



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



THE OHIO FARM POLL

# Taking the Pulse of Ohio Farmers: Introducing the Ohio Farm Poll

Ohio Farm Poll Research Report #1. June 2021.

Douglas Jackson-Smith, Shoshanah Inwood, Andrea Rissing, Tiffany Woods.

## What is the Ohio Farm Poll?

Every year, farmers operate under conditions that are out of their control. But 2019 was a perfect storm of extremes with flooded fields, a trade war, higher farmland costs, and lower yields. To understand how Ohio farmers were impacted by these challenges, researchers at the Ohio State University in the School of Environment and Natural resources created the first Ohio Farm Poll.

- **This statewide survey provides authoritative information about the well-being and outlook of typical Ohio farmers and farm households.**
- 2019 served as a stress test for Ohio agriculture. Understanding how different kinds of farmers were affected by multiple stressors—and how they responded—can guide strategies to strengthen Ohio’s farm sector for the future.
- The research team plans to conduct future Farm Polls in coming years in order to see how Ohio agriculture changes over time.

## How was the Ohio Farm Poll conducted?

To ensure every Ohio farmer had an equal opportunity to participate, **a random statewide sample of farmers received paper surveys** between February and May 2020. A total of 837 useable surveys were returned (a 41% response rate).

## Who responded to the Ohio Farm Poll?

Ohio is home to many different types and sizes of farms. **Farm Poll respondents are representative of the Ohio farm sector as a whole.** A profile of the size and types of farmers who responded is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

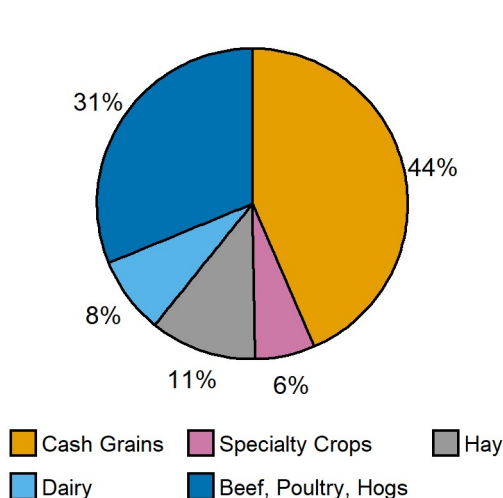


Fig 1: Respondents by enterprise type.

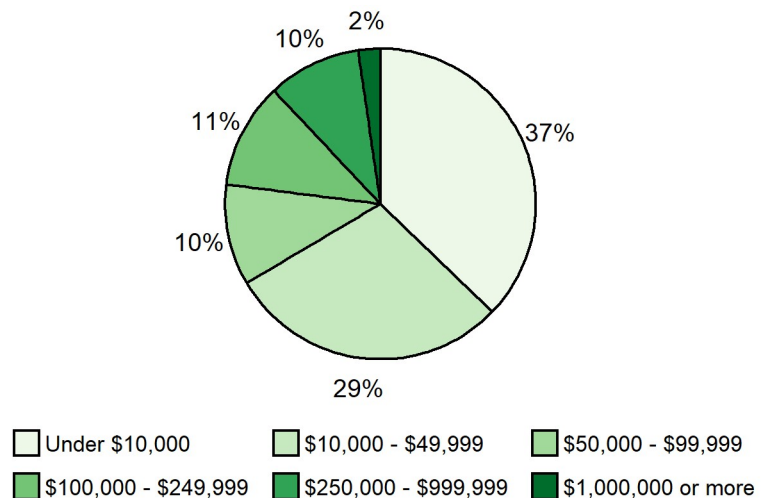


Fig 2: Respondents by farm size (gross sales).