

FARMING THE WIND

THE IMPACT OF WIND ENERGY ON FARMING



**URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM
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Instructions

- This survey is intended for all owners of agricultural land, not just farmers. Even if you don't farm yourself, please complete the survey. We need to hear from you.
- The person or people at this address who typically make decisions about your agricultural land should fill out this survey.
- You can use a pen or a pencil to mark your answers.

WIND ENERGY

These questions ask about your attitudes toward and experience with wind energy.

1.1 How strongly do you agree or disagree with each statement about wind turbines?

Wind turbines...	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>
...create jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...disrupt bird migration.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...create noise pollution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...produce visual or aesthetic problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide revenues for land owners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...disrupt local weather patterns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...cause human health problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... preserve rural land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... help limit climate change.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... reduce nearby property values.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

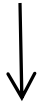
1.2 How much authority should each of these groups have for deciding where wind turbines are sited?

	<u>A Great Deal of Authority</u>	<u>Some Authority</u>	<u>No Authority</u>
Federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State governments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local governments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land-owners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.3 Can you see any wind turbines from your property in Huron County?

Yes

No (GO TO Question 1.5)



1.4 About how many turbines can you see from your property?

_____ TURBINES

1.5 Can you hear any wind turbine(s) from your property?

Yes

No

1.6 Do you lease any land to a wind developer?

Yes

No

1.7 Did you receive any royalties from a wind energy project in 2013?

Yes

No (GO TO PAGE 5,
"YOUR COMMUNITY")



1.8 About how much did you receive in wind energy royalties in 2013?

- \$ 0 - 99
- \$ 100 - 499
- \$ 500 - 999
- \$ 1,000 - 1,999
- \$ 2,000 - 2,999
- \$ 3,000 or more

1.9 How does this royalty income affect your farm business?

1.10 Are any wind turbines sited on your property?

Yes



No (GO TO PAGE 5, "YOUR COMMUNITY")

1.11 Are fields with turbines easier or more difficult to farm?

- Easier to farm
- More difficult to farm
- Both easier AND more difficult to farm
- No difference (GO TO PAGE 5, "YOUR COMMUNITY")



1.12 How is it easier or more difficult to farm?

YOUR COMMUNITY

These questions ask about how you feel about population growth in Huron County, and how it affects you.

2.1 How strongly do you agree or disagree with each statement?

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
Development is happening too quickly in Huron County.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huron County is losing its rural character.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Huron County's most productive farmland should be preserved for agriculture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development in Huron County is making life better.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There should be limits on where development can occur in Huron County to protect local farmland.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am satisfied with Huron County as a place to live.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 Did you personally grow crops or raise livestock in Huron County in 2013?

Yes



No (GO TO PAGE 7, "FUTURE PLANS")

2.3 How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of this statement?

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
I am satisfied with Huron County as a place to have an agricultural operation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.4 Have you experienced any of the following in the last five years?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>
Difficulty in purchasing farmland because of escalating land prices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulty in obtaining new rental land in this area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulty in retaining existing rental land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FUTURE PLANS

These questions are about what you think might happen to your farmland in the future.

3.1 For how much longer do you think you will own any farmland in Huron County?

- 1 to 10 years
- 11 to 20 years
- 21 to 30 years
- More than 30 years

3.2 Do you have a succession plan in place for your land?

- Yes
- No

3.3 How do you think most of your land in Huron County will be used when you sell it?

- Farmed by a family member
- Farmed by a non-family member
- Converted to a housing development / subdivision
- Convert to an industrial, commercial, or retail use
- Idle—neither farmed nor developed
- Other (please explain): _____

3.4 If you had been asked question 3.3 five years ago, do you think you would have answered the same way?

- Yes (GO TO PAGE 8, "ON-FARM INVESTMENT")
- No

Why not?



ON-FARM INVESTMENT

These questions ask about the investments that you might be making on your farm.

4.1 Since 2008, have you purchased any additional farmland?

Yes
↓

No (GO TO Question 4.3)

4.2 How many acres did you buy?

- 0 – 19 acres
- 20 – 39 acres
- 40 – 79 acres
- 80 acres or more

4.3 Since 2008, have you sold any farmland?

Yes
↓

No (GO TO PAGE 9, Question 4.7)

4.4 How many acres did you sell?

- 0 – 20 acres
- 20 – 39 acres
- 40 – 79 acres
- 80 acres or more

4.5 To whom did you sell the land? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

- A relative for farming
- A relative for non-farming
- A non-relative for farming
- A non-relative for non-farming.
- Other (PLEASE EXPLAIN) _____

4.6 Why did you sell this land?

4.7 Since 2008, about how much money have you spent on improvements to your **home** (even if that home is not in Huron County)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$ 10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150,000 – 199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10,000 – 49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200,000 – 249,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50,000 – 99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250,000 – 299,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100,000 – 149,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$300,000 |

4.8 Since 2008, about how much money have you spent on improvements to your **outbuildings, including grain storage?**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$ 10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150,000 – 199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10,000 – 49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200,000 – 249,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50,000 – 99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250,000 – 299,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100,000 – 149,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$300,000 |

4.9 Since 2008, about how much money have you spent on improvements to your **field drainage and irrigation?**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$ 10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150,000 – 199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10,000 – 49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200,000 – 249,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50,000 – 99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250,000 – 299,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100,000 – 149,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$300,000 |

4.10 Since 2008, about how much money have you spent on purchasing **new or used farm equipment** including trucks, tractors or other farm machinery?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$ 10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 400,000 – 499,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10,000 – 99,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500,000 – 599,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100,000 – 199,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 600,000 – 699,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200,000 – 299,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 700,000 – 799,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 300,000 – 399,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$800,000 |

YOUR HOUSEHOLD

These questions ask about your household—that is, the people that live with you.

5.1 Is farming the primary occupation for anyone in your household?

- Yes No

5.2 About how much of your household income comes from farming?

- 0 – 24% 51 – 75%
 25 – 50% 76 – 100%

5.3 About how many total acres of farmland do you currently own? Include all land that is tillable or suitable for livestock, regardless of whether or not it was planted in 2013.

- 0 – 19 acres 250 – 499 acres
 20 – 59 acres 500+ acres
 60 – 249 acres

5.4 How much of your land did **someone else** farm in 2013 [either through a lease or sharecropping]?

- None 60 – 249 acres
 1 – 19 acres 250+ acres
 20 – 59 acres

5.5 How much land did you lease or sharecrop **from** someone else in 2013?

- None 60 – 249 acres
 1 – 19 acres 250 – 499 acres
 20 – 59 acres 500+ acres

RESEARCH RESULTS

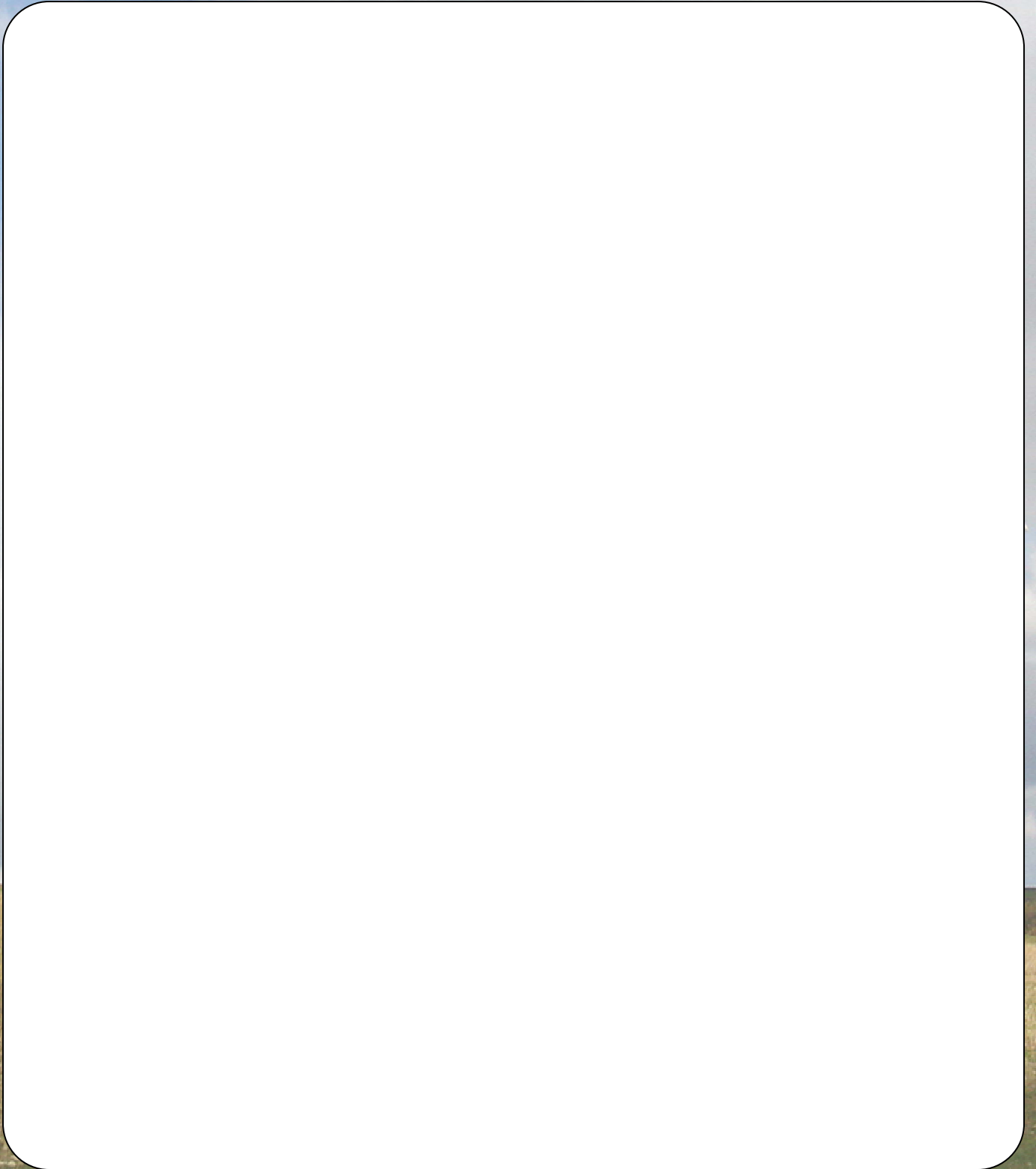
As a small token of thanks, we'd be happy to send you the results of our study.

6.1 How would you like to receive the research results from this survey?

- U.S. Mail
 Email. My email address is: _____
 Neither. No need to send me the results.

Thanks again for completing this survey!

If you have any additional thoughts about wind energy and farming, please share them.



ID: XXXX This ID number is used so that we don't bother you again once you return the survey. Your survey answers will remain completely anonymous. See project information sheet for more details.