: continuing my family's legacy, and/or setting up a lasting legacy for the next generation
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Have you received technical assistance on conservation practices, conservation planning or resource assessment in the last year?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Have you enrolled in any conservation programs? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Yes, I have enrolled in federal programs (i.e. I am working with NRCS or U.S. Fish and Wildlife)
- ☐ Yes, I have enrolled in programs run by my state government
- ☐ I am not enrolled in any state or federal conservation programs
- ☐ Yes, I am working with a conservation district
- ☐ Yes, I am working one-on-one with Extension staff
- ☐ Yes, I am taking a class with Extension staff
- ☐ Yes, with a non-profit (i.e. I am working with a conservation group)

☐ My land has a conservation easement on it

☐ Other (For instance, Ben and Jerry's Caring Dairy, business planning classes, etc.)

Please rank your **top 3** reasons for enrolling in conservation programs by ordering the options below. (1=most important; you only need type numbers into the boxes for your top 3).

Financial (farm viability, economics, long-term cost savings)

Stewardship of your farmland

Stewardship of the environment off your farm (water quality, soil health, ecosystem health, wildlife/plant biodiversity)

Help with farm management issues (ex. Nutrient management)

Compliance with agricultural laws (ex. VT RAPs)

Benefiting your community and landscape

Other (please specify):

What does land stewardship mean to you?

Why do you farm? In other words, why do you think farming is important? Please rank your **top 5** reasons in order of importance (1=most important; you only need type numbers into the boxes for your top 5).

Stewardship or improvement of farmland (i.e. farming positively impacts things like soil health or water quality)

Stewardship or improvement of the environment off your farm (ie. farming positively impacts neighboring woodlots, riparian areas, wildlife biodiversity, etc.)

Independence (i.e. ability to make my own living, be my own boss)

Love of animals (i.e. wanting to spend time with animals; wanting to be sure my animals live as well as possible)

- ☐ To be able to live in accordance with my values
- ☐ To be able to have a positive relationship with nature
- ☐ Legacy (i.e. continuing my family's legacy, setting up a lasting legacy for the next generation)
- ☐ Climate change mitigation
- ☐ Benefiting my community: feeding and contributing to my community and neighbors
- ☐ Feeding the world (i.e. feeding people beyond my nearby community)
- ☐ Financial (livelihood, farm viability, economics, long-term cost savings)
- ☐ Quality of life (Enjoyment of work, lifestyle)
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Capacity, knowledge & perceptions

Please provide your opinions on the following statements about your capacity to address climate change.

	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
I understand my farm's vulnerability to climate change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the knowledge and technical skill to address climate risks on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the financial capacity to address climate risks on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmers in my social network have begun implementing new practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmers in my social network have begun implementing new practices to reduce the environmental impacts of their farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmers in my social network have begun implementing new practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
to adapt to the impacts of climate change.				
My community and social networks will support my farm in recovering from the severe impacts of weather variability.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the ways my farm management could mitigate climate change (reduce emissions or sequester carbon).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the knowledge and technical skill to mitigate climate change (reduce emissions or sequester carbon).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the financial capacity to mitigate climate change (reduce emissions or sequester carbon).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand my farm's impact on water quality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the knowledge and technical skill to reduce water quality impacts from my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the financial capacity to reduce water quality impacts from my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand my farm's impact on biodiversity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the knowledge and technical skill to enhance biodiversity on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have the financial capacity to enhance biodiversity on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide your opinions on the following statements.

	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
I think about trying new things to enhance environmental quality on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think about trying new things to increase productivity on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think about trying new things to increase financial stability on my farm.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Disagree

Somewhat Disagree

Somewhat Agree

Agree

Extreme weather events in recent years have affected my long-term management goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change is occurring and is caused mostly by human activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are in a state of climate emergency due to human-caused climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a farmer, I have a responsibility to be part of climate solutions to slow and/or reverse human-caused climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is my responsibility to care about environmental impacts of farming.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is the responsibility of government to care about environmental impacts of farming.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The government should pay my farm for providing ecosystem services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Demographics

What is your zip code?

How many years have you been farming?

0

8

16

24

32

40

48

56

64

72

80

Years

Do you own or lease your farmland?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Lease
- ☐ Both

How many acres do you own and/or lease?

☐ Own

☐ Lease

What farm products did your farm produce, raise, or grow last year? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Dairy
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Fruits, nuts, or berries
- ☐ Field crops
- ☐ Hay
- ☐ Greenhouse or nursery crops
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Cattle, hogs, or other livestock
- ☐ Eggs
- ☐ Maple syrup
- ☐ Bees/honey
- ☐ Other

Were you employed off-farm in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What percent of your total household income is derived from farming? Your best approximation is fine.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Percentage

With what gender do you identify?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / third gender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Are you of Hispanic or Latin American origin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you identify as a Black, Indigenous, or other Person of Color?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

What is your highest level of education?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school degree or equivalent
- ☐ Technical or occupational certificate
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Some college coursework completed
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Doctorate

What is your gross annual farm income?

- ☐ Less than \$10,000
- ☐ \$10,000 to \$100,000
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$250,000
- ☐ \$250,000 to \$500,000
- ☐ \$500,000 to \$1,000,000
- ☐ More than \$1,000,000

Are you a military veteran (served honorably on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Personal Information

What is the name of your farming operation?

How did you hear about this survey? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Enrolled in free soil health sampling from AFT
- ☐ Applied for AFT Microgrant
- ☐ AFT PRES (Piloting Rewards for Ecosystem Services)
- ☐ Attended education or outreach event
- ☐ Other

Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up survey or interview? If yes, please provide your contact information below.

Name

Email Address

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

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