The Impact of Farm Ties on Concern About Climate Change

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The Impact of Farm Ties on Concern About Climate Change

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Climate Change
• Human impact on the earth’s climate has been widely accepted by most scientists.
• The past three decades have been successively hotter than any recorded since 1850 and will continue to rise in the future.
• Agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors in the American economy in regards to the adverse effects of climate change
• Research has shown that farmers have less concern about climate change
• Although many studies measure farmers’ perspectives on climate change, little to none has been done on farm ties.

Research Question
My research question is: Do people with farm ties have less concern for climate change?
• I hypothesize that social and cultural connections to farmers lead urban respondents to share similar climate change views as the agricultural community.

Research Methods
• Data was gathered via a public intercept survey in front of 16 grocery stores that holds about 4,400 responses from the Salt Lake, Cache valleys.
• The overall response rate is 44%, and is representative of both genders
• Specific questions ask about concern for various topics, focus was aimed at concern for climate change and whether or not the participant has a relative or is a current farmer.

Respondent Profile
• 28% of all respondents currently farm or have relatives that farm
• 40% of respondents are very concerned about climate change

Findings
• Farm ties have a significant relationship to concern about climate change
• People with farm ties are less likely to be concerned.

Implication
• Farmers’ perspectives transcend across social boundaries and effect a large group of the urban population