CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report

Natural Resources in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska: Use and Priorities

2012 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Executive Summary

Natural resources are vital to Nebraska's economy and quality of life. Policies to protect these valuable natural resources – such as soil and water – ensure that they will be available for future generations. However, development of natural resources for economic gain must often be balanced with these policies. Developing such a compromise is often difficult. What barriers are preventing rural Nebraskans from recycling more? What collection methods are they using to recycle? How do they feel about some of the issues surrounding the Keystone XL pipeline? What priorities do rural Nebraskans give for various uses of land and natural resources? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 2,323 responses to the 2012 Nebraska Rural Poll, the seventeenth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about various natural resources. Comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Many rural Nebraskans say they already recycle a lot and face no barriers. However, many rural Nebraskans cite lack of programs and difficulty getting materials to drop-off sites as barriers to recycling.*** Over one-third (38%) of rural Nebraskans already recycle a lot so they face no barriers. Just over one-quarter (26%) say they have no curbside program and almost one-quarter (23%) say it is too hard to take materials to drop-off. Fifteen percent say their community doesn't offer recycling and 14 percent don't know of any drop-off sites.

- ***Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say their community doesn't offer recycling.*** One-third (33%) of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 say their community doesn't offer recycling, compared to four percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans say their community offers either curbside pickup or drop-off recycling for all of the materials listed with the exception of glass bottles.*** Over one-half of rural Nebraskans say their community has drop-off recycling for the following materials: plastic bottles (53%), aluminum cans (62%), newspaper (60%), cardboard/cereal boxes/other paper (56%), and plastic bags (51%). At least two in ten rural Nebraskans say their community offers curbside pickup for the following materials: plastic bottles (24%), other plastic (22%), milk cartons (21%), newspaper (22%), and cardboard/cereal boxes/other paper (21%).

- ***Most rural Nebraskans are in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline, but think it should be built on an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. Most also agree that the decision on location should be controlled by state government, not federal.*** Almost two-thirds (65%) of rural Nebraskans agree that the pipeline should be built along an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. Fifteen percent strongly disagree or disagree with the statement. Most rural Nebraskans (61%) strongly disagree or disagree with the statement, "The pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits." Only 13 percent strongly agree or agree with this statement. Most rural

Nebraskans (73%) strongly agree or agree that if the government ultimately decides the fate of the proposed pipeline, the decision on location within the state should be controlled by state government, not federal. Only nine percent strongly disagree or disagree with this statement.

- ***Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that the pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits.*** Twenty-one percent of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to eleven percent of Southeast region residents.

- ***Most rural Nebraskans rate water protection and conservation as well as production for community/local food systems as a high priority use of land or natural resources.*** Almost two-thirds (65%) rate water protection and conservation as a high priority and over one-half (55%) rate production for community/local food systems as a high priority. In comparison, only 27 percent rate recreational activity as a high priority for land or natural resource use.

- ***Younger persons are more likely than older persons to rate production for community/local food systems as a high priority.*** Sixty-four percent of persons age 19 to 29 rate this item as a high priority, compared to 51 percent of persons age 50 and older.

- ***Persons with occupations in agriculture are less likely than persons with different occupations to rate recreational activity and wildlife habitat as high priority uses of land or natural resources.*** Only 30 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture rate wildlife habitat as a high priority use of land or natural resources, compared to 53 percent of persons with food service and personal care occupations. Similarly, 18 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture rate recreational activity as a high priority use, compared to over one-third (38%) of persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Introduction

Natural resources are vital to Nebraska's economy and quality of life. Policies to protect these valuable natural resources – such as soil and water – ensure that they will be available for future generations. However, development of natural resources for economic gain must often be balanced with these policies. Developing such a compromise is often difficult.

What barriers are preventing rural Nebraskans from recycling more? What collection methods are they using to recycle? How do they feel about some of the issues surrounding the Keystone XL pipeline? What priorities do rural Nebraskans give for various uses of land and natural resources? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 2,323 responses to the 2012 Nebraska Rural Poll, the seventeenth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about various natural resources.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,323 responses from Nebraskans living in the 84 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in March and April to approximately 6,350 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, church, resources, and businesses in the community. This paper reports only results from the resource section of the survey.

A 37% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2009 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 51 years. Seventy percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 68 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 44 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-four percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-six percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Thirty-six percent of the respondents report their 2011 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below $40,000. Fifty-two percent report incomes over $50,000.

Seventy-three percent were employed in 2011 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Nineteen percent are retired. Thirty-two percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Recycling

Pubic interest in recycling has increased in recent years. However, many rural communities lack funding and facilities for recycling programs. A couple questions about recycling were asked to determine what programs are currently available and the barriers faced in recycling.

Rural Nebraskans were first asked what they see as the primary barriers to their household doing more recycling. Over one-third (38%) of rural Nebraskans already recycle a lot so they face no barriers. However, many rural Nebraskans cite lack of programs and difficulty getting materials to drop-off sites. Just over one-quarter (26%) say they have no curbside program and almost one-quarter (23%) say it is too hard to take materials to drop-off (Table 1).

Table 2. *Primary Barriers to Recycling More*

Barrier	
I already recycle a lot – no barriers	38%
No curbside program	26
Too hard to take materials to drop-off	23
My community doesn't offer recycling	15
Don't know of any drop-off sites	14
Don't know what can/can't be recycled	12
Bins/containers fill up too quickly	11
Not enough materials accepted	11
Busy/not interested	11
Not sure it really gets recycled anyway	10
Expensive to sign up for service	9
Would help if I knew what products were made out of recyclables	8
Other	6
What I do doesn't make a difference	3

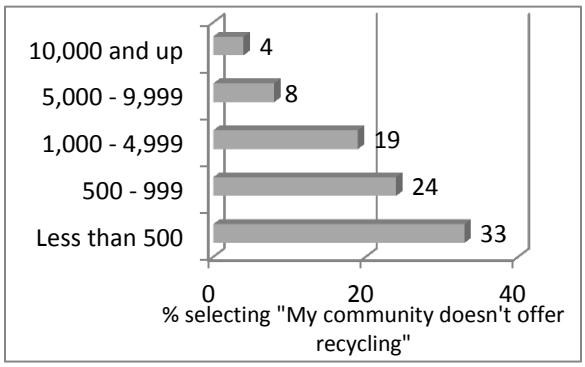
Fifteen percent say their community doesn't offer recycling and 14 percent don't know of any drop-off sites.

These barriers are examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to cite the following as barriers to their household recycling more: too hard to take materials to drop-off, my community doesn't offer recycling, and no curbside program. As an example, one-third (33%) of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 say their community doesn't offer recycling, compared to four percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (Figure 1).

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to cite the following as barriers to recycling: I already recycle a lot – no barriers, not sure it really gets recycled anyway,

Figure 1. *Availability of Community Recycling by Community Size*



and expensive to sign up for service. Fifteen percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say it is expensive to sign up for service, compared to approximately five percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 9,999.

Residents of the Southeast region (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region) are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to cite the following barriers to recycling: what I do doesn't make a difference, my community doesn't offer recycling and no curbside program. One-third (33%) of the Southeast residents say they have no curbside program, compared to 20 percent of persons living in the South Central region.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions to say they are busy/not interested in recycling. Fourteen percent of South Central residents cite this as a barrier to recycling, compared to eight percent of North Central residents. Residents of the Northeast region are the regional group most likely to cite not enough materials accepted and expensive to sign up for service as barriers to recycling.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to cite the following as barriers to recycling: don't know of any drop-off sites, not enough materials accepted and expensive to sign up for service. Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to say they are busy/not interested. Younger persons are more likely than older persons to cite the following as barriers to recycling: too hard to take materials to drop-off, don't know what can/can't be recycled, don't know of any drop-off sites, busy/not interested, and expensive to sign up for service. As an example, 20 percent of persons age 19 to 29 say they are busy/not interested in recycling, compared to four percent of persons age 65 and older. Older persons are more likely than younger persons to say they already recycle a lot and face no barriers. Over one-half (56%) of persons age 65 and older say they face no barriers to recycling, compared to 17 percent of persons age 19 to 29. Persons age 30 to 49 are the age groups most likely to say that bins/containers fill up too quickly is a barrier to recycling. And, persons age 30 to 39 are the age group most likely to say no curbside program is a barrier.

Males are more likely than females to say they face no barriers to recycling. Forty-three percent of males say they already recycle a lot and face no barriers, compared to 34 percent of females. And, males are more likely than females to say that not enough materials accepted is a barrier to their household recycling more. Females are more likely than males to cite the following barriers: too hard to take materials to drop-off, my community doesn't offer recycling, don't know of any drop-off sites, and expensive to sign up for service.

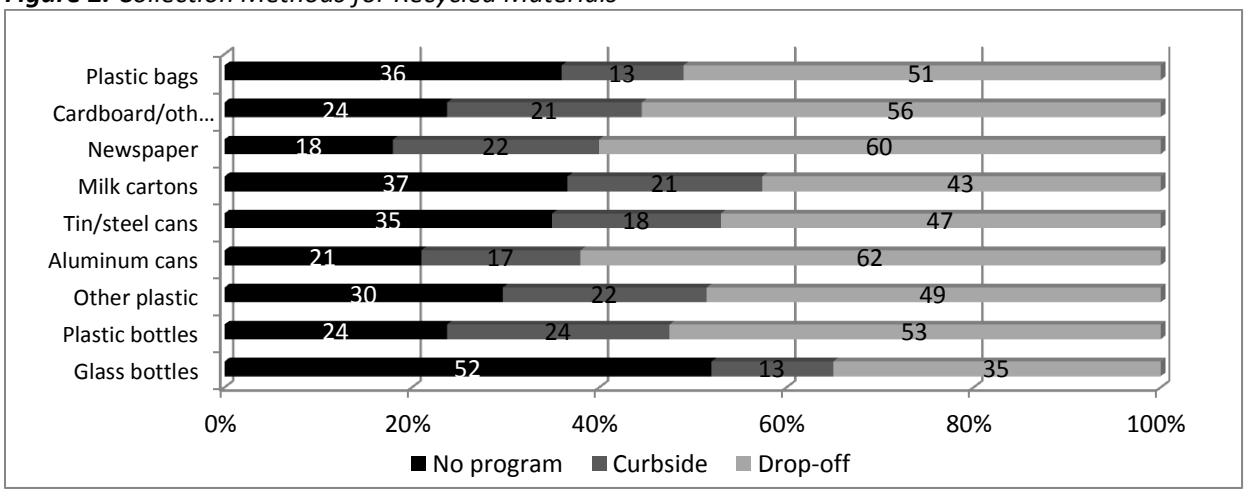
Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with higher education levels to say they already recycle a lot and face no barriers. Forty-two percent of persons with a

high school diploma or less education say they already recycle a lot, compared to 34 percent of persons with at least a four-year college degree. Persons with lower education levels are the education group most likely to say it would help if they knew what products were made out of recyclables and that it is expensive to sign up for service are barriers to their household recycling more. Persons with the highest education levels are the group most likely to say no curbside program is a barrier to their household recycling more.

Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to say they already recycle a lot and face no barriers. Almost one-half (49%) of persons with these types of occupations say they already recycle a lot, compared to 20 percent of persons with occupations classified as other. Persons with management, professional or education occupations and persons with occupations in agriculture are the occupation groups most likely to say it is too hard to take materials to drop-off. Persons with production, transportation and warehousing occupations are the group most likely to say it would help if they knew what products were made out of recyclables and that no curbside program were barriers to their household recycling more. Persons with occupations classified as other are more likely than persons with different occupations to say they don't know of any drop-off sites. Persons with food service or personal care occupations are the group most likely to say that the expense of signing up for the service is a barrier to their household recycling more.

Next, respondents were asked which materials their community recycles and how they are collected. For each type of material, they were given three responses: no recycling program, curbside pickup and drop-off recycling. Most rural Nebraskans say their community offers either curbside pickup or drop-off recycling for all of the materials listed with the exception of glass bottles. Over one-half of rural Nebraskans say their community has drop-off recycling for the following materials: plastic bottles (53%), aluminum cans (62%), newspaper (60%), cardboard/cereal boxes/other paper (56%), and plastic bags (51%) (Figure 2). At least two in ten rural Nebraskans say their community offers curbside pickup for the following materials: plastic bottles (24%), other plastic (22%), milk cartons (21%), newspaper (22%), and cardboard/cereal boxes/other paper (21%).

Figure 2. *Collection Methods for Recycled Materials*



The collection methods for recycled materials are examined by community size, region and location of residence (Appendix Table 3).

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say their community has curbside pickup for all the materials listed. As an example, one-half (50%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say their community has curbside pickup for plastic bottles, compared to approximately four percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000. Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say they have no recycling program for each material listed. For example, approximately two-thirds (66%) of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people say their community has no recycling program for plastic bags, compared to only 14 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions to say they have no recycling program for glass bottles and plastic bags. Residents of the Northeast region are the regional group most likely to say they have no recycling program for plastic bottles, other plastic and milk cartons. Residents of the Panhandle are the group most likely to say they have no recycling program for tin/steel cans. Southeast region residents are the group most likely to say their community does not have a recycling program for aluminum cans, newspaper, and cardboard/cereal boxes/other paper.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions to have curbside pickup of each material listed. As an example, 40 percent of South Central residents say their community has curbside pickup for plastic bottles, compared to only six percent of Panhandle residents.

Persons living within city limits are more likely than persons living outside city limits to have curbside pickup for each material listed. As an example, 29 percent of persons living within city limits have curbside pickup for other plastic, compared to one percent of persons living outside city limits on a farm or ranch. Persons living outside city limits on a farm or ranch are the group most likely to say they don't have a recycling program available for any of the materials listed. For example, over one-half (52%) of persons living outside city limits on a farm or ranch say they have no recycling program for milk cartons, compared to 32 percent of persons living within city limits.

Keystone XL Pipeline Issues

Discussions about building the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline across Nebraska have centered around protecting the natural resources of the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. A question was asked to see how rural Nebraskans view the issues raised during these discussions. Respondents were given a list of five statements about the Keystone XL Pipeline project and were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each.

Most rural Nebraskans are in favor of building the pipeline, but think it needs to be built on an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. Most also agree that the decision on location should be controlled by state government, not federal.

Most rural Nebraskans (60%) strongly disagree or disagree that the pipeline should have been built along the original route through the Sandhills without this debate (Table 2). Only 21

Table 2. *Opinions about Keystone XL Pipeline Project*

	Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*
The pipeline should have been built along the original route through the Sandhills without this debate.	37%	23%	19%	11%	10%
The pipeline should be built along an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer.	6	9	21	30	35
The pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits.	35	26	26	6	7
The decision to build the pipeline should be only between landowners and pipeline owners and should not involve the government.	18	28	24	18	12
If the government ultimately decides the fate of the proposed pipeline, the decision on location within the state should be controlled by state government, not federal.	4	5	18	38	35

percent strongly agree or agree with the statement.

Almost two-thirds (65%) of rural Nebraskans agree that the pipeline should be built along an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. Fifteen percent strongly disagree or disagree with the statement.

Most rural Nebraskans (61%) strongly disagree or disagree with the statement, "The pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits." Only 13 percent strongly agree or agree with this statement.

Opinions are mixed on who should control the decision to build the pipeline. Many rural Nebraskans (46%) strongly disagree or disagree with the statement that the decision to build the pipeline should be only between landowners and pipeline owners and should not involve the government. Thirty percent strongly agree or agree with this statement and almost one-quarter (24%) neither agree nor disagree with the statement.

Most rural Nebraskans (73%) strongly agree or agree that if the government ultimately decides the fate of the proposed pipeline, the decision on location within the state should be controlled by state government, not federal. Only nine percent strongly disagree or disagree with this statement.

These opinions are examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that the pipeline should have been built along the original route without debate. Almost one-quarter (24%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 500 or less agree with this statement, compared to 19 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Persons with less education are more likely than persons with more education to agree that the pipeline should have been built along the original route without debate. One-quarter (25%) of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree with this statement, compared to 18 percent of persons with at least a four year college degree.

Other groups most likely to agree that the pipeline should have been built along the original route without debate include males, older persons and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

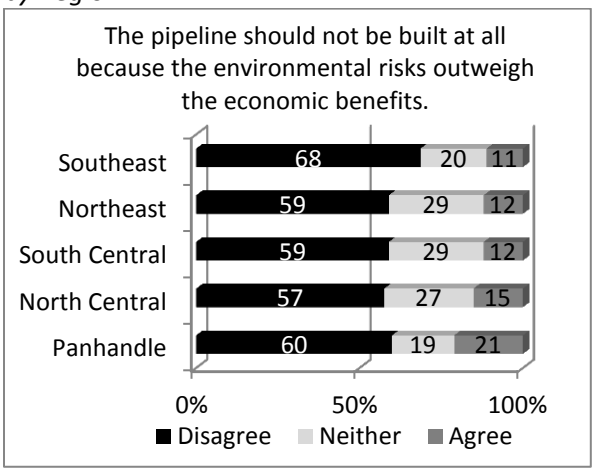
Older persons are more likely than younger persons to agree that the pipeline should be built along an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. Over three-quarters (77%) of persons age 65 and older agree with this statement, compared to 52 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

Other groups most likely to agree with the statement include males, persons with occupations in agriculture and persons with occupations classified as other.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that the pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits. Twenty-one percent of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to eleven percent of Southeast region residents (Figure 3).

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to agree that the pipeline should not be built at all. Twenty-two percent of persons with household incomes under $20,000 agree with this statement, compared to nine percent of persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

Figure 3. *Opinions about Building the Pipeline by Region*



When comparing responses by age, older persons are more likely than younger persons to *disagree* with the statement that the pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits. Just over two-thirds (68%) of persons over the age of 50 disagree with this statement, compared to 44 percent of persons age 19 to 29. And, males are more likely than females to *disagree* with the statement.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that the decision to build the pipeline should only be between landowners and pipeline owners and should not involve the government. Forty-four percent of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to 27 percent of residents of both the South Central and Northeast regions.

Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to agree that the decision to build the pipeline should only be between landowners and pipeline owners. Forty-one percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree with this statement, compared to 23 percent of persons with at least a four year college degree.

Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999; persons with lower household incomes; older persons; females; and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to agree that if the government decides the fate of the proposed pipeline, the decision on location should be controlled by state government. Eighty-two percent of persons age 65 and older agree with this statement, compared to 56 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

Persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that the decision on the location of the pipeline should be controlled by the state government if government ultimately decides the fate of the project. Seventy-nine percent of persons with occupations in agriculture agree with this statement, compared to 51 percent of persons with occupations classified as other.

Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 and males.

Land and Natural Resource Use Priorities

Finally, respondents were asked what priority they would give to various uses of Nebraska's land or natural resources. Most rural Nebraskans rate water protection and conservation as well as production for community/local food systems as a high priority. Almost two-thirds (65%) rate water protection and conservation as a high priority and over one-half (55%) rate production for community/local food systems as a high priority (Table 3). In comparison, only 27 percent rate recreational activity as a high priority for land or natural resource use.

Priorities of land and natural resource use are examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Persons living in the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to rate commercial/commodity production for global food demand as a high priority. Forty-two percent of South Central residents rate this item as a high priority, compared to 34 percent of residents of the North Central region.

Table 3. *Land and Natural Resource Use Priorities*

	Not a priority	*Low priority*	*Medium priority*	*High priority*
Commercial/commodity production for global food demand	5%	13%	44%	38%
Production for community/local food systems	2	6	39	55
Bioenergy/biofuels and renewable energy production	4	11	40	45
Wildlife habitat	2	14	45	39
Recreational activity	3	20	51	27
Open space	4	20	44	32
Water protection and conservation	1	5	30	65
Residential, business or economic development	5	14	46	36

Persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to rate commercial/commodity production for global food demand as a high priority. One-half (50%) of persons with occupations in agriculture rate this item as a high priority, compared to 24 percent of persons with occupations classified as other.

Other groups most likely to rate commercial/ commodity production for global food demand as a high priority include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999, persons with higher household incomes, males, persons with higher education levels, and persons living outside city limits on a farm or ranch.

Persons living in the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to rate production for community/ local food systems as a high priority. Fifty-nine percent of residents of the South Central region rate this item as a high priority, compared to 49 percent of residents of the North Central region.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to rate production for community/local food systems as a high priority. Sixty-four percent of persons age 19 to 29 rate this item as a high priority, compared to 51 percent of persons age 50 and older.

Other groups most likely to rate production for community/local food systems as a high priority include: females, persons with higher education levels, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in or near communities of different sizes to rate bioenergy/biofuels and renewable energy production as a high priority. Other groups most likely to rate this item as a high priority include persons with higher household incomes and younger persons. When comparing responses by occupation, persons with occupations classified as other are the group *least* likely to rate bioenergy/biofuels and renewable energy production as a high priority use of land or natural resources.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to rate wildlife habitat as a high priority. Forty-five percent of Panhandle residents rate wildlife habitat as a high priority use of land or natural resources, compared to 32 percent of Southeast region residents.

Other groups most likely to rate wildlife habitat as a high priority use of land or natural resources include: persons with lower household incomes, younger persons, persons with some college education (but less than a four year degree), persons with food service or personal care occupations and persons living outside city limits in a rural subdivision.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to rate recreational activity as a high priority use of land or natural resources. Thirty percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more rate recreational activity as a high priority, compared to 22 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to rate recreational activity as a high priority. Almost one-third (32%) of Panhandle residents rate recreational activity as a high priority use of land or natural resources, compared to 22 percent of residents of the Northeast region.

Persons with occupations in food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to rate recreational activity as a high priority use of land or natural resources. Over one-third (38%) of persons with these types of occupations rate recreational activity as a high priority, compared to 18 percent of persons with occupations in production, transportation or warehousing or persons with occupations in agriculture (Figure 4).

Other groups most likely to rate recreational activity as a high priority use of land or natural resources include: persons with lower household incomes, younger persons, persons with higher education levels, persons living within city limits and persons living outside city limits not on a farm or ranch.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to rate open space as a high priority use of land or natural resources. Approximately 35 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 rate open space as a high priority, compared to 28 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999.

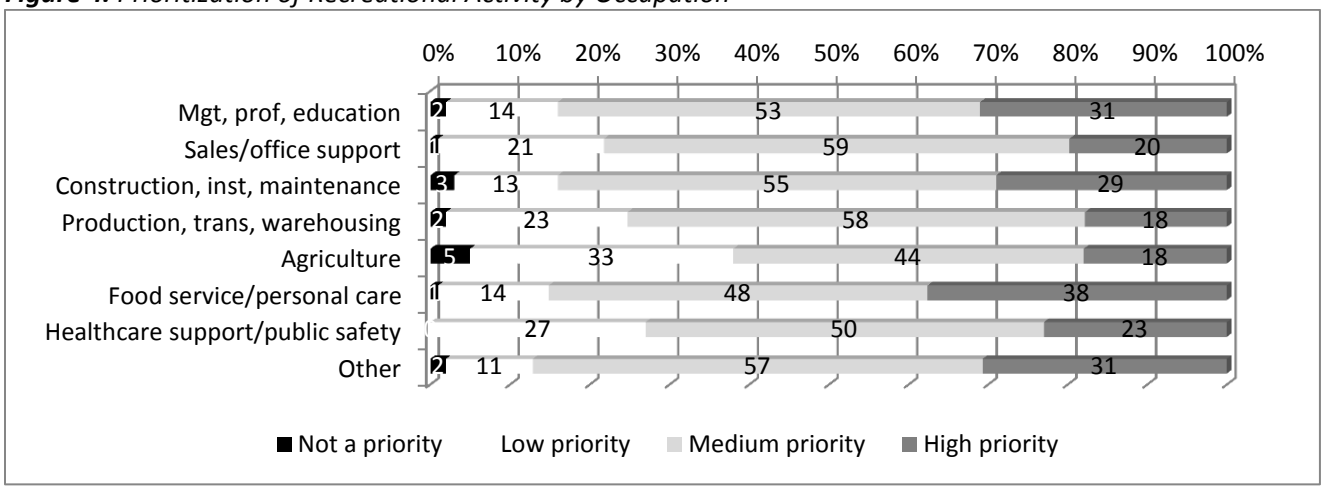
Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to rate open space as a high priority. Forty-one percent of North Central region residents rate open space as a high priority use of land or natural resources, compared to one-quarter (25%) of residents of the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to rate open space as a high priority use of land or natural resources include: persons with lower household incomes; younger persons; females; persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations; persons with food service or personal care occupations; and persons living within city limits.

The groups most likely to rate water protection and conservation as a high priority use of land or natural resources include: persons with lower household incomes, older persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Northeast region residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to rate residential, business or economic development as a high priority use of land or natural resources. Forty percent of Northeast region

Figure 4. *Prioritization of Recreational Activity by Occupation*



residents rate this item as a high priority, compared to 31 percent of Southeast region residents.

Other groups most likely to rate residential, business or economic development as a high priority use of land or natural resources include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999; older persons; persons with lower education levels; persons with food service or personal care occupations; and persons living within city limits.

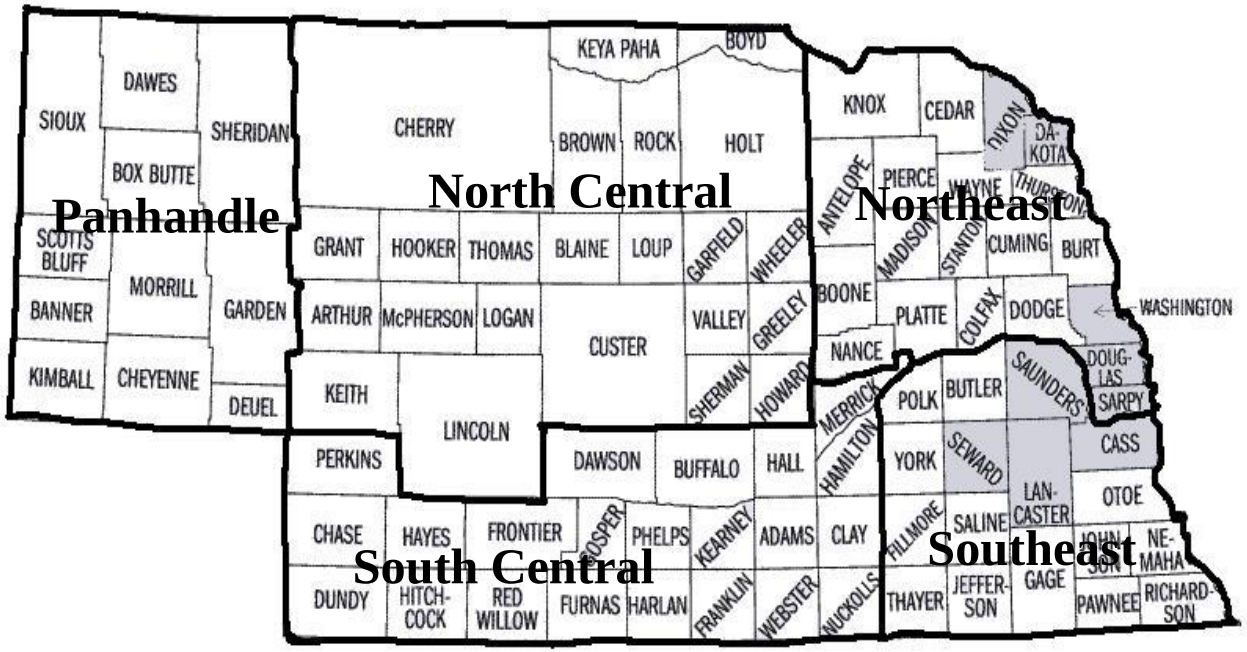
Conclusion

Many rural Nebraskans say they already recycle a lot and face no barriers. However, many rural Nebraskans cite lack of programs and difficulty getting materials to drop-off sites as barriers to recycling. Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say their community doesn't offer recycling. However, most rural Nebraskans say their community offers either curbside pickup or drop-off recycling for all of the materials listed with the exception of glass bottles.

Most rural Nebraskans are in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline, but think it should be built on an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer. Most also agree that the decision on location should be controlled by state government, not federal. Most rural Nebraskans (61%) strongly disagree or disagree with the statement, "The pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits." And, most rural Nebraskans (73%) strongly agree or agree that if the government ultimately decides the fate of the proposed pipeline, the decision on location within the state should be controlled by state government, not federal.

Most rural Nebraskans rate water protection and conservation as well as production for community/local food systems as a high priority use of land or natural resources. In comparison, just over one-quarter rate recreational activity as a high priority for land or natural resource use. Younger persons are more likely than older persons to rate production for community/local food systems as a high priority. Persons with occupations in agriculture are less likely than persons with different occupations to rate recreational activity and wildlife habitat as high priority uses of land or natural resources.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

Appendix Table 1. *Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents*[1] *Compared to 2010 Census and 2009 American Community Survey*

	2012 Poll	***2011 Poll***	***2010 Poll***	***2009 Poll***	***2008 Poll***	***2007 Poll***	***2009 ACS***
Age : [2]							
20 - 39	31%	31%	32%	32%	32%	31%	31%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	46%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	25%	24%
Gender: [3]							
Female	61%	60%	59%	57%	56%	59%	50%
Male	39%	40%	41%	43%	44%	41%	50%
Education: [4]							
Less than 9th grade	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	5%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	6%	8%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	22%	26%	25%	26%	26%	26%	34%
Some college, no degree	25%	23%	25%	25%	25%	23%	26%
Associate degree	15%	16%	14%	15%	12%	14%	10%
Bachelors degree	24%	19%	20%	20%	21%	18%	13%
Graduate or professional degree	11%	12%	11%	10%	10%	10%	5%
Household Income: [5]							
Less than $10,000	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
$10,000 - $19,999	10%	10%	10%	9%	10%	13%	14%
$20,000 - $29,999	11%	13%	13%	13%	14%	15%	14%
$30,000 - $39,999	10%	14%	12%	13%	14%	14%	13%
$40,000 - $49,999	12%	11%	13%	12%	13%	13%	11%
$50,000 - $59,999	13%	12%	11%	13%	11%	12%	9%
$60,000 - $74,999	14%	12%	13%	14%	13%	11%	11%
$75,000 or more	25%	22%	23%	21%	18%	16%	21%
Marital Status: [6]							
Married	70%	66%	71%	68%	70%	70%	58%
Never married	10%	14%	9%	10%	10%	10%	24%
Divorced/separated	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%	11%
Widowed/widower	10%	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%	8%

[1] Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

[2] 2010 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[3] 2010 Census universe is total non-metro population.

[4] 2009 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

[5] 2009 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

[6] 2009 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

Appendix Table 2. *Barriers to Recycling by Community Size, Region and Various Individual Attributes*

	What do you see as the primary barriers to your household doing more recycling?					
	I already recycle a lot – no barriers	*Too hard to take materials to drop-off*	*Not sure it really gets recycled anyway*	*What I do doesn't make a difference*	*Don't know what can/can't be recycled*	*My community doesn't offer recycling*
	Percent circling each response					
Total	38	23	10	3	12	15
Community Size	(n = 2056)					
Less than 500	27	32	7	3	12	33
500 - 999	34	25	6	5	11	24
1,000 - 4,999	37	27	11	4	11	19
5,000 - 9,999	37	21	10	2	9	8
10,000 and up	45	18	11	3	14	4
Significance	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.037)*	(.264)	(.184)	(.000)*
Region	(n = 2149)					
Panhandle	31	24	12	2	14	14
North Central	36	26	9	3	13	11
South Central	41	21	8	3	12	12
Northeast	39	24	12	2	10	18
Southeast	36	25	8	7	11	21
Significance	(.065)	(.396)	(.108)	(.004)*	(.398)	(.000)*
Income Level	(n = 1962)					
Under $20,000	37	27	12	4	14	19
$20,000 - $39,999	40	23	8	2	13	16
$40,000 - $59,999	37	23	10	4	11	14
$60,000 and over	36	23	10	3	11	14
Significance	(.609)	(.468)	(.476)	(.266)	(.464)	(.251)
Age	(n = 2159)					
19 - 29	17	25	9	3	23	16
30 - 39	25	29	13	1	13	18
40 - 49	36	24	9	4	9	15
50 - 64	43	22	9	4	8	16
65 and older	56	20	8	4	9	12
Significance	(.000)*	(.026)*	(.210)	(.099)	(.000)*	(.112)
Gender	(n = 2123)					
Male	43	20	9	5	10	12
Female	34	26	10	2	13	17
Significance	(.000)*	(.001)*	(.214)	(.000)*	(.017)*	(.002)*
Education	(n = 2112)					
H.S. diploma or less	42	22	9	5	11	15
Some college	37	22	9	3	13	16
Bachelors degree	34	26	11	3	11	15
Significance	(.016)*	(.134)	(.175)	(.149)	(.399)	(.952)
Occupation	(n = 1477)					
Mgt, prof or education	37	29	11	2	11	13
Sales or office support	30	20	10	1	13	16
Constrn, inst or maint	49	12	13	4	12	8
Prodn/trans/warehsing	34	11	5	3	18	17
Agriculture	35	28	8	4	10	16
Food serv/pers. care	23	24	11	0	17	10
Hlthcare supp/safety	31	24	9	2	15	20
Other	20	17	18	2	12	20
Significance	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.130)	(.177)	(.252)	(.051)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	What do you see as the primary barriers to your household doing more recycling?						
	Would help if I knew what products were made out of recyclables	*Bins/ containers fill up too quickly*	*Don't know of any drop-off sites*	*No curbside program*	*Busy/not interested*	*Not enough materials accepted*	*Expensive to sign up for service*
			Percent circling each response				
Total	8	11	14	26	11	11	9
Community Size			(n = 2056)				
Less than 500	7	12	17	28	11	6	9
500 - 999	8	12	13	30	14	18	6
1,000 - 4,999	8	10	17	38	10	10	5
5,000 - 9,999	7	15	6	33	14	11	6
10,000 and up	9	11	14	12	10	13	15
Significance	(.695)	(.307)	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.335)	(.000)*	(.000)*
Region			(n = 2149)				
Panhandle	9	16	11	28	10	11	4
North Central	10	13	11	31	8	8	3
South Central	9	11	15	20	14	10	9
Northeast	7	9	17	26	10	14	15
Southeast	8	12	14	33	9	10	9
Significance	(.805)	(.037)*	(.049)*	(.000)*	(.009)*	(.030)*	(.000)*
Income Level			(n = 1962)				
Under $20,000	9	9	18	22	6	15	18
$20,000 - $39,999	13	10	16	24	12	9	7
$40,000 - $59,999	11	12	15	26	12	9	9
$60,000 and over	5	12	12	28	14	11	8
Significance	(.000)*	(.445)	(.044)*	(.227)	(.004)*	(.025)*	(.000)*
Age			(n = 2159)				
19 - 29	9	8	31	27	20	9	16
30 - 39	6	15	16	34	11	14	13
40 - 49	5	17	10	24	13	11	8
50 - 64	9	9	11	25	10	13	6
65 and older	11	10	8	23	4	9	7
Significance	(.008)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.013)*	(.000)*	(.079)	(.000)*
Gender			(n = 2123)				
Male	7	10	9	24	11	13	7
Female	9	12	18	27	11	10	11
Significance	(.113)	(.032)*	(.000)*	(.040)*	(.517)	(.019)*	(.000)*
Education			(n = 2112)				
H.S. diploma or less	12	9	11	22	9	10	13
Some college	9	11	17	26	12	12	9
Bachelors degree	5	13	13	29	11	11	8
Significance	(.000)*	(.090)	(.004)*	(.040)*	(.264)	(.537)	(.012)*
Occupation			(n = 1477)				
Mgt, prof or education	5	14	11	30	12	11	8
Sales or office support	12	10	23	29	12	13	10
Constrn, inst or maint	4	10	13	21	13	15	6
Prodn/trans/warehsing	18	8	18	33	9	16	13
Agriculture	5	12	7	20	15	11	4
Food serv/pers. care	13	18	15	23	18	6	25
Hlthcare supp/safety	7	8	22	27	10	9	9
Other	5	9	30	15	17	6	15
Significance	(.000)*	(.103)	(.000)*	(.015)*	(.342)	(.138)	(.000)*

Appendix Table 3. *Collection Method for Recycled Materials by Community Size, Region and Location of Residence*

	Glass bottles				***Plastic bottles***			
	No Recycling Program	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*	*No Recycling Program*	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	52	13	35		24	24	53	
Community Size		(n = 1662)				(n = 1728)		
Less than 500	75	2	23		51	4	45	
500 - 999	69	1	30		38	3	60	
1,000 - 4,999	56	9	36		30	15	55	
5,000 - 9,999	42	8	50	χ^2 = 222.08*	10	13	77	χ^2 = 513.42*
10,000 and up	38	26	36	(.000)	8	50	42	(.000)
Region		(n = 1726)				(n = 1798)		
Panhandle	39	2	59		20	6	74	
North Central	58	4	38		22	13	65	
South Central	49	21	30		19	40	40	
Northeast	57	13	30	χ^2 = 118.11*	30	21	49	χ^2 = 176.93*
Southeast	52	8	39	(.000)	26	14	60	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 1698)				(n = 1764)		
Within city limits	50	17	33		21	31	48	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	51	5	44		21	17	62	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	59	1	40	χ^2 = 77.44*	36	2	63	χ^2 = 142.34*
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	57	2	42	(.000)	28	8	64	(.000)

	Other plastic				***Aluminum cans***			
	No Recycling Program	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*	*No Recycling Program*	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	30	22	49		21	17	62	
Community Size		(n = 1665)				(n = 1764)		
Less than 500	58	4	38		55	3	43	
500 - 999	42	3	55		32	2	66	
1,000 - 4,999	37	13	50		24	12	64	
5,000 - 9,999	19	13	69	χ^2 = 444.46*	8	11	81	χ^2 = 476.91*
10,000 and up	11	46	43	(.000)	5	36	59	(.000)
Region		(n = 1730)				(n = 1834)		
Panhandle	30	5	65		15	3	83	
North Central	31	12	57		18	11	71	
South Central	24	38	38		22	29	50	
Northeast	34	18	49	χ^2 = 155.88*	19	17	64	χ^2 = 128.63*
Southeast	33	12	55	(.000)	29	11	60	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 1698)				(n = 1800)		
Within city limits	27	29	45		18	23	59	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	29	11	60		21	12	67	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	42	1	56	χ^2 = 131.80*	31	1	69	χ^2 = 107.08*
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	32	7	61	(.000)	23	7	70	(.000)

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	Tin/steel cans				*Milk cartons*			
	No Recycling Program	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*	*No Recycling Program*	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	35	18	47		37	21	43	
Community Size		(n = 1636)				(n = 1630)		
Less than 500	64	2	34		63	3	35	
500 - 999	54	3	43		56	3	41	
1,000 - 4,999	41	12	47		43	12	45	
5,000 - 9,999	28	11	61	χ^2 = 381.60*	24	14	63	χ^2 = 416.65*
10,000 and up	13	37	50	(.000)	17	46	38	(.000)
Region		(n = 1702)				(n = 1692)		
Panhandle	40	3	58		39	6	56	
North Central	32	12	56		36	10	54	
South Central	32	29	39		33	35	32	
Northeast	36	18	47	χ^2 = 91.95*	40	19	41	χ^2 = 128.83*
Southeast	38	11	51	(.000)	36	14	50	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 1669)				(n = 1664)		
Within city limits	32	24	44		32	28	40	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	34	14	53		39	11	50	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	46	1	54	χ^2 = 108.29*	52	1	47	χ^2 = 126.19*
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	42	3	56	(.000)	44	6	50	(.000)

	Newspaper				*Cardboard/cereal boxes/other paper*			
	No Recycling Program	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*	*No Recycling Program*	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	18	22	60		24	21	56	
Community Size		(n = 1763)				(n = 1728)		
Less than 500	49	4	47		52	3	45	
500 - 999	26	5	69		39	5	56	
1,000 - 4,999	18	14	68		28	13	59	
5,000 - 9,999	8	13	80	χ^2 = 535.28*	11	12	77	χ^2 = 452.29*
10,000 and up	5	48	48	(.000)	7	44	49	(.000)
Region		(n = 1837)				(n = 1797)		
Panhandle	17	5	79		25	5	70	
North Central	20	15	65		27	12	62	
South Central	17	37	46		20	34	46	
Northeast	15	21	64	χ^2 = 149.49*	20	19	60	χ^2 = 124.31*
Southeast	25	13	63	(.000)	33	14	54	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 1802)				(n = 1769)		
Within city limits	15	29	56		20	27	53	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	15	16	70		22	14	64	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	28	3	69	χ^2 = 131.58*	35	2	63	χ^2 = 127.45*
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	25	8	68	(.000)	34	7	60	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 continued

	Plastic bags			
	No Recycling Program	*Curbside Pickup*	*Drop-off Recycling*	*Significance*
Total	36	13	51	
Community Size		(n = 1659)		
Less than 500	66	3	32	
500 - 999	57	2	41	
1,000 - 4,999	46	9	46	
5,000 - 9,999	23	8	68	χ^2 = 358.69*
10,000 and up	14	27	60	(.000)
Region		(n = 1725)		
Panhandle	32	0	68	
North Central	44	5	51	
South Central	30	24	47	
Northeast	39	12	50	χ^2 = 112.25*
Southeast	42	9	49	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 1695)		
Within city limits	32	18	50	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	31	6	63	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	50	1	49	χ^2 = 93.47*
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	45	3	52	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4. *Opinions about the Keystone XL Pipeline by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	The pipeline should have been built along the original route through the Sandhills without this debate.				***The pipeline should be built along an alternate route that avoids the Sandhills and Ogallala aquifer.***			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	60	19	21		14	21	65	
Community Size		(n = 2005)				(n = 2003)		
Less than 500	61	15	24		17	18	66	
500 - 999	65	16	20		10	23	67	
1,000 - 4,999	55	25	20		16	24	60	
5,000 - 9,999	58	21	21	χ^2 = 18.47*	15	21	64	χ^2 = 11.50
10,000 and up	62	19	19	(.018)	14	20	66	(.175)
Region		(n = 2095)				(n = 2089)		
Panhandle	62	18	20		17	20	63	
North Central	63	16	21		17	23	61	
South Central	58	19	22		15	21	64	
Northeast	60	22	19	χ^2 = 6.46	11	23	66	χ^2 = 12.68
Southeast	61	20	19	(.596)	14	18	68	(.123)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1915)				(n = 1917)		
Under $20,000	56	19	26		15	27	59	
$20,000 - $39,999	61	16	23		15	20	66	
$40,000 - $59,999	62	21	17	χ^2 = 12.33	15	21	65	χ^2 = 6.31
$60,000 and over	58	21	21	(.055)	15	21	64	(.390)
Age		(n = 2103)				(n = 2100)		
19 - 29	48	33	19		12	36	52	
30 - 39	55	28	17		13	28	59	
40 - 49	62	16	21		16	23	61	
50 - 64	63	15	22	χ^2 = 87.48*	17	15	68	χ^2 = 107.62*
65 and older	67	12	22	(.000)	12	11	77	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2067)				(n = 2063)		
Male	62	11	27	χ^2 = 73.41*	19	14	68	χ^2 = 55.10*
Female	58	25	17	(.000)	12	26	63	(.000)
Education		(n = 2055)				(n = 2053)		
High school diploma or less	54	21	25		16	21	63	
Some college	60	19	21	χ^2 = 10.19*	16	22	62	χ^2 = 9.22
Bachelors or grad degree	63	19	18	(.037)	12	19	69	(.056)
Occupation		(n = 1448)				(n = 1446)		
Mgt, prof or education	60	21	19		13	21	67	
Sales or office support	58	25	18		12	34	54	
Constrn, inst or maint	70	8	23		28	9	63	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	62	18	20		23	22	56	
Agriculture	68	8	24		17	15	69	
Food serv/pers. care	43	27	29		20	30	50	
Hlthcare supp/safety	54	33	13	χ^2 = 69.02*	8	34	58	χ^2 = 79.74*
Other	45	36	19	(.000)	3	27	69	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	The pipeline should not be built at all because the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits.				***The decision to build the pipeline should be only between landowners and pipeline owners and should not involve the government.***			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*	*Disagree*	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Total	61	26	13		46	24	30	
Community Size		(n = 1992)				(n = 1998)		
Less than 500	58	29	13		50	20	29	
500 - 999	58	27	15		40	27	33	
1,000 - 4,999	60	29	12		44	25	31	
5,000 - 9,999	66	19	15	χ^2 = 11.59	44	20	37	χ^2 = 19.74*
10,000 and up	61	25	13	(.171)	50	25	25	(.011)
Region		(n = 2078)				(n = 2085)		
Panhandle	60	19	21		35	21	44	
North Central	57	27	15		38	25	36	
South Central	59	29	12		48	25	27	
Northeast	59	29	12	χ^2 = 29.91*	48	25	27	χ^2 = 39.56*
Southeast	68	20	11	(.000)	52	19	30	(.000)
Individual Attributes:								
Household Income Level		(n = 1903)				(n = 1911)		
Under $20,000	51	27	22		33	23	44	
$20,000 - $39,999	59	27	14		41	24	35	
$40,000 - $59,999	57	29	14	χ^2 = 40.47*	43	27	30	χ^2 = 63.99*
$60,000 and over	67	24	9	(.000)	55	22	23	(.000)
Age		(n = 2085)				(n = 2096)		
19 - 29	44	43	14		30	33	37	
30 - 39	54	33	13		49	29	23	
40 - 49	63	25	12		53	23	24	
50 - 64	68	19	14	χ^2 = 92.06*	54	19	27	χ^2 = 96.05*
65 and older	68	19	13	(.000)	41	19	40	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2052)				(n = 2058)		
Male	72	17	12	χ^2 = 80.06*	55	17	28	χ^2 = 49.50*
Female	53	33	14	(.000)	40	28	32	(.000)
Education		(n = 2041)				(n = 2049)		
High school diploma or less	58	27	15		35	24	41	
Some college	60	26	14	χ^2 = 3.54	45	25	30	χ^2 = 56.06*
Bachelors or grad degree	62	26	12	(.472)	55	22	23	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1449)				(n = 1449)		
Mgt, prof or education	61	27	12		54	22	24	
Sales or office support	56	29	15		41	32	27	
Constrn, inst or maint	60	31	9		57	17	26	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	67	21	12		53	19	28	
Agriculture	63	22	15		52	23	25	
Food serv/pers. care	55	31	14		37	18	45	
Hlthcare supp/safety	65	23	11	χ^2 = 19.22	47	27	26	χ^2 = 42.82*
Other	44	40	16	(.157)	41	38	21	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 4 continued

	If the government ultimately decides the fate of the proposed pipeline, the decision on location within the state should be controlled by state government, not federal.			
	Disagree	*Neither*	*Agree*	*Significance*
Total	9	18	72	
Community Size		(n = 2012)		
Less than 500	9	20	72	
500 - 999	7	16	78	
1,000 - 4,999	9	23	68	
5,000 - 9,999	5	14	81	χ^2 = 24.36*
10,000 and up	12	18	70	(.002)
Region		(n = 2099)		
Panhandle	10	16	74	
North Central	10	17	73	
South Central	10	18	72	
Northeast	7	22	71	χ^2 = 10.92
Southeast	10	15	74	(.206)
Individual Attributes:				
Household Income Level		(n = 1921)		
Under $20,000	13	20	67	
$20,000 - $39,999	9	17	74	
$40,000 - $59,999	9	21	70	χ^2 = 6.95
$60,000 and over	9	19	73	(.326)
Age		(n = 2108)		
19 - 29	11	33	56	
30 - 39	8	27	65	
40 - 49	6	17	77	
50 - 64	10	14	76	χ^2 = 119.66*
65 and older	10	8	82	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2071)		
Male	9	13	79	χ^2 = 33.44*
Female	9	22	68	(.000)
Education		(n = 2062)		
High school diploma or less	11	18	71	
Some college	8	19	74	χ^2 = 6.01
Bachelors or grad degree	9	19	71	(.199)
Occupation		(n = 1447)		
Mgt, prof or education	7	20	73	
Sales or office support	12	22	66	
Constrn, inst or maint	8	15	78	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	6	22	72	
Agriculture	8	13	79	
Food serv/pers. care	17	25	58	
Hlthcare supp/safety	6	19	75	χ^2 = 41.84*
Other	11	38	51	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5. *Priorities for Uses of Land or Natural Resources by Community Size, Region and Various Individual Attributes*

	Commercial/commodity production for global food demand					***Production for community/local food systems***				
	Not a Priority	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*	*Not a Priority*	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*
Total	5	13	44	38		2	6	37	55	
Community Size		(n = 1974)					(n = 1989)			
Less than 500	6	12	46	37		3	7	38	52	
500 - 999	6	11	36	47		2	6	27	65	
1,000 - 4,999	4	18	40	38		2	8	39	52	
5,000 - 9,999	3	10	49	38	χ^2 = 31.57*	3	5	40	52	χ^2 = 19.94
10,000 and up	5	12	47	36	(.002)	2	6	36	56	(.068)
Region		(n = 2054)					(n = 2069)			
Panhandle	6	11	49	35		5	7	34	55	
North Central	7	17	41	34		4	9	39	49	
South Central	3	11	44	42		1	5	35	59	
Northeast	5	14	43	38	χ^2 = 22.94*	2	5	38	55	χ^2 = 23.60*
Southeast	5	13	45	38	(.028)	2	7	39	52	(.023)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1898)					(n = 1911)			
Under $20,000	8	15	39	38		4	9	31	57	
$20,000 - $39,999	4	13	48	35		3	6	39	52	
$40,000 - $59,999	4	14	49	33	χ^2 = 31.12*	2	6	40	52	χ^2 = 16.93
$60,000 and over	3	12	40	45	(.000)	1	6	34	58	(.050)
Age		(n = 2061)					(n = 2079)			
19 - 29	3	13	42	43		3	7	26	64	
30 - 39	3	15	45	37		1	5	39	56	
40 - 49	4	15	46	36		1	5	38	56	
50 - 64	5	12	41	42	χ^2 = 34.82*	2	7	40	51	χ^2 = 37.71*
65 and older	9	12	46	33	(.001)	4	7	38	51	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2029)					(n = 2045)			
Male	5	13	38	45	χ^2 = 27.33*	2	9	37	53	χ^2 = 13.73*
Female	5	13	48	34	(.000)	3	5	36	57	(.003)
Education		(n = 2019)					(n = 2039)			
High school diploma or less	7	14	42	37		4	8	38	50	
Some college	4	15	44	37	χ^2 = 19.43*	2	8	37	54	χ^2 = 25.43*
Bachelors or grad degree	3	11	45	42	(.003)	2	4	35	59	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1447)					(n = 1452)			
Mgt, prof or education	4	10	44	42		2	4	36	58	
Sales or office support	3	15	50	33		1	7	34	58	
Constrn, inst or maint	6	15	32	48		3	8	25	64	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	3	13	45	39		0	7	39	54	
Agriculture	4	8	37	50		1	8	43	49	
Food serv/pers. care	3	18	40	40		2	2	30	66	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	13	51	34	χ^2 = 46.09*	1	3	49	47	χ^2 = 51.05*
Other	5	26	45	24	(.001)	0	13	36	51	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 2021)					(n = 2037)			
Within city limits	4	13	45	38		2	6	36	57	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	5	18	39	38		3	10	40	47	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	5	10	40	46	χ^2 = 20.01* (.018)	2	6	40	52	χ^2 = 13.31 (.149)
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	6	19	44	31		4	10	34	52	

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5 continued

	Bioenergy/biofuels and renewable energy production					***Wildlife habitat***				
	Not a Priority	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*	*Not a Priority*	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*
Total	4	11	40	45		2	14	45	39	
Community Size		(n = 1975)					(n = 1980)			
Less than 500	5	12	43	41		4	15	44	37	
500 - 999	6	12	31	51		3	16	41	40	
1,000 - 4,999	3	12	38	48		2	15	44	38	
5,000 - 9,999	3	12	43	41	χ^2 = 21.27*	2	12	50	37	χ^2 = 19.31
10,000 and up	4	8	43	45	(.047)	1	11	46	41	(.081)
Region		(n = 2050)					(n = 2060)			
Panhandle	5	14	36	45		2	16	37	45	
North Central	8	11	40	42		3	11	48	38	
South Central	3	12	40	45		2	13	44	41	
Northeast	3	10	42	45	χ^2 = 21.05	2	16	42	40	χ^2 = 27.08*
Southeast	4	8	41	47	(.050)	4	11	53	32	(.008)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1895)					(n = 1900)			
Under $20,000	7	14	39	41		4	17	29	50	
$20,000 - $39,999	3	11	44	42		2	11	47	40	
$40,000 - $59,999	4	10	42	44	χ^2 = 18.11*	2	15	44	39	χ^2 = 37.72*
$60,000 and over	3	10	39	49	(.034)	2	13	48	38	(.000)
Age		(n = 2061)					(n = 2073)			
19 - 29	3	7	40	50		0	11	41	48	
30 - 39	2	13	35	50		1	12	49	38	
40 - 49	4	10	45	40		2	12	44	42	
50 - 64	5	13	38	45	χ^2 = 26.89*	3	14	47	36	χ^2 = 43.11*
65 and older	6	10	42	43	(.008)	4	17	43	36	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2027)					(n = 2038)			
Male	4	11	38	47	χ^2 = 4.35	2	15	42	41	χ^2 = 4.92
Female	4	10	42	44	(.226)	3	13	47	38	(.178)
Education		(n = 2020)					(n = 2028)			
High school diploma or less	6	11	41	43		5	16	42	38	
Some college	3	11	42	44	χ^2 = 7.48	1	13	43	43	χ^2 = 27.18*
Bachelors or grad degree	4	11	38	47	(.279)	2	13	49	37	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1443)					(n = 1443)			
Mgt, prof or education	3	10	38	49		1	11	48	40	
Sales or office support	3	14	41	42		1	13	51	34	
Constrn, inst or maint	8	8	38	46		1	7	44	48	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	1	7	48	45		1	9	41	50	
Agriculture	2	9	42	47		4	26	40	30	
Food serv/pers. care	4	12	35	49		2	5	40	53	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	11	42	45	χ^2 = 33.59*	1	13	55	31	χ^2 = 78.98*
Other	2	16	54	28	(.040)	2	10	52	37	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 2018)					(n = 2032)			
Within city limits	4	11	41	44		2	13	44	42	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	3	11	44	43		2	5	48	45	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	3	9	38	50	χ^2 = 8.51 (.483)	5	21	44	30	χ^2 = 51.23* (.000)
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	6	13	41	40		4	13	48	36	

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5 continued

	Recreational activity					*Open space*				
	Not a Priority	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*	*Not a Priority*	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*
Total	3	20	51	27		4	20	44	32	
Community Size		(n = 1986)					(n = 1980)			
Less than 500	4	22	52	22		7	14	43	36	
500 - 999	5	24	50	22		3	31	31	35	
1,000 - 4,999	3	21	49	27		6	22	45	28	
5,000 - 9,999	2	21	50	27	χ^2 = 25.43*	6	20	45	29	χ^2 = 59.16*
10,000 and up	2	16	52	30	(.013)	2	17	49	32	(.000)
Region		(n = 2065)					(n = 2059)			
Panhandle	5	22	42	32		6	21	36	37	
North Central	3	17	50	30		3	14	41	41	
South Central	2	19	51	29		3	19	46	32	
Northeast	3	20	55	22	χ^2 = 25.51*	4	21	47	28	χ^2 = 38.60*
Southeast	3	23	50	24	(.013)	7	22	45	25	(.000)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1907)					(n = 1902)			
Under $20,000	6	21	39	35		5	16	37	42	
$20,000 - $39,999	3	20	50	27		6	17	45	32	
$40,000 - $59,999	2	25	50	24	χ^2 = 38.00*	4	23	46	27	χ^2 = 24.11*
$60,000 and over	2	17	54	28	(.000)	4	20	45	30	(.004)
Age		(n = 2075)					(n = 2065)			
19 - 29	0	19	49	32		3	24	38	36	
30 - 39	3	16	53	29		3	25	43	29	
40 - 49	2	20	51	27		4	19	51	27	
50 - 64	3	22	51	24	χ^2 = 29.57*	5	17	45	33	χ^2 = 34.17*
65 and older	5	20	50	25	(.003)	6	16	44	33	(.001)
Gender		(n = 2043)					(n = 2034)			
Male	3	21	49	27	χ^2 = 2.16	6	22	42	30	χ^2 = 15.53*
Female	3	19	51	27	(.540)	3	18	46	33	(.001)
Education		(n = 2032)					(n = 2026)			
High school diploma or less	5	23	48	24		6	20	43	31	
Some college	2	20	51	27	χ^2 = 17.31*	4	18	47	31	χ^2 = 9.03
Bachelors or grad degree	3	18	51	29	(.008)	4	22	42	33	(.172)
Occupation		(n = 1449)					(n = 1451)			
Mgt, prof or education	2	14	53	31		3	17	47	33	
Sales or office support	1	21	59	20		4	24	45	27	
Constrn, inst or maint	3	13	55	29		8	14	42	36	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	23	58	18		3	30	46	22	
Agriculture	5	33	44	18		8	25	39	29	
Food serv/pers. care	1	14	48	38		0	15	49	36	
Hlthcare supp/safety	0	27	50	23	χ^2 = 87.44*	2	20	58	20	χ^2 = 62.39*
Other	2	11	57	31	(.000)	2	13	54	31	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 2034)					(n = 2027)			
Within city limits	2	17	51	30		4	19	45	33	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	3	14	62	20		1	22	52	25	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	8	32	44	16	χ^2 = 106.5* (.000)	8	22	41	30	χ^2 = 20.83* (.013)
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	1	21	48	30		4	21	43	32	

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5 continued

	Water protection and conservation					*Residential, business or economic development*				
	Not a Priority	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*	*Not a Priority*	*Low Priority*	*Medium Priority*	*High Priority*	*Sig.*
Total	1	5	30	65		5	14	46	36	
Community Size		(n = 2000)					(n = 1972)			
Less than 500	1	3	31	65		6	14	50	31	
500 - 999	1	4	28	67		9	15	38	38	
1,000 - 4,999	1	6	29	65		3	13	47	37	
5,000 - 9,999	1	6	32	62	χ^2 = 8.71	2	17	40	41	χ^2 = 28.69*
10,000 and up	1	4	31	64	(.727)	4	14	47	35	(.004)
Region		(n = 2083)					(n = 2050)			
Panhandle	1	7	23	68		4	13	43	39	
North Central	1	3	31	65		10	13	46	32	
South Central	0*	5	31	64		4	15	45	37	
Northeast	1	4	28	67	χ^2 = 14.60	3	11	47	40	χ^2 = 40.33*
Southeast	1	5	33	61	(.264)	5	19	45	31	(.000)
Individual Attributes:										
Household Income Level		(n = 1916)					(n = 1890)			
Under $20,000	2	8	24	65		11	15	39	35	
$20,000 - $39,999	1	5	28	67		3	15	42	40	
$40,000 - $59,999	0*	5	28	68	χ^2 = 26.90*	5	15	50	31	χ^2 = 52.49*
$60,000 and over	1	4	34	62	(.001)	2	12	47	38	(.000)
Age		(n = 2091)					(n = 2061)			
19 - 29	0	8	33	58		10	14	44	32	
30 - 39	1	5	36	59		2	15	48	35	
40 - 49	1	4	28	67		3	15	47	35	
50 - 64	1	4	28	68	χ^2 = 34.57*	5	15	44	36	χ^2 = 38.51*
65 and older	2	4	27	68	(.001)	3	11	45	41	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2057)					(n = 2026)			
Male	0*	5	31	64	χ^2 = 4.28	4	18	43	35	χ^2 = 20.67*
Female	1	5	29	65	(.233)	5	11	47	37	(.000)
Education		(n = 2048)					(n = 2016)			
High school diploma or less	2	5	28	65		5	12	41	42	
Some college	0*	5	31	64	χ^2 = 10.43	5	16	44	34	χ^2 = 21.58*
Bachelors or grad degree	1	4	30	65	(.108)	3	13	50	34	(.001)
Occupation		(n = 1456)					(n = 1438)			
Mgt, prof or education	1	2	31	66		1	11	49	39	
Sales or office support	1	4	36	60		2	11	54	33	
Constrn, inst or maint	0	4	25	71		3	16	43	39	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	0	8	30	62		3	29	40	28	
Agriculture	1	6	32	61		8	18	47	28	
Food serv/pers. care	0	4	24	73		11	11	38	40	
Hlthcare supp/safety	0	1	33	66	χ^2 = 40.40*	4	12	51	32	χ^2 = 76.46*
Other	2	11	37	50	(.007)	2	16	54	28	(.000)
Where Live		(n = 2049)					(n = 2018)			
Within city limits	1	5	29	66		4	12	44	40	
Outside city limits, in rural subdivision	1	8	33	58		2	17	57	25	
Outside city limits, on farm/ranch	2	3	31	64	χ^2 = 10.57 (.306)	8	18	44	30	χ^2 = 43.61* (.000)
Outside city limits, not on farm/ranch	1	5	32	62		4	17	52	26	

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.
0* = Less than 1 percent.

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