

**Alabama 2002**  
**Agricultural, Environmental**  
**and Rural Life Issues**

*April 2002*

**Protocol A – 2002 Survey**  
**Alabamian Opinion on Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Life**

*Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am calling from Auburn University's survey research lab. We are not selling anything! However, we are conducting a survey on important agricultural and environmental issues facing Alabamians today.*

*Your opinion is very important to us.*

*May I have a few minutes of your time to answer some questions?*

1. How well are Alabama's state and local governments protecting the environment?
  - Very Well
  - Well
  - Fairly
  - Poorly
  - Very Poorly
  - Don't know
  
2. How does Alabama's environmental status compare to other states?
  - Much better
  - Better
  - About the same
  - Worse
  - Much worse
  - Don't know
  
3. What is the best use of government funded research on Alabama agriculture?
  - Finding better uses of rural land
  - Solving environmental problems
  - Don't know
  
4. What is the least appropriate use of former agricultural land?
  - Forestry
  - Mining
  - Landfill
  - Recreational areas
  - Don't know

5. How do farming operations close to residential areas affect the quality of life?
  - Improves Significantly
  - Improves
  - No effect
  - Diminishes
  - Diminishes Significantly
  - Don't know
  
6. How do you feel about zoning of rural lands in non-incorporated areas?
  - Strongly Support
  - Support
  - Oppose
  - Strongly Oppose
  - Don't know

*For the following issues, would you Strongly Support, Support, Oppose, or Strongly Oppose a tax increase.*

7. Improving rural life in Alabama.
  - Strongly Support
  - Support
  - Oppose
  - Strongly Oppose
  - Don't know
  
8. Protecting the environment.
  - Strongly Support
  - Support
  - Oppose
  - Strongly Oppose
  - Don't know
  
9. Which causes the most pollution in Alabama?
  - Agriculture
  - Industry
  - Towns and cities
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Power generating plants
  - Don't know

*Please indicate if the pollution or other environmental damage caused by the following activities in Alabama is Very Significant, Significant, Slightly Significant, or Insignificant.*

10. Use of fertilizer on crops.

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

11. Use of fertilizer on home lawns

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

12. Use of other agricultural chemicals.

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

*For the following series of statements please respond whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.*

13. Lawyers, doctors, and other professionals own and operate a high proportion of Alabama farms as a side investment.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

14. Farmers in Alabama can make a good profit without government subsidies.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

15. Most farm families in Alabama derive more than 50% of their income from farm related activities.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
  - Don't know
16. The value of rural land in Alabama is rapidly increasing.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
  - Don't know
17. The tax rate on farmland in Alabama is among the lowest in the nation.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
  - Don't know
18. Compared to other parts of the world, food in the United States, and particularly in Alabama, is relatively inexpensive.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
  - Don't know
19. In order to protect U.S. agriculture, the importation of food products from foreign countries should be limited.
- Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
  - Don't know

20. In order to protect U.S. agriculture, how much more would you be willing to pay for food products?

- More than 25%
- 10 to 25%
- 1 to 10%
- No more
- Don't know

21. In order to protect the environment, how much more would you be willing to pay for food products?

- More than 25%
- 10 to 25%
- 1 to 10%
- No more
- Don't know

22. Is the rural economy of Alabama...?

- Doing well
- Holding its own
- Declining
- Don't know

23. Since 1950, the number of farms in Alabama has...?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know

24. Since 1950, the amount of land in Alabama used for agriculture has...?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know

25. Since 1950, total yearly crop production in Alabama has...?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know

26. What percentage of Alabamians are involved in farming?

- More than 10%
- 5 to 10%
- 2 to 5%
- Less than 2%
- Don't know

27. In what county do you live

- *County list should follow*

28. How would you classify the area in which you live? Would you say that it is...?

- City (above 50,000)
- Small city (25,000-50,000)
- Large town (5,000-25,000)
- Small town (less than 5,000)
- Small unincorporated community
- Rural area
- No answer

29. Are you currently employed...?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Homemaker
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Other (e.g. student, disabled, etc)
- No answer

30. What is your current or pre-retirement occupation?

- Laborer
- Clerical
- Technical
- Professional
- Sales
- Service
- Homemaker
- Other
- No answer

31. Do you make your living or supplement your income by farming or another agriculture-related activity?

- Yes
- No
- No answer

32. Including yourself and children, how many people live in your household?

33. How many children under 18 years of age currently live in your household?

34. In which age group would you include yourself?

- 71 +
- 61 - 70
- 51 - 60
- 41 - 50
- 31 - 40
- 18 – 30
- No answer

35. What is your highest level of education completed?

- Graduate\Professional
- Bachelor's
- Associates\Technical
- Some college
- High school diploma/GED
- Less than high school
- No answer

36. Which category best describes your annual household income?

- \$100,000 and over
- \$75 – 99,000
- \$40 - 74,000
- \$20 – 39,000
- Less than \$20,000
- No answer



37. What race do you identify with?

- African-American
- Asian-American
- Hispanic
- Native-American
- White
- Other
- No answer

38. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- No answer

**Protocol B – 2002 Survey**  
**Alabamian Opinion on Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Life**

*Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling from Auburn University's survey research lab. We are not selling anything! However, we are conducting a survey on important agricultural and environmental issues facing Alabamians today. Your opinion is very important to us. May I have a few minutes of your time to answer some questions?*

39. How well are Alabama's state and local governments protecting the environment?

- Very Well
- Well
- Fairly
- Poorly
- Very Poorly
- Don't know

40. How does Alabama's environmental status compare to other states?

- Much Better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much Worse
- Don't know

41. In regard to trash and litter, how do Alabama roadsides compare to other states' roadsides?

- Much Better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much Worse
- Don't know

42. What is the least appropriate use of former agricultural land in Alabama?

- Forestry
- Mining
- Landfill
- Recreational areas
- Don't know



*For the following statements please respond whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.*

43. Alabama has among the best soil and water resources in the United States for agriculture.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

44. Alabama's climate is excellent for a wide variety of agricultural crops.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

45. Alabama is one of the leading agricultural states in the nation.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

46. Most farm families in Alabama must have a second source of income to survive.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

47. Small family farms cause less environmental damage than large farms.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

48. There is a large amount of unused rural land in Alabama.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

For the following issues, would you Strongly Support, Support, Oppose, or Strongly Oppose a tax increase.

49. Improving rural life in Alabama.

- Strongly Support
- Support
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Don't know

50. Protecting the environment.

- Strongly Support
- Support
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Don't know

51. Which causes the most pollution in Alabama?

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Towns and cities
- Outdoor recreation
- Power generating plants
- Don't know

*Please indicate if the pollution or other environmental damage caused by the following activities in Alabama is Very Significant, Significant, Slightly Significant, or Insignificant.*

52. Use and disposal of pesticides by homeowners.

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

53. Erosion caused by crop production.

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

54. Manures from chicken production in Alabama.

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

55. Cattle and swine feedlots in Alabama.

- Very Significant
- Significant
- Slightly Significant
- Insignificant
- Don't know

56. Is the rural economy of Alabama...?

- Doing well
- Holding its own
- Declining
- Don't know

57. Since 1950, the number of farms in Alabama has...?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know

58. Since 1950, the area of land in Alabama used for agriculture has...?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know

59. Since 1950, total yearly crop production in Alabama has...?

- Increased
- Stayed the same
- Decreased
- Don't know

60. What percentage of Alabamians are involved in farming?

- More than 10%
- 5 to 10%
- 2 to 5%
- Less than 2%
- Don't know

61. What is the annual return on investment for an Alabama farmer?

- More than 10%
- 5 to 10%
- 2 to 5%
- Less than 2%
- Don't know

62. What is the age of the average Alabama farmer today?

- 60 years old or above
- Between 50 to 60 years old
- Between 40 to 50 years old
- Between 30 to 40 years old
- Don't know

63. Would you say the variety of crops grown in Alabama is...?

- Highly diversified (many different crops)
- Moderately diversified (moderate number of crops)
- Undiversified (only a few traditional crops)
- Don't know

64. Which statement about the typical Alabama farmer is most correct?

- He quickly adopts to new ideas and new crops
- He is slow to change to new methods or crops until well established
- He lags far behind farmers in other states in adopting new technology
- Don't know

65. In what county do you live?

- *County list should follow*

66. How would you classify the area in which you live? Would you say that it is...?

- City (above 50,000)
- Small city (25,000-50,000)
- Large town (5,000-25,000)
- Small town (less than 5,000)
- Small unincorporated community
- Rural area
- No answer

67. Are you currently employed...?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Homemaker
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Other (e.g. student, disabled, etc)
- No answer

68. How would you classify your current or pre-retirement occupation?

- Laborer
- Clerical
- Technical
- Professional
- Sales
- Service
- Homemaker
- Other
- No answer

69. Do you make your living or supplement your income by farming or another agriculture-related activity?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

70. Including yourself and children, how many people live in your household?

71. How many children under 18 years of age currently live in your household?



72. In which age group would you include yourself?

- 71 +
- 61 - 70
- 51 - 60
- 41 - 50
- 31 - 40
- 18 – 30
- No answer

73. What is your highest level of education completed?

- Graduate\Professional
- Bachelor's
- Associate\Technical
- Some college
- High school diploma/GED
- Less than high school
- No answer

74. Which category best describes your annual household income?

- \$100,000 and over
- \$75 – 99,000
- \$40 - 74,000
- \$20 - 39,000
- Less than \$20,000
- No answer

75. What race do you identify with?

- African-American
- Asian-American
- Hispanic
- Native-American
- White
- Other
- No answer

76. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- No answer