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# 22187

FARMING AND WATER QUALITY:  
A SURVEY OF JACKSON COUNTY PRODUCERS

1992



The purpose of this survey is to develop a profile of farming in Jackson County in 1991. The survey is sponsored by the Jackson County Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service, in conjunction with the University of Florida. We hope to learn more about how you farm, and about what types of information or assistance we might provide to make your job easier. Currently we are designing a five-year program on Farming and Water Quality in Jackson County. It would help us to know more about your opinions on how the environment and your farm are linked. We welcome your ideas on this program. The results from this survey will be used to tailor the program to meet your needs.

Your responses are strictly confidential. Please notice that your name and location are not written anywhere on the questionnaire. If there are any questions on this survey that you do not wish to answer, please feel free to decline. The interviewer will simply skip the question.

As you are answering the questions posed by the interviewer, if you have additional comments, please feel free to interrupt. Your candid comments are welcome at any time during the interview. We will pay attention to your comments.

Please direct questions to:

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Water Quality

AAEA 1992



The purpose of questions about rotations is to help with the design of cost-sharing policies for an Integrated Crop Management practice.

12. Which crops have you planted on your farm in the past five years?

CROP	1991 (acres)	1990 (acres)	1989	1988	1987
Cotton					
Corn					
Grain Sorghum					
Peanuts					
Soybeans					
Vegetables (commercial)					
Wheat					
Watermelon					
Idle					
TOTAL					

13. Please describe the management of your idled peanut acreage.

- 1 DISK FOR WEEDS \_\_\_\_\_ (MONTH)
- 2 MOW WEEDS \_\_\_\_\_ (MONTH)

14. Are there volunteer peanut plants in your idled fields?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO

15. Please describe a typical rotation for a 1991 non-irrigated peanut field (owned).

ROTATION HISTORY		
year	crop	yield
1991	peanuts	

16. For 1991 irrigated peanut fields (owned), please describe a typical rotation.

ROTATION HISTORY		
year	crop	yield
1991	peanuts	

17. For each 1991 non-irrigated peanut field (rented), please describe a typical rotation.

ROTATION HISTORY		
year	crop	yield
1991	peanuts	

18. Please describe a typical peanut rotation in 1981. If you are doing things differently than ten years ago, why have you made changes?

ROTATION HISTORY		
year	crop	yield
1981	peanuts	
1982		
1983		

19. How much of your peanut acreage was irrigated in 1981?

\_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT IRRIGATED IN 1981

Fertilization: Application rates and procedures:

20. Do you test your soil?

- 1 YES, WE TAKE OUR OWN SOIL SAMPLE.
- 2 YES, FERTILIZER DEALER TAKES SAMPLES.
- 3 YES, PRIVATE CONSULTANT TAKES SAMPLES.
- 4 NO

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

21. Who analyzes your soil tests? (Please circle as many as apply.)

- 1 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LABORATORY
- 2 FERTILIZER DEALER
- 3 PRIVATE CONSULTANT

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

22. In general, is your fertilization program intended to:

- 1 MAINTAIN TARGET NUTRIENT LEVELS IN SOIL
- 2 MEET THE CROP'S NUTRIENT REQUIREMENTS
- 3 BOTH GOALS ARE CONSIDERED.

23. Do you currently apply fertilizer through your irrigation system?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO, BUT I AM CONSIDERING FERTIGATION.
- 3 NO
- 4 NO IRRIGATION

Pesticide use:

24. Do you scout for insects and pests on your farm?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO (Please skip to Question 27.)

25. Please describe the scouting activities on your farm. Who does the scouting?

- 1 ME, \_\_\_\_\_ TIMES PER WEEK
- 1 MY PARTNER, \_\_\_\_\_ TIMES PER WEEK
- 3 HIRED SCOUT, \_\_\_\_\_ TIMES PER WEEK
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Please pose questions about soil-applied pesticides.

26. Do you believe that there are "environmental hazards" associated with pesticide use on your farm? In your words, please describe what you consider an "environmental hazard."

27. Please describe how you take these "environmental hazards" into account when you farm.

Pesticide handling practices:

28. For your farm, who is certified to handle restricted use pesticides? [Please circle as many as apply.]

- 1 ME
- 2 MY PARTNER(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
(relationship, no name)
- 3 HIRED LABORER(S)
- 4 NOBODY

29. Who is responsible for mixing pesticides on your farm?
- 1 ME, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF THE TIME
  - 2 MY PARTNER, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TIME
  - 3 HIRED LABORER(S), \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TIME
30. Who is responsible for applying pesticides on your farm?
- 1 ME, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF THE TIME
  - 2 MY PARTNER, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TIME
  - 3 HIRED LABORER(S), \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TIME
31. Who is responsible for rinsing and disposing of pesticide containers on your farm?
- 1 ME, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF THE TIME
  - 2 MY PARTNER, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TIME
  - 3 HIRED LABORER, \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TIME
32. Please describe your mixing and loading practices. [Please circle as many as apply. Note: NURSE TANK = tank filled with water only at the well and used to carry water to pesticide application equipment in the field.]
- 1 USE NURSE TANKS
  - 2 MIX ON A CONCRETE PAD
  - 3 MIX \_\_\_\_\_ FEET FROM THE WELL  
(BUT NOT ON A CONCRETE PAD)
- Comment:
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
33. Is there a dual check valve (anti-back-flow device) on your well?
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO
  - 3 NOT SURE
34. Please describe how you wash out empty pesticide containers. When do you rinse and where do you put the rinse water? [Please circle as many as apply.]
- 1 PRESSURE RINSE
  - 2 TRIPLE RINSE
  - 3 RINSE WITH HOSE
  - 4 EMPTY RINSE WATER INTO NURSE TANK
  - 5 EMPTY RINSE WATER INTO \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 RINSE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MIXING
  - 7 RINSE CONTAINERS AFTER SPRAYING

35. Where do you dispose of the rinsewater used to clean your spray equipment?
- 1 APPLY AS A PESTICIDE TO A FIELD
  - 2 RE-USE AS MAKEUP WATER FOR NEXT BATCH
  - 3 RELEASE TO WASH AREA
  - 4 SPRAY ON FALLOW AREA
  - 5 RELEASE TO SEPTIC TANK
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

36. Please describe how you dispose of your pesticide containers.
- 1 BURY ON FARM
  - 2 BURN
  - 3 TAKE TO A LANDFILL
  - 4 RECYCLING
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

During the summer of 1991, a pilot Pesticide Container Recycling Program was conducted in Jackson County. Participants were provided with large plastic storage bags to keep their containers dry and high-pressure nozzles for triple rinsing plastic jugs. At the end of the season, they brought their containers to Gardner's Flying Service in Greenwood. The containers were inspected by the Department of Environmental Regulation and run through a granulating machine, provided by United Agriproducts. The drop-off period was three days, September 4-6.

37. Did you hear about the pilot program during the summer of 1991?
- 1 YES, I PARTICIPATED.
  - 2 YES, BUT I DID NOT PARTICIPATE.
  - 3 NO
38. If there were a similar recycling program in future years, would you be interested in participating? Please suggest ways to improve the recycling program.
- Comments:
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO, because: \_\_\_\_\_



Perceptions concerning water quality:

39. Do you consider groundwater contamination a problem associated with farming in Jackson County?
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO - Skip to question 39
  - 3 POSSIBLY
40. If you consider groundwater contamination a potential problem in Jackson County, how would you rate the seriousness of the problem?
- 1 CRITICAL, URGENT
  - 2 SERIOUS
  - 3 IT'S POSSIBLE BUT NOT PROBABLE
  - 4 IF THE CONTAMINATION POSES HEALTH RISKS THEN THE PROBLEM IS SERIOUS.
  - 5 DON'T KNOW
41. Do you believe the groundwater in Jackson County is more vulnerable to contamination from surface sources than other parts of Florida?
- Comments:
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO
  - 3 ABOUT THE SAME
42. What is your family's source of drinking water?
- 1 PERSONAL WELL
  - 2 CITY WATER LINE
  - \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
43. Do you consider the well water on your farm safe to drink?
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO
44. Has your family's drinking water been tested?
- 1 YES, DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESULT: \_\_\_\_\_  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 YES, IT WAS TESTED BY HRS FOR EDB.  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESULT: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 NO, BUT WE PLAN TO HAVE IT TESTED.
  - 4 NO, NOR DO WE PLAN TO HAVE IT TESTED.

45. Do you use bottled drinking water or a filter in your home?
- 1 BOTTLED WATER
  - 2 WATER FILTER, Type \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 NEITHER
46. Do you believe that drinking water contaminated with pesticides such as EDB poses a health hazard?
- Comments:
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO
  - 3 I AM UNINFORMED ABOUT HEALTH RISKS FROM PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN DRINKING WATER.
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
47. Are you familiar with the term "karst topography"?
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO
48. Are you familiar with the "Floridan aquifer"?
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO
49. Karst topography is an area with sinkholes. (Please see the handout.) Are there any sinkholes on your farm?
- 1 YES, THERE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ SINKHOLES.
  - 2 NO
  - 3 I'M NOT SURE.
50. Do any of the sinkholes on your farm take runoff from cropland?
- 1 YES, \_\_\_\_\_ SINKHOLES TAKE RUNOFF.
  - 2 NO
51. Do you believe sinkholes are a threat to water quality in Jackson County?
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO - Skip to Question 53
52. In your opinion, in what way are sinkholes a threat?

Filter strips are buffers planted to a permanent cover crop. These buffers are designed to stop topsoil, fertilizer, or pesticide residues from being washed into ditches, creeks or sinkholes.

53. Do you have filter strips on your farm?

Comments:

1 I HAVE FILTER STRIPS ON MY FARM BY DESIGN.

Width \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s) \_\_\_\_\_

2 I HAVE FILTER STRIPS ON MY FARM ON AREAS THAT CANNOT BE FARMED.

Width \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s) \_\_\_\_\_

3 I HAVE NO FILTER STRIPS ON MY FARM.

54. Have you installed soil conservation practices on your farm for erosion control?

1 WINTER COVER CROPS

2 PERMANENT COVER CROPS

3 GRASSED WATERWAYS

4 TERRACES

5 I AM UNAWARE OF ANY EROSION ON MY FARM.

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

55. Have you received cost-sharing from ASCS to install conservation practices or livestock waste treatment facilities? (Please circle as many as apply.)

1 WINTER COVER CROPS

2 PERMANENT COVER CROPS

3 GRASSED WATERWAYS

4 TERRACES

5 WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES

6 NEVER RECEIVED COST-SHARING

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

56. Is there highly erodible land on your farm?

1 YES

2 NO

3 DON'T KNOW

57. Do you have a farm plan filed with the Soil Conservation Service?

1 I HAVE A PLAN, DATE \_\_\_\_\_ .

2 I HAVE NO CONSERVATION PLAN FILED.

These questions are to help us in designing education programs.

58. Have you attended an educational meeting on a farming topic within the past three years?  
1 YES - Topic: \_\_\_\_\_  
2 NO
59. Are you a man or a woman?  
1 MALE  
2 FEMALE
60. What is your age?  
\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS
61. How many more years do you expect to be farming?  
\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS
62. Who will take over the farm when you retire?  
1 FAMILY MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
2 WE WILL SELL THE FARM.  
3 DON'T KNOW  
\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
63. What is your education level?  
1 SOME HIGH SCHOOL  
2 GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL  
3 . SOME COLLEGE  
4 GRADUATED COLLEGE
64. What is your race?  
1 WHITE  
2 BLACK
65. What percent of your family's income came from farming in 1991?  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT FROM FARMING  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT FROM CROP SALES  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT FROM LIVESTOCK SALES
66. At this time, are there conservation practices you would consider installing if cost-sharing was available?  
PRACTICES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT COST-SHARING

67. What one thing would you most like to know about water quality, or about the environment in general, as it pertains to farming?
68. What one thing would you like non-farmers and regulators to better understand about farming today?
69. Concerning water quality, are there practices that you have observed anywhere in the county (farm or non-farm) which you believe may harm water quality? (Please do not specify a name or a location.)
70. We would like to design education programs and/or brochures which interest Jackson County farmers and their families. What type of materials or programs would you have time and the inclination to pay attention to?
- 1 SHORT COURSE; DAYTIME MEETINGS
  - 2 EVENING MEETINGS
  - 3 BROCHURES
  - 4 PUBLIC TELEVISION PROGRAMMING
  - 5 RADIO BROADCASTS
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
71. Would you be willing to be contacted again to participate in a follow-up survey? Would you prefer to be contacted by telephone, or for a personal interview?
- 1 YES, BY TELEPHONE
  - 2 YES, IN PERSON
  - 3 NO
72. Would you like to receive a copy of the results of this survey? (Please fill out a separate card with your mailing address.)
- 1 YES
  - 2 NO

THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION WITH THIS SURVEY.

Please circle the soil-applied pesticides you used in 1991.

COTTON

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Nematicide</u>	<u>Fumigant</u>
Treflan	Di-Syston	Nemacur	Telone
Prowl	Temik	Temik	
Cotoran	Thimet		
Lanex	Thiophos		
Karmex	Zoriel		

CORN

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Nematicide</u>
Sutan	Counter	Counter
Genate	Di-Syston	Furadan
AAtrex	Dyfonate	Mocap
Atrazine	Furadan	
Bladex	Lorsban	
Dual	Mocap	
Prowl	Thimet	
Treflan		

PEANUTS

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Nematicide</u>	<u>Fumigant</u>	<u>Fungicide</u>
Balan	Di-Syston	Furadan	Telone	Lorsban
Prowl	Dyfonate	Mocap	Vorlex	Mocap
Sonalan	Furadan	Nemacur		Terraclor
Vernam	Lorsban	Temik		
Dual	Mocap			
Blazer	Temik			
Pursuit	Thimet			

SOYBEANS

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Nematicide</u>	<u>Fumigant</u>
Treflan	Furadan	Furadan	Telone
Prowl	Thimet	Mocap	
Sonalan	Lorsban	Nemacur	
Scepter		Temik	
Vernam			
Surflan			
Prowl			
Sencore			
Lexone			
Canopy			
Dual			

SORGHUM

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Nematicide</u>
Dual	Counter DiSyston Dyfonate Furadan Lorsban Temik Thimet Thiophos	Counter Furadan Temik

VEGETABLES

<u>Herbicides</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Nematicide</u>	<u>Fumigant</u>	<u>Fungicide</u>
Amiben Dacthal Eptam Lexone Sencor Treflan Curbit Prefar	Di-Syston Dyfonate Furadan Spectracide	Furaban Vydate	Methyl-Bromide Telone Vapam Vorlex Chlor-O-Pic	Terraclor

WHEAT

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Insecticide</u>	<u>Fumigant</u>
AAtrex	Di-Syston Furadan Thimet Thiophos	Busan Telone Vapam Vorlex