

WHAT DO AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERS THINK ABOUT COVID-19?

The first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States was reported in late January and has since spread to more than 160 countries, resulting in far-reaching implications for people around the world. The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (PIE Center) recently surveyed 225 leaders in the agriculture and natural resources sectors in 17 states to examine their knowledge, response, concerns and beliefs regarding COVID-19. This survey was conducted between March 16 and April 21, 2020.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT INACCURATE INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19

According to a recent survey conducted by the UF/IFAS PIE Center, agriculture and natural resources leaders were concerned about inaccurate information being shared related to COVID-19.

Seventy-eight percent of agriculture and natural resources leaders were concerned that media and news outlets were sharing inaccurate information about COVID-19. Over two-thirds of participants indicated they were concerned agricultural laborers were not receiving accurate information; and over half of respondents were concerned they were personally not receiving accurate information about COVID-19.

Over half (55.5%) of the survey participants indicated they were business owners and answered

I AM CONCERNED MEDIA & NEWS OUTLETS ARE SHARING INACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19



I AM CONCERNED AGRICULTURAL/ FARM LABORERS ARE RECEIVING INACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19



I AM CONCERNED I AM NOT RECEIVING ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19



a subset of questions specifically related to the impacts of COVID-19 on businesses. Ninety percent of agriculture and natural resources leaders who own businesses were concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their business' bottom line. Most respondents also indicated they were concerned for their ability to provide a safe workplace environment for their employees.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON:

MY BUSINESS' BOTTOM LINE



YES
90.4%

MY EMPLOYEES MISSING WORK



YES
67.2%

MY ABILITY TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORK PLACE FOR EMPLOYEES

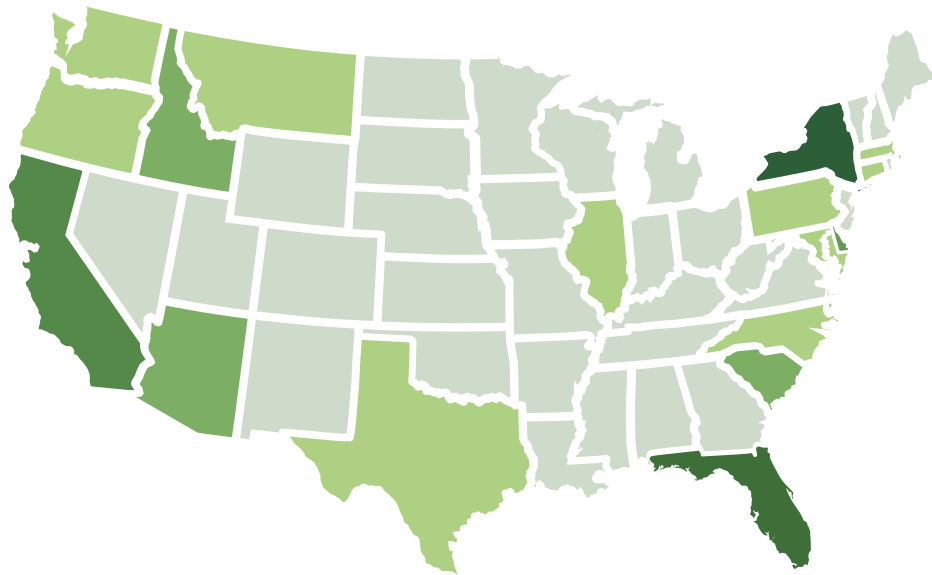


YES
57.6%

MY ABILITY TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CLIENTS/ CUSTOMERS



YES
49.6%



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS PER STATE



States with zero respondents did not participate in this study.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MY STATE ECONOMY:

YES - 97.8%



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THEIR STATE ECONOMY

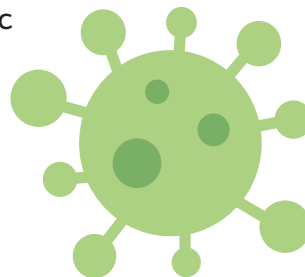
This survey was conducted nationwide with participants representing 17 states. New York had the most representation with 81 participants, followed by Florida (42), California (31) and Delaware (21).

The vast majority of agriculture and natural resources leaders (97.8%) indicated they were concerned about their state’s economy because of COVID-19. The majority of respondents also reported they were concerned about the economic effect of COVID-19 on labor shortages, personal finances and increased food cost.

Agriculture and natural resources leaders were asked about their general health concerns related to COVID-19. Over three-fourths of respondents indicated they were concerned that others they

come in contact with are not taking appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, 70.4% of agriculture and natural resources leaders ranked COVID-19 as the No. 1 current public health concern. COVID-19 was followed by Influenza and Ebola.

Regarding preparedness concerns, agriculture and natural resources leaders indicated strong levels of concern for the preparedness of their local community and state to deal with COVID-19. Furthermore, 81.8% reported concern regarding the United States’ level of preparedness.



70.4% OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERS RANKED COVID-19 AS THE #1 PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

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