



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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THE OHIO FARM POLL

Taking the Pulse of Ohio Farmers: How Different Farms Experienced 2019? *Enterprise Differences*

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2019 was a hard year across Ohio agriculture

Over half of Ohio's farmers reported that business conditions were worse than usual in 2019 (Fig 1).

However, not all types of farms experience the same stress levels

When we divide all responses into sub-groups based on most important source of farm income, we see that enterprise types had a big effect on the business conditions farmers experienced.

Cash grain and dairy farmers were the most likely to have experienced stressful business conditions (Fig 2).

Their commodities made them more vulnerable to the trade wars and bad weather of 2019.

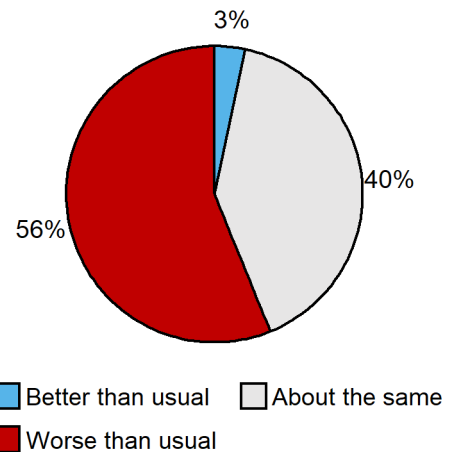


Fig 1: Overall responses to the question, "How were business conditions on your farm in 2019?"

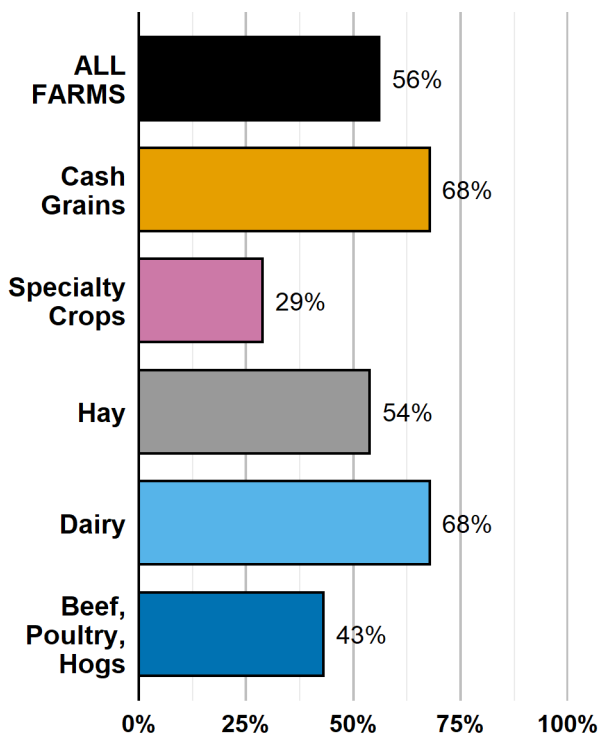


Fig 2: Percent reporting business conditions were "worse than usual" in 2019, by enterprise type.

Why does enterprise type matter?

- Two-thirds of cash grain and dairy farmers reported worse than usual business conditions.
- Less than half of beef, hog, or poultry farmers reported worse than usual business conditions.
- Less than a third of specialty crop growers reported worse than usual business conditions.
- These results reflect farmers' different market conditions; although the trade wars created economic instability and lowered commodity prices, not all farmers were equally vulnerable.
- Grain farmers were also particularly vulnerable to heavy rains. Dairy farmers were responding to ongoing dairy sector consolidation.

Diversity is vital

Not all farmers operate under the same conditions. **These results speak to the economically protective benefits of diversity in the agricultural sector.** Different years will bring different kinds of stressors, so farm-level and state-level diversity can make more resilient agricultural systems.