

## Appendix 3-A: Ashland County Agriculture Land Use & Preservation Survey 2016

### 1. Gender

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Male	44	70%
2	Female	19	30%
	Total	63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.30
Variance	0.21
Standard Deviation	0.46
Total Responses	63

### 2. Age

#	Answer	Response	%
1	18-24	1	2%
2	25-34	5	8%
3	35-44	4	6%
4	45-54	8	13%
5	55-64	19	30%
6	65+	26	41%
	Total	63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Mean	4.86
Variance	1.77
Standard Deviation	1.33
Total Responses	63

### 3. Employment Status

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Employed Full-time	23	37%
2	Employed Part-time	2	3%
3	Self Employed	16	25%
4	Unemployed	0	0%
5	Retired	21	33%
6	Other*	1	2%
	Total	63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Mean	2.95
Variance	3.01
Standard Deviation	1.74
Total Responses	63

### 4. If you selected 'Other' in the question above, please explain.

Text Response
I have both a full time job (40 hrs/week) and farm full time. Employed Part-Time and Self Employed

### 5. Ashland County Resident Status

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Full-time Resident	61	97%
2	Part-time Resident	0	0%
3	Non-Resident Landowner	1	2%
4	Non-Resident Business Owner	0	0%
5	Do not live or own land in Ashland County	1	2%
Total		63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	1.10
Variance	0.31
Standard Deviation	0.56
Total Responses	63

### 6. How many years have you resided, owned land or owned a business in Ashland County.

#	Answer	Response	%
1	0-5	3	5%
2	6-10	1	2%
3	10-20	9	14%
4	20+	50	79%
Total		63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	3.68
Variance	0.54
Standard Deviation	0.74
Total Responses	63

### 7. Number of people in your household

#	Answer	Response	%
1	1	8	13%
2	2	37	59%
3	3	8	13%
4	4	3	5%
5	5	4	6%
6	6 or more	3	5%
Total		63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Mean	2.48
Variance	1.58
Standard Deviation	1.26
Total Responses	63

### 8. Number of children (under age 18 years old) in your household

#	Answer	Response	%
1	0	53	84%
2	1	2	3%
3	2	5	8%
4	3	1	2%
5	4	1	2%
6	5 or more	1	2%
Total		63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Mean	1.38
Variance	1.01
Standard Deviation	1.01
Total Responses	63

**9. Indicate the municipality in Ashland County where you reside or where the majority of your farm, land or agriculture-related business is located.**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Town of Agenda	1	2%
2	Town of Ashland	5	8%
3	Town of Chippewa	2	3%
4	Town of Gingles	6	10%
5	Town of Gordon	1	2%
6	Town of Jacobs	2	3%
7	Town of LaPointe	0	0%
8	Town of Marengo	10	16%
9	Town of Morse	6	10%
10	Town of Peeksville	2	3%
11	Town of Sanborn	1	2%
12	Town of Shanagolden	2	3%
13	Town of White River	13	21%
14	City of Ashland	10	16%
15	City of Mellen	1	2%
16	Village of Butternut	0	0%
	Total	62	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	15
Mean	9.21
Variance	17.87
Standard Deviation	4.23
Total Responses	62

**10. Please list any other Ashland County municipality where you own land:**

Text Response
Town of Ashland
Town of White River
Town of Shanagolden 40 acres; Town of Peeksville 20 acres; I live in Glidden, Township Jacobs own house + 1.5 lots.
Asland
Town of White River
City of Ashland
City of Ashland
City of Ashland
Town of Marengo
Town of Peeksville, Jacobs
Town of Ashland
City of Mellen, City of Ashland
Town of White River
Town of Ashland
Town of Ashland
City of Mellen

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	16

**11. Do you farm your land? (Farming means raising livestock or growing crops yourself or having others operate on your land to raise livestock or grow crops, i.e. you are an agricultural producer)**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	45	71%
2	No	18	29%
	Total	63	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Mean	1.29
Variance	0.21
Standard Deviation	0.46
Total Responses	63

**12. How many acres do you operate on?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Less than 5	3	7%
2	5-10	3	7%
3	11-40	12	26%
4	41-200	17	37%
5	201-500	6	13%
6	501-1000	3	7%
7	Greater than 1000	2	4%
	Total	46	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	7
Mean	3.80
Variance	1.89
Standard Deviation	1.38
Total Responses	46

**13. Farm land status**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Own	36	80%
2	Rent	0	0%
3	Both	9	20%
	Total	45	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	1.40
Variance	0.65
Standard Deviation	0.81
Total Responses	45

**14. What percentage of the acres that you farm is rented? (You may not necessarily make rental payment or have a rental agreement)**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	0%	26	60%
2	1-25%	7	16%
3	26-50%	3	7%
4	51-75%	3	7%
5	76-100%	4	9%
	Total	43	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	1.88
Variance	1.82
Standard Deviation	1.35
Total Responses	43

#### 15. What percentage of last year's annual household income came from farming?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	0%	11	26%
2	1-25%	22	51%
3	26-50%	3	7%
4	51-75%	3	7%
5	76-100%	4	9%
Total		43	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	2.23
Variance	1.42
Standard Deviation	1.19
Total Responses	43

#### 16. Which of the following agricultural activities or enterprises do you have on your farm/land? (Check all that apply)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Dairy	9	20%
2	Beef	15	33%
3	Horses	3	7%
4	Swine	3	7%
5	Chickens	7	15%
6	Hay & Other Forage	34	74%
7	Row Crops	9	20%
8	Fruit Production	9	20%
9	Vegetable Production	10	22%
10	Greenhouse/High Tunnel	9	20%
11	Forestry (commercial)	6	13%
12	Tree Farm	2	4%
13	Nursery	2	4%
14	Bees	4	9%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	14
Total Responses	46

#### 17. Other livestock (please list)

Text Response
Sheep
Sheep
* Licensed DNR Bird Dog Trainer, Gun Dog Training.

#### 18. Other crops (please list)

Text Response
Maple Syrup
Rent out hay ground
Crops grown are for resale.
I rent farmland to neighbor. Personal garden, multiple domestic apple trees.
Have raised grain in past
I grow food for my family only on a very small area in yard in town. (reg/ greenhouse).

**19. Conservation programs (please list)**

**Text Response**

Certified Organic, EQUIP

Fence, watering systems, heavy use areas, CSP, cattle crossings, nutrient management, MIG.

Nutrient Management Plan.

River restoration project for bank erosion. \* I would be very interested in greenhouse/ high tunnel.

Nutrient Management Plan

Built a pond and planted it with plants along the edges. Planted wind rows (pines).

No subsidized ones, pollination strips, bird areas

20. Agricultural Resources: What is your opinion about current agricultural resource issues and concerns in Ashland County?									
#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Total Responses	Mean
1	Quality of groundwater in Ashland County is generally good	45.00%	51.67%	1.67%	0.00%	0.00%	1.67%	60	1.63
2	Quality of surface water in Ashland County is generally good	31.67%	43.33%	13.33%	5.00%	0.00%	6.67%	60	2.18
3	Groundwater supply and availability in Ashland County are generally good	30.00%	50.00%	11.67%	3.33%	0.00%	5.00%	60	2.08
4	Soil erosion and runoff from agricultural lands is a concern	30.00%	36.67%	15.00%	11.67%	3.33%	3.33%	60	2.32
5	Environmental regulations to protect air, soil and water resources from agricultural operations are currently adequate	16.67%	21.67%	20.00%	18.33%	15.00%	8.33%	60	3.18
6	I could currently find productive/quality farmland to rent or buy in Ashland County	6.67%	31.67%	28.33%	13.33%	1.67%	18.33%	60	3.27
7	Finding suitable land on which to spread manure is currently difficult	3.33%	18.33%	20.00%	21.67%	8.33%	28.33%	60	3.98
8	Fragmented land and smaller parcels currently make farming difficult in Ashland County	1.67%	18.33%	30.00%	30.00%	3.33%	16.67%	60	3.65
9	The loss of productive/quality farmland to non-agricultural land use is a concern	13.33%	35.00%	31.67%	13.33%	1.67%	5.00%	60	2.70
10	There is a general lack of tolerance for agriculture-related noises, odors, and activities	11.67%	26.67%	25.00%	23.33%	10.00%	3.33%	60	3.03
11	Conflict between farm operations and nearby non-farm uses is a concern	5.00%	30.00%	31.67%	25.00%	5.00%	3.33%	60	3.05
12	The income and benefits from an off-farm job are necessary to maintain my farm operation	15.25%	28.81%	22.03%	6.78%	5.08%	22.03%	59	3.24

13	I purchase local foods from farmers markets, community supported agriculture, community gardens, or other local suppliers	25.00%	41.67%	15.00%	3.33%	8.33%	6.67%	60	2.48
14	Global agricultural markets benefit my farming operation or agricultural business	5.00%	13.33%	23.33%	25.00%	11.67%	21.67%	60	3.90

Statistic	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Mean	1.63	2.18	2.08	2.32	3.18	3.27	3.98	3.65	2.70	3.03	3.05	3.24	2.48	3.90
Variance	0.61	1.71	1.37	1.68	2.42	2.40	2.49	1.79	1.47	1.69	1.27	3.15	2.15	2.23
Standard Deviation	0.78	1.31	1.17	1.30	1.56	1.55	1.58	1.34	1.21	1.30	1.13	1.77	1.47	1.49
Total Responses	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	59	60	60

**21. Please add any comments about current agricultural issues and concerns below.**

**Text Response**

I very much support buying local, esp. supporting organic farming.

#10 & #11 (general lack of tolerance and conflict between) will change as the nature of our area changes.

We must continue to keep clean water and air as not only Agriculture is the cause but airplanes are the biggest problem for global warming and that pollution will never stop. Agriculture must Feed the World.

The proposed CAFO concerns me very much. My husband and I farmed for seventeen years, we raised dairy cows and a few pigs. We raised all our own oats and hay, straw and sold clover seed at times. This was in the Township of Peeksville. We sold our farm land to a neighboring beef farmer. We kept a 30 acres of woods that included six acres of cleared this gentleman used that part.

Protect the land and forests - keep out mega-agricultural concerns - our air, land and water are our greatest assets - someone has to speak out for the land - it's much more important than the instant gratification of a few dollars.

I believe more efforts should be made to help the small CSA's of young farmers that have begun to materialize in Ashland County. The entire rural community benefits from this.

Environmental regs are needed - but it seems common sense is not being considered at all. Farmers are not dumping manure just to get rid of it we all know its importance for fertilizer the public seems to think otherwise. Farmers markets are find but they will not serve everyone and everything - lots of people think you go to the store to get what you need not knowing where these farm products come from.

I am concerned about the lack of ground cover on the highly erodable soils on the steeper slopes on the north along the penokee range. Especially where corn and beans are planted year after year.

Get the Government out or limit the EPA & USDA restrictions on farmers.

It is totally unreasonable to allow any materials to be deposited on, or turned under, soil on which food crops will be grown. Once on, the harm is long term, and cannot be easily removed. When the water underneath is contaminated, it's there for an untold length of time. Whether it's soil, water or air, none should be deliberately contaminated, just for convenience. Careful thought should be given before disposing of anything. When nature is damaged, all living things in contact, are also damaged -- perhaps forever.

I see farmer spreading liquid manure on top of snow in winter/ spring months. This is surely running off into Marengo and White Rivers.

The definition of "farm" and "farming " is problematic in that the need for a large land base for farming reduces significantly when the crop is part of a value added system of agriculture and not entirely dependent on the commodities markets.

CAFO's and agricultural run off threaten water quality, rivers and the bay, also my well water quality and quantity are threatened by industrial farming.

Water quality must be maintained!

Septic system issues are complaint driven- need a process similar to what Bayfield County does to help homeowners. We are one, of only three counties in state that don't have a regulatory system in place- not good business.

8. Fragmented small fields are an opportunity for the small guy. 14. At this time no, but alternate larger markets look better than small local direct sales.

Spreading manure is outdated. The cafo and other liquid manure spreading are a huge threat to local water. We need programs to capture runoff with ponds, swales on contour lines so fertility and water can stay where they are needed on the farm.



**22. Agricultural Trends. What is your opinion about the future agricultural issues and concerns in Ashland County?**

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Total Responses	Mean
1	Quality of groundwater in Ashland County will degrade in the next 20 years	13.11%	31.15%	18.03%	22.95%	8.20%	6.56%	61	3.02
2	Quality of surface water in Ashland County will degrade in the next 20 years	19.67%	27.87%	14.75%	22.95%	8.20%	6.56%	61	2.92
3	Groundwater supply and availability in Ashland County will diminish in the next 20 years	13.11%	24.59%	24.59%	18.03%	14.75%	4.92%	61	3.11
4	Environmental regulations to protect air, soil and water resources from agricultural operations need to be strengthened	29.51%	18.03%	21.31%	13.11%	14.75%	3.28%	61	2.75
5	Productive/quality farmland in Ashland County will generally NOT be available in 20 years	8.20%	14.75%	26.23%	34.43%	8.20%	8.20%	61	3.44
6	Mergers among input suppliers (feed, seed, chemical, etc), have seriously reduced competition and increased the prices paid by agricultural producers	9.84%	37.70%	22.95%	4.92%	1.64%	22.95%	61	3.20
7	Mergers among processors/buyers have seriously reduced competition and lowered the prices received by agricultural producers	11.48%	39.34%	19.67%	6.56%	1.64%	21.31%	61	3.11
8	Direct marketing to consumers will become more important to my farm or agricultural business over the next 20 years	19.67%	27.87%	19.67%	9.84%	3.28%	19.67%	61	3.08
9	Population growth and related non-agricultural development will reduce the availability of farmland in Ashland County in	18.03%	18.03%	27.87%	21.31%	4.92%	9.84%	61	3.07



**23. Please add any comments about future agricultural issues and concerns (trends) below.**

**Text Response**

#23 (direct marketing to consumers) that's how we already market about 75% of what we produce, most of that product leaves the Cheq. Bay area. #28 (Large livestock operations threaten the economic viability of smaller livestock operations) Already here & happening. Most of the dairy in this region are CAFO, just don't quite meet the state definition.

The more restriction imposed in agriculture the greater need for Government Cost Share or higher prices needed for commodity products in order for farmers to keep producing to Feed the World.

(When asked questions above about selling land) - My kids will get it. Fight with all your might against the proposed CAFO, that's not farming, that's criminal.

(Groundwater availability will diminish in the next 20 years) at the golf course. (Mergers among input suppliers) - Monsanto killing small farms.

No CAFO!

Production Ag is a commodity enterprise, and as such, pricing is subject to supply & demand. Viability of an enterprise is a function of management.

I am not a farmer, so I cannot answer regarding selling land or livestock. However, I believe both groundwater and surface water should be treated with utmost care.

The path to restoring rural economies is through putting more people on the land not less. Better to have 10 dairy herds of 200 cows than to have 1 herd of 2000.

CAFO is a major concern in our area for water, land, air protection.

29. Only if they buy feed from us and provide us with their excess manure. Right now they just want us out of their way.

State roll back of environment regulations - bad impact on county.

**24. Agricultural Infrastructure. What is your opinion about the following agricultural infrastructure issues and concerns in Ashland County?**

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No Opinion	Total Responses	Mean
1	The roads in Ashland County are adequate for agricultural needs for the next 20 years	4.76%	23.81%	15.87%	39.68%	9.52%	6.35%	63	3.44
2	Transportation issues (road maintenance, seasonal weight restrictions, etc.) are a concern for agricultural operations in Ashland County	20.63%	53.97%	11.11%	4.76%	3.17%	6.35%	63	2.35
3	I have adequate access to financial services for my agricultural operation	1.59%	30.16%	28.57%	3.17%	3.17%	33.33%	63	3.76
4	Access to start-up capital for individuals entering agriculture is adequate	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	30.16%	12.70%	23.81%	63	4.16
5	Ashland County needs more local machinery repair, supply and parts businesses	3.17%	30.16%	31.75%	15.87%	1.59%	17.46%	63	3.35
6	Ashland County needs more agricultural processing facilities	11.11%	34.92%	25.40%	7.94%	1.59%	19.05%	63	3.11
7	Ashland County needs to increase availability of direct farm marketing locations and/or facilities	11.11%	44.44%	25.40%	4.76%	1.59%	12.70%	63	2.79
8	I have adequate access to veterinary services	15.87%	38.10%	14.29%	1.59%	1.59%	28.57%	63	3.21
9	I have adequate access to Farm Co-op services	9.52%	34.92%	22.22%	4.76%	1.59%	26.98%	63	3.35

Statistic	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9
Min Value	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Mean	3.44	2.35	3.76	4.16	3.35	3.11	2.79	3.21	3.35
Variance	1.61	1.71	2.99	1.75	2.13	2.68	2.13	3.68	3.20
Standard Deviation	1.27	1.31	1.73	1.32	1.46	1.64	1.46	1.92	1.79
Total Responses	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63

**25. Please add any comments about agricultural infrastructure in the box below.**

**Text Response**

#36 (needs more ag processing facilities) meat processing. Chicken processing. #38 (adequate access to veterinary services) This will change when our vet retires.

We lack grain storage and warehousing.

Keep DOT off our backs so we can haul manure and feeds without them fining us!

The creation of a food hub with storage and processing facilities would enable many farmers to add additional value added crops.

Having a local broker for farm and consumer contracts would help promote increased vegetable production. Exploring perennial crops for marginal lands would help keep inputs for seed, herbicide and some fertilizers lower and help protect water ways and surface waters.

38. See a problem in the future though. 36. Actually I think they are not working to capacity.

We need a good state or federal licensed meat processor.

**26. Farmland Preservation Program. What is your opinion about the following as it relates to the Farmland Preservation Program?**

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Total Responses	Mean
1	I would be interested in receiving farmland preservation tax credits	16.39%	27.87%	19.67%	6.56%	4.92%	24.59%	61	3.30
2	I support the expansion of the Fields, Waters and Woods Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)	14.75%	32.79%	29.51%	0.00%	0.00%	22.95%	61	3.07
3	I support the creation of a new AEA outside of the current Fields, Waters and Woods (AEA)	8.20%	29.51%	34.43%	4.92%	0.00%	22.95%	61	3.28
4	Farmland is best preserved through the use of 15-year Farmland Preservation Agreements available to producers within an AEA	3.28%	22.95%	37.70%	6.56%	0.00%	29.51%	61	3.66
5	Farmland is best preserved by a Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance administered by the County, Town, or Village	8.20%	29.51%	31.15%	8.20%	3.28%	19.67%	61	3.28

Statistic	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	6	6	6	6	6
Mean	3.30	3.07	3.28	3.66	3.28
Variance	3.38	3.03	2.70	2.70	2.57
Standard Deviation	1.84	1.74	1.64	1.64	1.60
Total Responses	61	61	61	61	61

**27. Please add any comments about the Farmland Preservation Program below.**

**Text Response**

AEA is the area my farm is in. I would expect agriculture treated better in this area, I have not yet seen any advantage to Agriculture in this area. It has no purpose.

Farmland preserved by people who love the land more than money.

Don't know much about farmland preservation.

Let us do what we wish with our land.

I could not find a description of the "fields waters and woods" program on the DATCAP web site.

\* too much nepotism in local government

I don't know these programs.

Next to AEA wrote "Unknown."

If an AEA did not allow confinement operations, I would strongly support it.

28. How important is it for Ashland County to have policies and/or programs for the following?									
#	Question	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion	Total Responses	Mean
1	Policies to minimize the potential for conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses	35.48%	24.19%	27.42%	4.84%	1.61%	6.45%	62	2.32
2	Planning for residential development in specific areas not suitable for agriculture	20.97%	50.00%	22.58%	1.61%	0.00%	4.84%	62	2.24
3	Policies to manage nutrient applications on agricultural land	43.55%	27.42%	20.97%	4.84%	1.61%	1.61%	62	1.98
4	Cost sharing programs for agricultural conservation practices (i.e. manure storage, soil erosion, livestock watering and fencing, nutrient management etc.)	32.26%	35.48%	16.13%	3.23%	3.23%	9.68%	62	2.39
5	Cost sharing programs for non-agricultural conservation practices (i.e. streambank stabilization, lake shoreline habitat, wetland restoration, fish passage, etc.)	37.10%	35.48%	12.90%	6.45%	3.23%	4.84%	62	2.18
6	Financial incentives for permanent agricultural preservation	24.19%	46.77%	19.35%	3.23%	3.23%	3.23%	62	2.24
7	Programs to support education of non-farm public about agricultural practices	33.87%	38.71%	16.13%	3.23%	3.23%	4.84%	62	2.18
8	Programs to expand markets for agricultural products	38.71%	30.65%	19.35%	3.23%	1.61%	6.45%	62	2.18
9	Programs to increase/expand/support local food initiatives (Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture, Community Gardens, etc.)	38.71%	32.26%	17.74%	3.23%	4.84%	3.23%	62	2.13
10	Provide financial resources for new farm start-ups	24.19%	35.48%	25.81%	4.84%	3.23%	6.45%	62	2.47
11	Programs/Regulations to keep land in agriculture over the next 20 years	22.58%	32.26%	24.19%	6.45%	1.61%	12.90%	62	2.71
12	Programs to ensure supply of qualified agricultural labor over next 20 years (e.g. ability to run large farm equipment)	22.58%	27.42%	22.58%	12.90%	3.23%	11.29%	62	2.81
13	Programs to ensure supply of agricultural managers over next 20 years	20.97%	25.81%	24.19%	11.29%	3.23%	14.52%	62	2.94
14	Second language programs for agricultural workers and managers over	8.20%	14.75%	27.87%	16.39%	18.03%	14.75%	61	3.66



15	the next 20 years Programs to recruit equipment & machinery supply businesses	6.45%	22.58%	33.87%	17.74%	4.84%	14.52%	62	3.35
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Statistic	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Mean	2.32	2.24	1.98	2.39	2.18	2.24	2.18	2.18	2.13	2.47	2.71	2.81	2.94	3.66	3.35
Variance	1.93	1.24	1.26	2.34	1.82	1.33	1.69	1.89	1.66	1.83	2.47	2.45	2.68	2.30	2.07
Standard Deviation	1.39	1.11	1.12	1.53	1.35	1.15	1.30	1.37	1.29	1.35	1.57	1.57	1.64	1.52	1.44
Total Responses	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	61	62

**29. Please add any comments about agricultural goals for Ashland County below.**

**Text Response**

#55 (programs to increase/expand/ support local food initiatives) The real issue for my farm is people DO NOT eat local, fresh food. Pass an intelligent immigration policy!  
Support small business that are here!!!  
I am not a farmer, but since the quality of our lives depends on the quality of food available, it is only good sense to maintain the quality of the land it grows on. Degrading soil can cause long-term damage.  
The impacts that agricultural practices have on the ecosystems of Ashland county are becoming more apparent as we closely monitor our water resources. The negative impacts are by and large the result of systems and policies that are not in the control of the local farmers. The costs associated to fix/clean up the ecosystems should NOT be born by the farmers. They are participants in a system they neither created nor control to any great extent.  
For #47 (Policies to minimize the potential for conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses) - who was there first?  
It's my land - should be able to do what I want if it doesn't impact others.  
We need good agricultural managers who can make farms operate as restorative agriculture, ag at this point can be generalized as mining.

**30. How important is it for Ashland County to have policies and/or programs on the following?**

#	Question	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	On Opinion	Total Responses	Mean
1	Policies to attract/expand agricultural input supply enterprises (feed, seed, chemical, etc.)	11.48%	36.07%	18.03%	14.75%	4.92%	14.75%	61	3.10
2	Policies to attract/expand agricultural processing enterprises	18.03%	34.43%	19.67%	9.84%	4.92%	13.11%	61	2.89
3	Programs to encourage local suppliers for small farms	29.51%	36.07%	14.75%	1.64%	6.56%	11.48%	61	2.54

Statistic	Policies to attract/expand agricultural input supply enterprises (feed, seed, chemical, etc.)	Policies to attract/expand agricultural processing enterprises	Programs to encourage local suppliers for small farms
Min Value	1	1	1
Max Value	6	6	6
Mean	3.10	2.89	2.54
Variance	2.52	2.57	2.69
Standard Deviation	1.59	1.60	1.64
Total Responses	61	61	61

**31. Please add any comments about agricultural enterprise goals for Ashland County below.**

**Text Response**

Work with enterprises that are here.

I feel small farms will do a great job of managing land and recreating family own farms. Large CFO's have no business in Ashland or Bayfield Counties due to the landscape and the probability of water contamination on a large scale.

I am organic. United Ag does a crappy job supporting. Also poor support to smaller operations.

#64 (Policies to attract/ expand agricultural processing enterprises) We need to lobby to make it possible for small scale dairy and meat processing to be viable in our area. Regulations about processing are not for public safety, but for corporate profit!

**32. We want your opinion! Please add any comments about agriculture or agricultural preservation in Ashland County.**

**Text Response**

You must let farmers farm. Especially in the A.E.A.

Keep Factory Farms away from all our Townships in Ashland & Bayfield County. My husband past away in April 2014, I know how strongly he felt about farm land and our beautiful woodlands in Ashland County. And our great waters.

No CAFO!!!

I hope that Ashland County will develop policies that maintain the integrity of the Land and Water that surround the shores of Lake Superior. It is crucial that our generation preserve and protect this valuable resource for future generations. It is also very important to ensure the safety and quality of well water for all residents who depend on wells for their drinking water. Thank you.

We do not need more Government regulations!

I understand it is 2016, but where is the common sense our Fore Fathers got us here just fine. I am getting tired of the not in my back yard and liberal attitudes.

I like trees. As the population increases, the land will be more valuable for farmland. Thus, more land clearing to the detriment of our trout streams and beautiful forest land. It would be nice if we could strike a balance between the two somehow. Protect land along rivers and streams and the highly erodable areas.

Regulations kill small operators not enough income to comply or enough time in day.

I am totally against the possibility of the much discussed new farm, to raise thousands of pigs, in a very limited area. First, I believe it is inhumane to raise animals so tightly caged they can barely move, and not even walk. If we treated other animals that way, we would be arrested, and the animals taken away! It is also impossible to maintain cleanliness in such a tightly congested area. The body waste from all these animals cannot be put under ground, without seriously damaged the underground water supply (which extends for countless miles). Disposal on top of the soil would gradually, and steadily, drain into creeks, rivers, and lakes. Any chemicals would become part of both humans and wildlife. Our lake water would not be safe; neither would the fish in it; our air would be terrible!

Many of my neighbors have turned to grass fed beef farms which is proven to be much safer for the environment as well as safer for consumption. I hope to expand my current gardening space with plans to sell produce at local farmers markets.

Agricultural systems have changed many times over the years. There was tremendous upheaval in rural communities with the introduction of mechanized power in the early part of the last century and great changes with the response to the dust bowl and understanding soils and erosion control that resulted. Industrial agriculture is at another point where change is imperative to protect the ecosystems that can only coexist with agriculture when we consciously work on systems built to preserve the ecology of the landscape.

Concentrated animal feed operations and other types of industrial farming need regulation and monitoring. Small and family farms should be supported and preferred by regulation.

Can we re-build the creameries, canneries, meat processors that once existed and more? I think its important to start developing alternative local markets for the medium to large produces or the area.

I feel we should allow the Pig Farm in Washburn on a limited time + amount and check compliance. If they comply allow small expansion over a limited time and if compliance allow further growth!

We really need to support our local farmers and produce a large % of our own food needs for people and livestock.

Harder to farm & to sell farm to next generation because of too many regulations.

Keep pig people out

#47 - Need policy to protect what we have from radical use change. Change is ok - but it shouldn't hurt others.