

APPENDIX
FARM FAMILY SURVEY INSTRUMENT

GREAT PLAINS PROJECT

Interview Code# _____

CASE STUDY INTERVIEW GUIDE

Date: _____ Interviewer name: _____

Location: _____
(include county name)

Farm type (dryland, irrigated, livestock, etc.): _____

Farmer's Name (optional):

Notes:

Factors Affecting Land Use Decisions: **DEMOGRAPHIC HISTORY** Questionnaire

I. FAMILY

1. Age at last birthday (respondent, spouse):
2. Sex:
3. Marital status:
4. Number of times married:
5. How many years married? (last/current marriage)
6. Educational level (last year school completed):
7. If college, agricultural emphasis (yes/no)?
8. With what ethnic/cultural group do you/your spouse identify?

You / Spouse

	Asian
	White/Anglo/Caucasian
	Black/Negro/African American
	Mexican/Latino/Hispano/Hispanic
	American Indian/Native American
	Other

9. What is your/your spouse's family heritage? (e.g., German, English, Japanese, Mexican)

10. Children:

Sex	Age	Education	Age when left home*	Marital status	Occupation	Present residence

*or became self-supporting if attending college

11. Is it important that your children continue farming/ranching?
12. Is it important that your children continue farming/ranching this land?
13. When you are no longer the main decision-maker, who will you hand your farm/ranch over to (or will you sell it – all or part)?

14. When you are no longer the main decision-maker, how do you think the land will be used?

15. Who lives in household now?:

Relation to head of HH	Age	Sex	How long here	Educ.	Marital status	Occupation	How does he/she participate in operation?

16. Where were you born (city/town, if possible)?

17. Where did you grow up?

18. Were you raised on a farm or in town?

19. When you were growing up, did your family have other income aside from the farm/ranch?

20. How did you learn how to farm/ranch?

21. What happened to your brothers and sisters?

Age	Sex	Educ.	Age when left home*	Marital status	Occupation	Current residence

*or became self-supporting if attending college

22. What happened to your spouse's brothers and sisters?

Age	Sex	Educ.	Age when left home*	Marital status	Occupation	Current residence

*or became self-supporting if attending college

II. PAST FAMILY

23. How long have you lived on this farm/ranch?

24. Why did you settle here (as opposed to other places)? (e.g., family, proximity to markets, climate, etc.)

25. When did you first become the main decision-maker on this farm/ranch?

26. What was the makeup of the household when you first became the decision-maker for this farm/ranch?

Relationship to HH	Age	Sex	Educ.	Age when left home*	Marital status	Occupation	Present residence

*or became self-supporting if attending college

27. Why did you get into farming/ranching? Explain:

28. Would you briefly describe your family's history of farming/ranching in this region - including changes over time in ownership and farm/ranch activity? (Ex., How long land been in family/change in land holdings/ local migration/ regional migration/ how many places lived before/after age 18.)

Factors Affecting Land Use Decisions: **LAND USE HISTORY** Questionnaire

I. OPERATIONS - PRESENT AND PAST

29. Who owns this farm-ranch operation (present)?
30. Who owned this farm-ranch when you first got started (past)?
31. What is your farm-ranch operation (present)?
32. What was your farm-ranch operation when you first got started (past)?
33. Total number of acres farmed/grazed (present)?
34. Total number of acres farmed/grazed (past)?
35. What is the size of each type of land use (acres) - present?
36. What is the size of each type of land use (acres) - past?
37. What is the maximum acreage under current conditions (environmental and market) that you would be willing to put in one crop over a 5-year period?
38. What keeps you at this level?
39. Could you describe the labor you use on the farm/ranch now (number/ ethnicity/ family status/ residence/ skill level/ seasonality)?
40. Could you describe the labor you use on the farm/ranch when you started (number/ ethnicity/ family status/ residence/ skill level/ seasonality)?
41. Do you see labor as being a problem in the future? Explain.
42. What are your goals regarding your farm/ranch?
43. What percent of your gross income comes from off-farm sources (present)?
44. What percent of your gross income came from off-farm sources when you started (past)?
45. What percent of your gross income comes from the following (present)?
 - Rental income:
 - Job:
 - Social security:
 - Hunting:
 - Other:

46. What percent of your gross income comes from the following (past)?
Rental income:
Job:
Social security:
Hunting:
Other:
47. What percent of your gross income comes from your farm-ranch (present)?
48. What percent of your gross income came from your farm-ranch when you started (past)?
49. What percent of your gross income comes from the following (present)?
Dryland farm:
Irrigated farm:
Ranch:
Dairy:
Other:
50. What percent of your gross income comes from the following (past)?
Dryland farm:
Irrigated farm:
Ranch:
Dairy:
Other:
51. What is your debt/asset ratio (present)?

52. What was your debt-asset ratio when you got started (past)?

53. What would you estimate to be the overall profitability of your operation in 1996?

II. OPERATIONS PAST AND PRESENT - INPUTS AND RESOURCES

54. What input is most profitable (important) for your operations now - present?

55. What input was most profitable (important) for your operations when you got started - past?

56. What are the longest-term planning decisions that are made on your place (how much crop to plant/ mix of stock/ new equipment)?

57. How far ahead do you plan these decisions?

58. Is water availability a problem (present)? Explain.

59. Was water availability a problem when you got started (past)? Explain.

60. Do you see water availability as being a problem in the future? Explain.

61. Is water quality a problem (present)? Explain.

62. Was water quality a problem when you got started (past)? Explain.

63. Do you see water quality as being a problem in the future? Explain.

64. Is soil quality a problem (present)? Explain

65. Was soil quality a problem when you got started? Explain

66. Do you see soil quality as being a problem in the future? Explain.

III. CHANGE TO OPERATION

71. What did you change since you started your operation and why did you make those changes? (Ex., crop types, irrigation types, tillage systems, # and type of livestock, equipment, expansion or reduction in acreage, change in inputs (fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, irrigation tractor time), land modification; price supports, market demands, etc.).

72. Were there big causes of agricultural/livestock losses or gains other than possibly weather that affected land use since you started? (Ex., cause, e.g., pests, disease, something good, etc.; land use change, e.g., sell livestock, change crop type, take land out of cultivation, put land in crop, dryland farm.)

	Change	Land use change
dryland farm		
irrigated land		
grazed land		
woodland		
wetland		
badland		
other		

IV. PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND MARKETS

73. To what extent have you participated in the following [commodity] programs (e.g., Great Plains Program (conservation), Emergency Livestock Feed Program, CRP)?

74. What will you do (or what did you do) when each program ends (ex. More dryland, less pasture, etc.)?

75. How do you deal with restrictive policies such as environmental policies (such as wetland protection - identify restrictive policies in each area)?

76. How do you market your products presently and in the past? Why did it change?

77. Where do you get your information to plan for future production/decision-making?

V. FUTURE

78. How likely are any of these changes? Rate each on a scale of 1 to 5:, where 1 is very unlikely, 2 is unlikely, 3 is neutral, 4 is somewhat likely and 5 is very likely.

	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely)
buy additional land					
rent additional land					
add additional livestock					
add new equipment					
farm more intensively					
sell land for development (__all;__some)					
sell land to another farmer/rancher for agricultural use					
stop renting land					
put some land to alternative uses					
other:					

79. Why are you likely to make these changes?

80. What factors are most important to you in making these land use decisions?

81. If you were in a pinch for money how would you/or would you modify your land use?

VI. INSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

82. Involvement in groups: where 1 is very little involvement, 2 is little involvement, 3 is neutral, 4 is involved, and 5 is very involved:

- Women's groups
- Church group
- Conservation group
- Cattlemen's associations
- Farmer's associations
- Men's groups (ex. Rotary club)
- Political party
- Do you vote?

83. What do you consider to be your community?

84. Do people in your community help each other presently? (1 always, 2 often, 3 occasionally, 4 rarely, 5 never.)

85. Who would be likely to help you if you needed help?

86. Did they help each other in the past?

VII. OPINIONS

87. Do you think the weather has changed since you have been here (e.g., drier, wetter, seasonal changes such as long summers, etc.)? How has it affected your land-use?

88. Do you think there are any environmental problems on your farm/ranch? How serious are these problems? Do they cause a loss in yields/profits?

89. How does wildlife affect what you do?

90. What wildlife is important to your operation?

91. What wildlife is a hazard to your operation?

92. Is wildlife habitat important for its own sake (not for human use)?

93. Do you take an active, passive, or no interest in new agricultural technology (industry and research)?

94. Where do you get information about new technologies?

95. Do you consider people to be a part of nature or are they more apart from or "managers" over nature?

___part of nature

___managers of nature

EXTRA QUESTIONS FOR CO/NM SITE

(NOTE: THE CO/NM SITE WAS NOT USED IN THE ARTICLE):

96. How much of your family income was off-farm?
97. When you think about your family and the future of this land, is there anything that you would do differently?
98. Can you estimate the total value of your farm/ranch assets (present)?
99. Can you estimate the total farm/ranch debt (present)?
100. Can you estimate the total value of your farm/ranch assets when you started (past)?
101. Can you estimate the total farm/ranch debt when you started (past)?
102. How much fertilizer do you use per acre (organic/chemical) – present/past?
103. What was your time frame for planning for crops (years) past? (crop rotation schedules)
104. What is your time frame for planning for livestock production (years) present?
105. What was your time frame for planning for livestock production (years) past?
106. Have there been any big effects of drought or other weather changes on land since you started your operation? Identify.
107. Were there any subsidies or programs available to help you deal with the change?
108. Did you take advantage of any subsidies or programs in response?
109. Were there any subsidies or programs that you purposefully avoided? Why?
110. Other than using subsidies or programs, how did you deal with each event described?
111. How have market prices for inputs and outputs (ex. increases and decreases in use of fertilizer) affected what you do in your operation?
112. How have market opportunities and policies affected what you do in your operation? For example, if prices were to rise by 5% next year, how would your operations be affected (e.g., planting, use of fertilizer, irrigation, etc.)?
113. If there has been a change in the amount of help people give in your community, how do you explain it?
114. Can you describe what kinds of beliefs or experiences have influenced your opinion in question 95?