

Plan Chatham Agricultural Survey

January 12, 2017

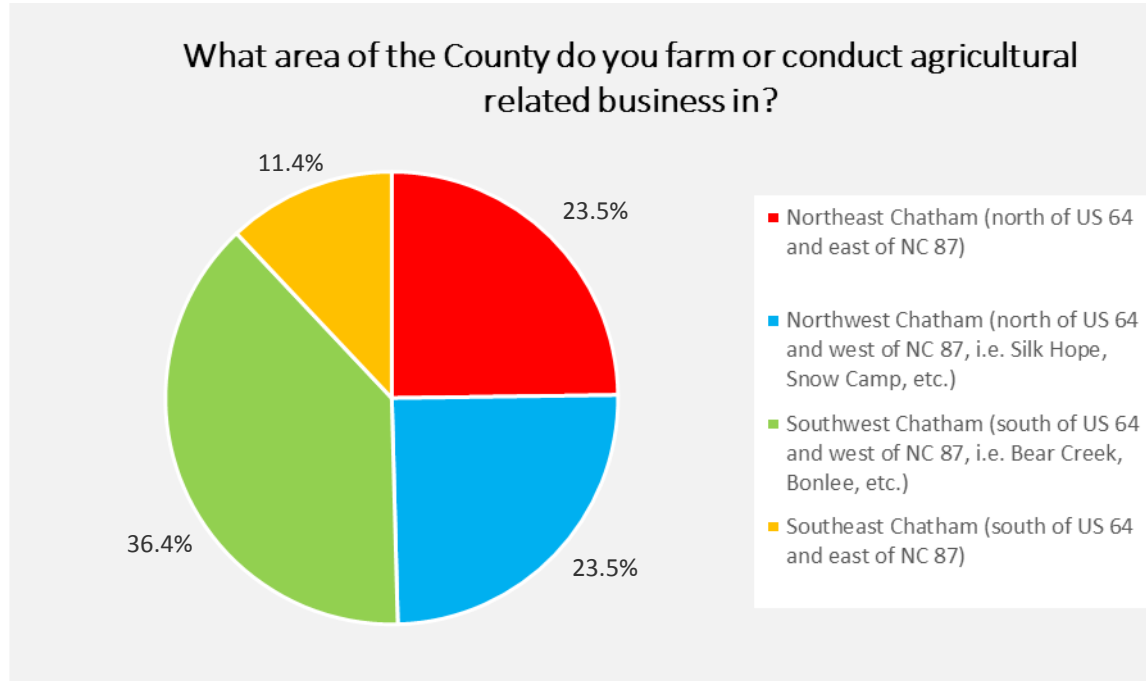
132

Total Responses

Survey Period: October – December 2016

Q1: What area of the County do you farm or conduct agricultural related business in?

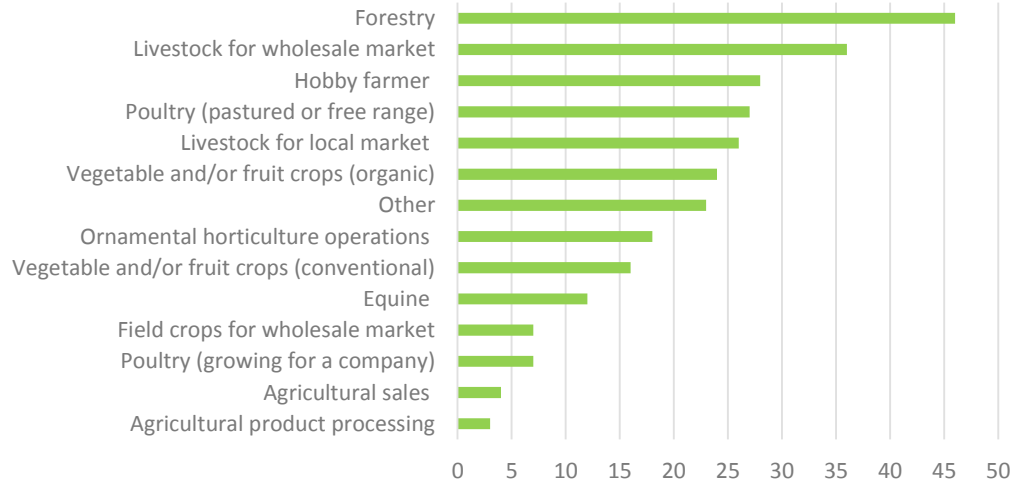
Answered: 125 Skipped: 0



Q2: What type of agricultural operation do you participate in or support?

Answered: 277 Skipped: 5

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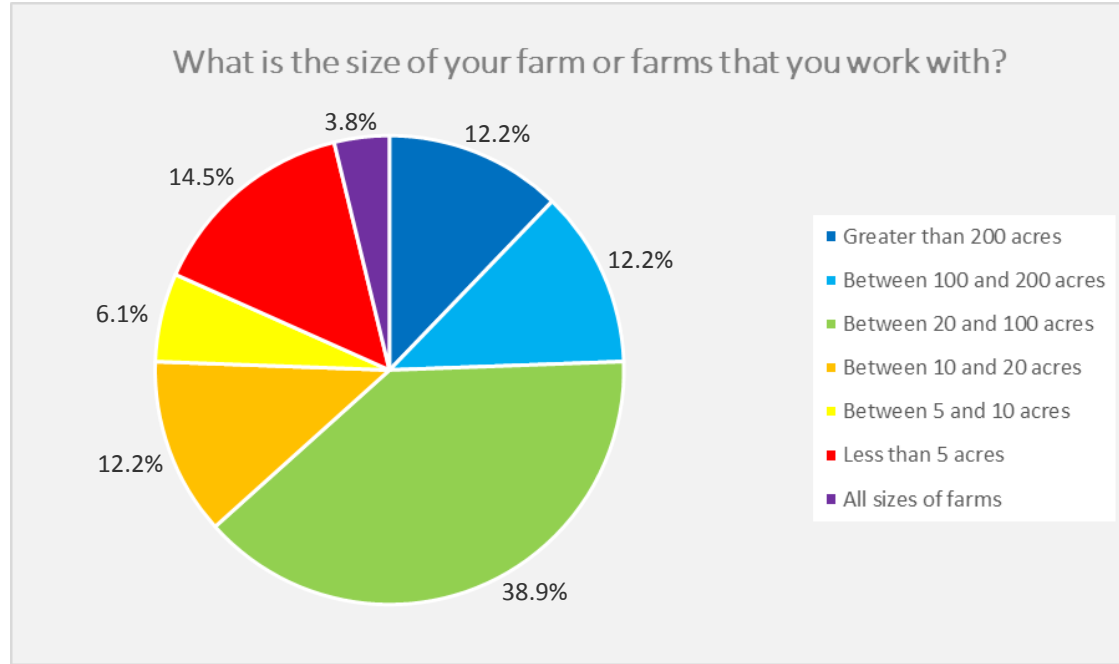
Other Popular Responses:

- Bee keeping
- Dairy
- Greenhouse/Plant Nursery
- Hay/forage production

What type of agricultural operation do you participate in or support?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Forestry	36.2%	46
Livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, goats, etc.) for wholesale market	28.3%	36
Hobby farmer (farming is not a major source of income--do not submit a schedule F, i.e. own a few horses)	22.0%	28
Poultry (pastured or free range)	21.3%	27
Livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, goats, etc.) for local market (direct sale, CSA, farmers markets or retail on site)	20.5%	26
Vegetable and/or fruit crops (organic)	18.9%	24
Ornamental horticulture operations (nursery, greenhouses, Christmas trees, etc.)	14.2%	18
Vegetable and/or fruit crops (conventional)	12.6%	16
Equine (boarding, training, breeding, etc.)	9.4%	12
Poultry (growing for a company)	5.5%	7
Field crops (corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, etc.) for wholesale market	5.5%	7
Agricultural sales (feed, equipment, supplies)	3.1%	4
Agricultural product processing (slaughter facility, meat processing, winery, etc.)	2.4%	3
Other (please specify)	18%	23
	answered question	277
	skipped question	5

Q3: What is the size of your farm or farms that you work with?

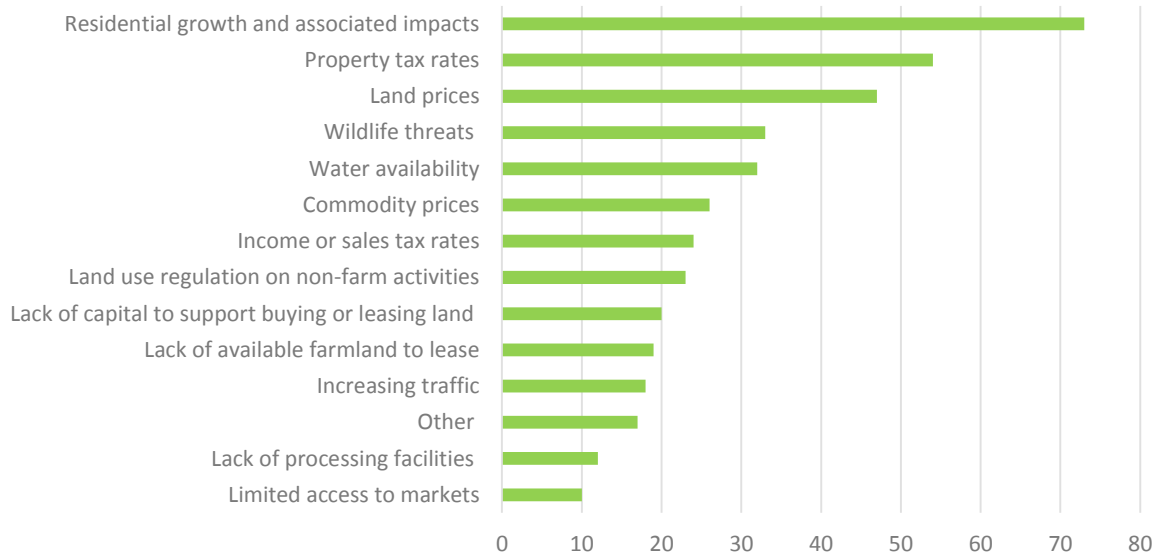
Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



Q4: What are the primary threats to agricultural operations you are involved with in Chatham County?

Answered: 408 Skipped: 0

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Answered: 408 Skipped: 0

Popular Responses:

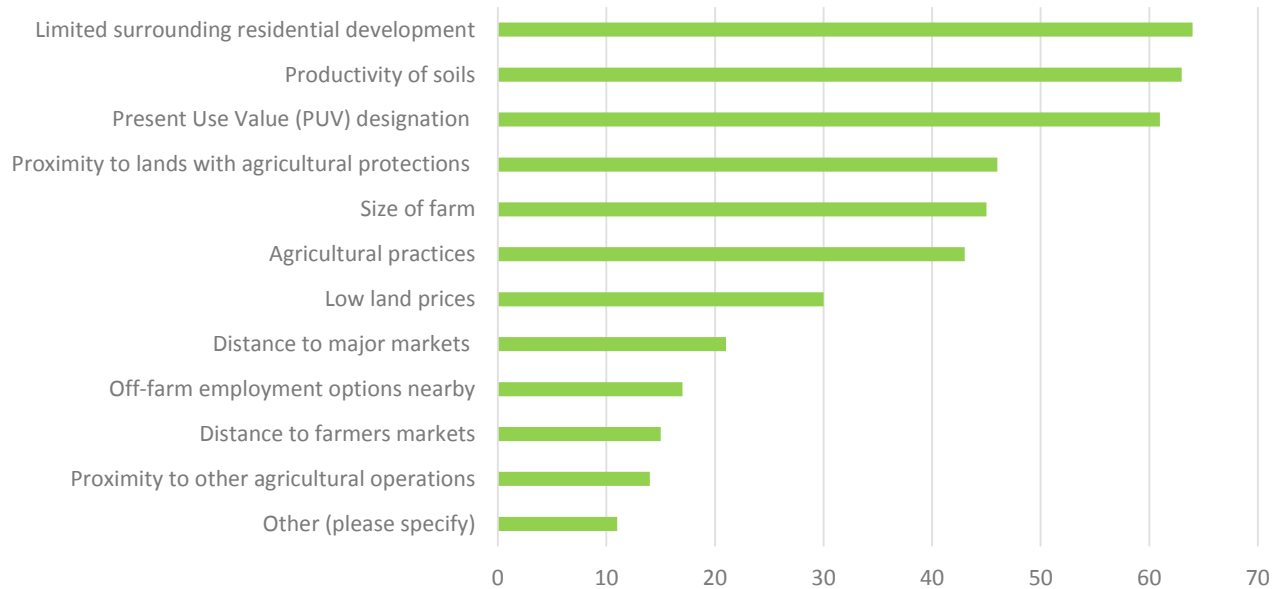
- Maintaining a steady profit from day to day operations
- Water Quality
- Increased property taxes
- Decline of healthy ecosystems
- Keeping livestock plants/crops safe from outside threats

What are the primary threats to agricultural operations you are involved with in Chatham County?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Residential growth and associated impacts	55.3%	73
Property tax rates	40.9%	54
Land prices	35.6%	47
Wildlife threats (i.e. coyotes, deer, etc.)	25.0%	33
Water availability	24.2%	32
Commodity prices	19.7%	26
Income or sales tax rates	18.2%	24
Land use regulation on non-farm activities	17.4%	23
Lack of capital to support buying or leasing land or purchase of inputs/equipment	15.2%	20
Lack of available farmland to lease	14.4%	19
Increasing traffic	13.6%	18
Lack of processing facilities (options or capacity)	9.1%	12
Limited access to markets	7.6%	10
Other (please specify)	12.9%	17
	answered question	408
	skipped question	0

Q5: What factors contribute to the long-term viability of farms and other agricultural operations?

Answered: 430 Skipped: 0

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Q5: What factors contribute to the long-term viability of farms and other agricultural operations?

Answered: 430 Skipped: 0

Popular Responses:

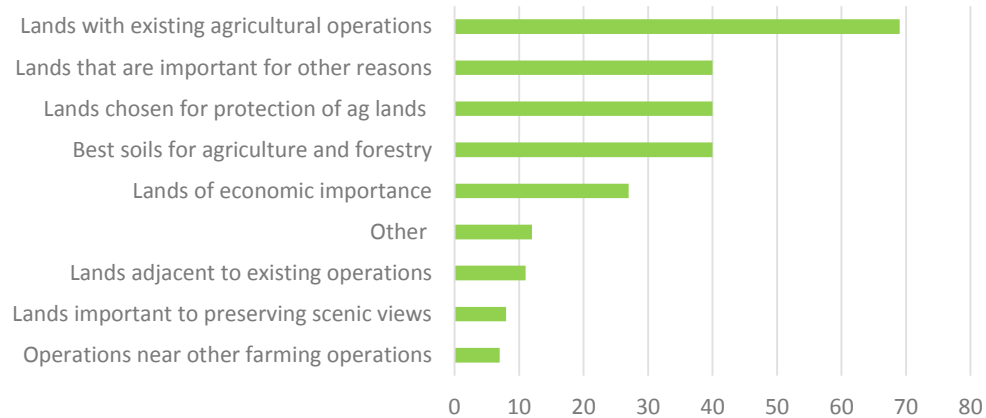
- Access to adjacent markets
- Staying informed on the latest varieties, trends, management strategies
- Water
- Government restrictions
- Location

What factors contribute to the long-term viability of farms and other agricultural operations?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Limited surrounding residential development	48.5%	64
Productivity of soils (i.e. prime farmland or forest productivity)	47.7%	63
Present Use Value (PUV) designation (due to tax benefits)	46.2%	61
Proximity to lands with agricultural protections (i.e. voluntary agricultural districts or agricultural conservation easements)	34.8%	46
Size of farm	34.1%	45
Agricultural practices	32.6%	43
Low land prices	22.7%	30
Distance to major markets (Greensboro, Sanford, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Durham, etc.)	15.9%	21
Off-farm employment options nearby	12.9%	17
Distance to farmers markets	11.4%	15
Proximity to other agricultural operations	10.6%	14
Other (please specify)	8.3%	11
answered question		430
skipped question		0

Q6: The Farmland Protection Plan (2009) recommends mapping strategic farmland in order to focus agricultural protection efforts. What should the focus of this map be?

Answered: 254 Skipped: 3

What should the focus of the strategic farmland map be?



Q7: Agricultural related businesses are protected by state and county laws. What types of non-farm businesses are compatible with or help support farming directly or indirectly?

Answered: 1,652 Skipped: 17

Popular Responses:

- Agritourism (including event venues, B&Bs)
- Food industry/Grocery/Restaurants
- Processing facilities (food and forestry)
- Farm and feed suppliers
- Stockyards
- Welding, Machining, Engine Repair

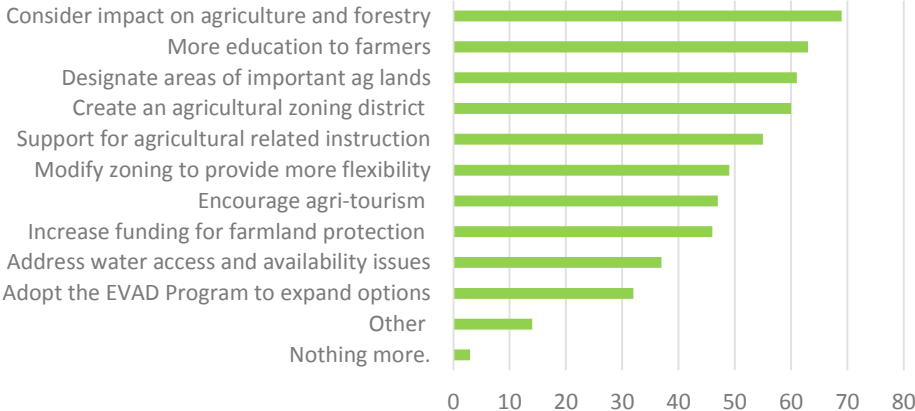
Agricultural related businesses are protected by state and county laws. What types of non-farm businesses are compatible with or help support farming directly or indirectly?

Answer Options	Response Count
	63
answered question	63
skipped question	69

Q8: What should the county be doing to support agriculture?

Answered: 536 Skipped: 3

What should the county be doing to support agriculture?



Q8: What should the county be doing to support agriculture?

Answered: 536 Skipped: 0

Popular Responses:

- Remove stringent zoning regs
- Protect water resources and green space
- Educate non-farming resident of the importance of agriculture
- Stop raising taxes on lands
- Consider creating concentrated housing developments to support nearby farms (i.e. community-supported farms)

What should the county be doing to support agriculture?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Consider impact on agriculture and forestry of new ordinances and regulations by requiring review by Agricultural Advisory Board	53.5%	69
More education and outreach to farmers and prospective farmers (i.e. providing info/access to low interest loans, mentoring young farmers, etc.)	48.8%	63
Designate areas of important agricultural lands and working farms on a future land use map and direct development away from these areas	47.3%	61
Create an agricultural zoning district to limit residential density, improve site design, reduce conflicts	46.5%	60
Support for agricultural related instruction in high school and at community colleges	42.6%	55
Modify current zoning to provide more flexibility for rural businesses	38.0%	49
Encourage agri-tourism (i.e. pick-your-own, event & food venues, craft shops, bed and breakfasts, etc.)	36.4%	47
Increase funding for farmland protection	35.7%	46
Address water access and availability issues	28.7%	37
Adopt the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Program to expand options for land owners	24.8%	32
Nothing more.	2.3%	3
Other (please specify)	11%	14
	answered question	536
	skipped question	3

Q9: What is it about your farming future (or those that you work for/with) that keeps you up at night?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 44

Popular Responses:

- Too many strict ordinances
- The fear of losing more farmland to residential and commercial development
- High taxes. Paying bills on day to day income
- Water quality
- Access to markets
- Farmers selling out to developers

What is it about your farming future (or those that you work for/with) that keeps you up at night?

Answer Options	Response Count
	88
answered question	88
skipped question	44