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# Social Security, Retirement and Farmers: A Survey of Wisconsin Farm Owners

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## Abstract

Planning for retirement is something almost all individuals face as they age. However, farmers face a unique set of challenges when planning for retirement due to a strong identification with their occupation, the need to transfer or sell farm assets, and the potentially limited retirement savings and benefits available to them. This paper summarizes the findings of a survey of Wisconsin farmers that aimed to answer two main questions. First, how do farmers interact with the Social Security Administration? Second, what resources do farmers use for financial planning? The findings here are a first step in better understanding of the needs of farmers in order to help inform policy and programs.

Keywords: Farm Retirement, Continuation Planning, Financial Planning, Farm Survey

JEL codes: Q12, G53, J26

## Introduction

There is a growing interest in retirement planning behavior both by academics and non-academics, specifically as we see more of the Baby Boomer generation confront their retirement. A sub-group of individuals that face unique challenges when it comes to retirement are farmers. Due to these unique challenges, many economists focus on non-farm workers when they study these topics. However, some of the “unique” issues faced by farmers may not be that unique at all and we may be able to learn valuable information that can be applied to non-farm workers as well; for example, small business owners or those working in the gig economy. When comparing results from a 2006 and a 2019 survey of Iowa farmers, Maule, Zhang, and Baker (2020) find that the percentage of farmers who say they will never retire decreased slightly, but the percentage that said they would retire did not change, meaning that more farmers said they would semi-retire rather than not retire at all.

Retirement is an important stage in the life of a farmer, marking the transition from an active agricultural career to a period of reduced or ceased farming activities. Farmer retirement presents unique challenges and opportunities due to the nature of farming as an identity, the related role of farmers in sustaining rural communities, the need to transfer or sell farm assets, and food production. Retiring farmers often face financial challenges, including inadequate retirement savings, limited access to social security benefits, and uncertain land values (Mishra, Durst, and El-Osta 2005; Kirkpatrick 2013; Mishra, Johnson, and Morehart 2003). One financial consideration that has been found to be important for succession planning is government payments, with farms that receive government payments reflecting a higher likelihood of having a succession plan than those that do not (Mishra and El-Osta 2008).

Intergenerational transfer of the farm operation is a significant concern for retiring farmers. Lack of successors, conflicts within the family, and insufficient succession planning can hinder a smooth transition. In a study of Minnesota farmers, Hachfeld et al. (2009) found that a majority of farm owners did not have an up-to-date farm transition plan in place. Studying over 200 farmers in New England, Heleba, Parsons, and Sciabarrasi found when looking at qualitative data that concerns surrounding retirement and passing on the farm included interaction of family members, taxes, legal expenses, communication, and concerns about if the next generation would be able to afford it. A study of dairy farms in the United Kingdom identified four primary strategies utilized to sustain family farms: diversifying the business, maximizing debt, sacrificing family needs, and

compromising (Glover and Reay 2013). The most common were the latter two emphasizing that farmers may be more willing to make personal sacrifices before making financial or business sacrifices. In a study comparing farmers in Iowa, Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey to farmers in England, Australia, and the providences of Ontario and Quebec in Canada, farmers in the United States were less likely to have a successor identified (Lobley, Baker, and Whitehead 2010).

Retirement from farming can evoke a range of emotions for farmers who have dedicated their lives to the land. Loss of identity, social isolation, and feelings of purposelessness are common challenges experienced during this transition. According to Kirkpatrick (2013), “Farm operations that would be considered financially sound, well-managed businesses can slowly collapse and fail because the older generation is unable or unwilling to face the contradicting desires of seeing the next generation succeed yet retain the independence and self-identity farming provides.” In addition, there is the intertwining of personal considerations along with succession considerations. Kimhi and Lopez (1999) highlight this in their research when they find that retirement decisions are first influenced by individual considerations. However, they find that for individuals whose parents were also farmers, succession considerations are more important.

In this study, we aim to answer two sets of questions. First, how do farmers interact with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and gather information to make decisions about applying for benefits? Does this vary by distance from their farm to the nearest SSA field office? Second, what resources do farmers use for financial planning? Do they consider eligibility for programs like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid in old age when making financial decisions? Does working with UW-Extension change their financial planning behavior?

To answer these questions, fielding a survey was necessary. This was necessary because no existing dataset asks questions about interaction with SSA, retirement planning behavior, and financial planning behavior, plus has a large enough sample of farmers to draw conclusions. Therefore, a survey was fielded to Wisconsin farmers with the goal of answering the questions outlined above. Three key policy-relevant findings emerged when the data from the survey were analyzed. First, a majority of farmers live within 30 miles of their nearest SSA office, however, there appear to be greater differences in preferences for communication methods based on age rather than distance from the nearest SSA office. Second, having a strongly preferred method of communication is relatively common, particularly among those who prefer non-internet methods

of communication. Third, farmers use a combination of resources when planning for retirement. In addition, attending a UW-Extension event about retirement planning increases the probability that the individual has at least started a continuation plan, but there does not appear to be spillovers from attending other types of UW-Extension events.

## Methodology

As discussed above, to get the data needed for this study a survey was developed and fielded to farmers in Wisconsin. The survey collected information on demographics, Social Security interactions, farm transition and retirement planning, and interactions with UW-Extension.

The survey was conducted with the assistance of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC) based on approximately 4,000 addresses from Data Axel Reference Solutions (Data Axel). These addresses were gathered by collecting all businesses with an available address and agricultural NAICS codes: 111, 1121, 1122, 1123, and 1124. Then, 1,000 addresses were randomly sampled.<sup>1</sup> The initial mailing included a token \$1 pre-incentive in the invitation to the web survey. Following another “push-to-web mailing”, a third mailing contained a paper copy of the survey instrument, along with a \$2 pre-incentive, a cover letter and postage paid return envelope. The four-page survey required about 5 to 7 minutes to complete and contained about 30 items. See Appendix for survey questions.

## Data

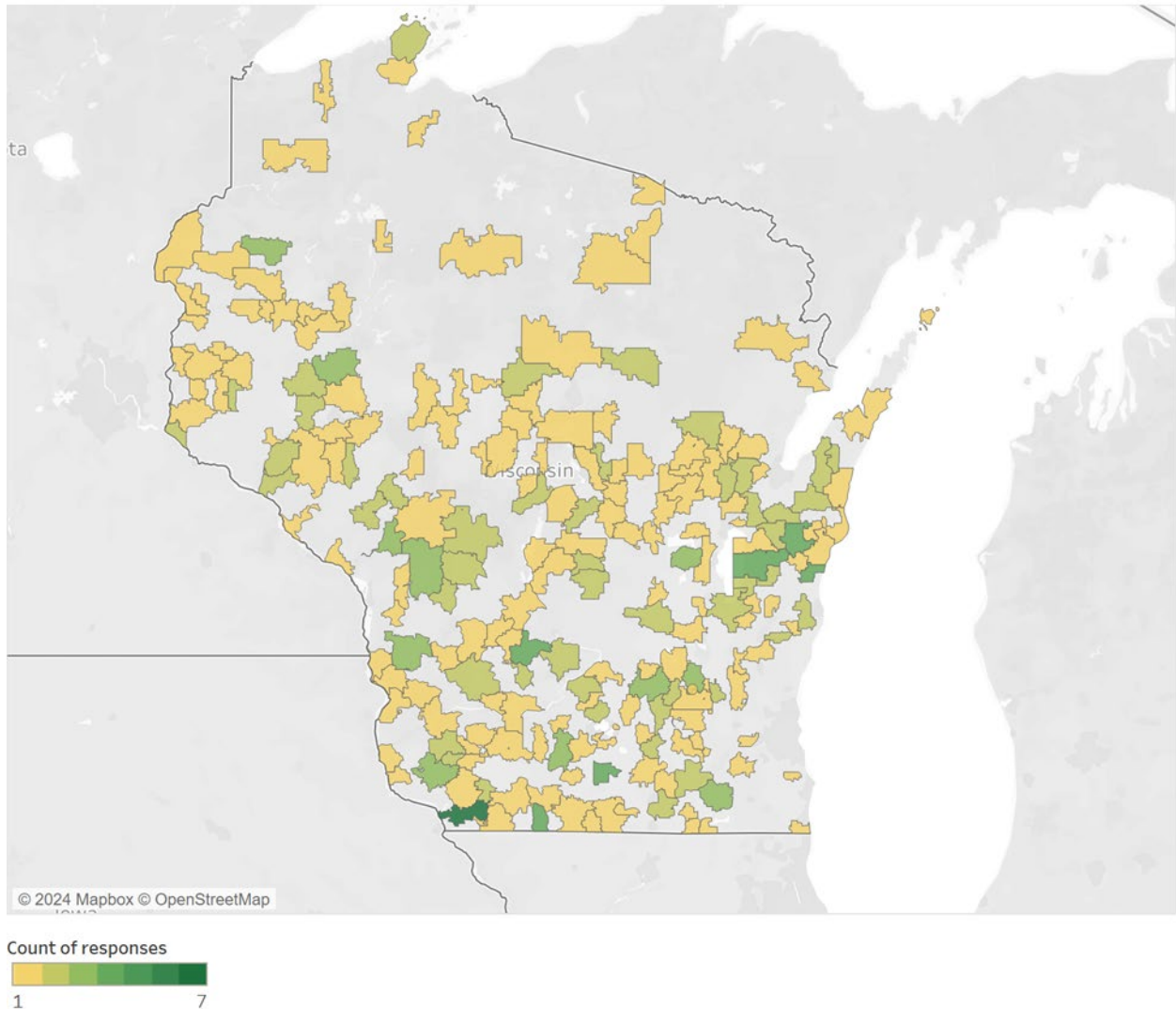
Upon survey closure, there were 312 usable survey responses; however, not all were complete survey responses. Figure 1 shows the number of respondents by zip code. Respondents from 218 unique zip codes in Wisconsin completed the survey, with the majority of zip codes having a single response. One zip code crosses Grant and Lafayette counties, and has responses from seven farms.

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<sup>1</sup> We are grateful to Jaime Faus, Kelly Elver, and Jennifer Dykema at the UWSC for developing and administering the survey.

Figure 1. Map of Farms Responding to Survey

Location of Farms in Data



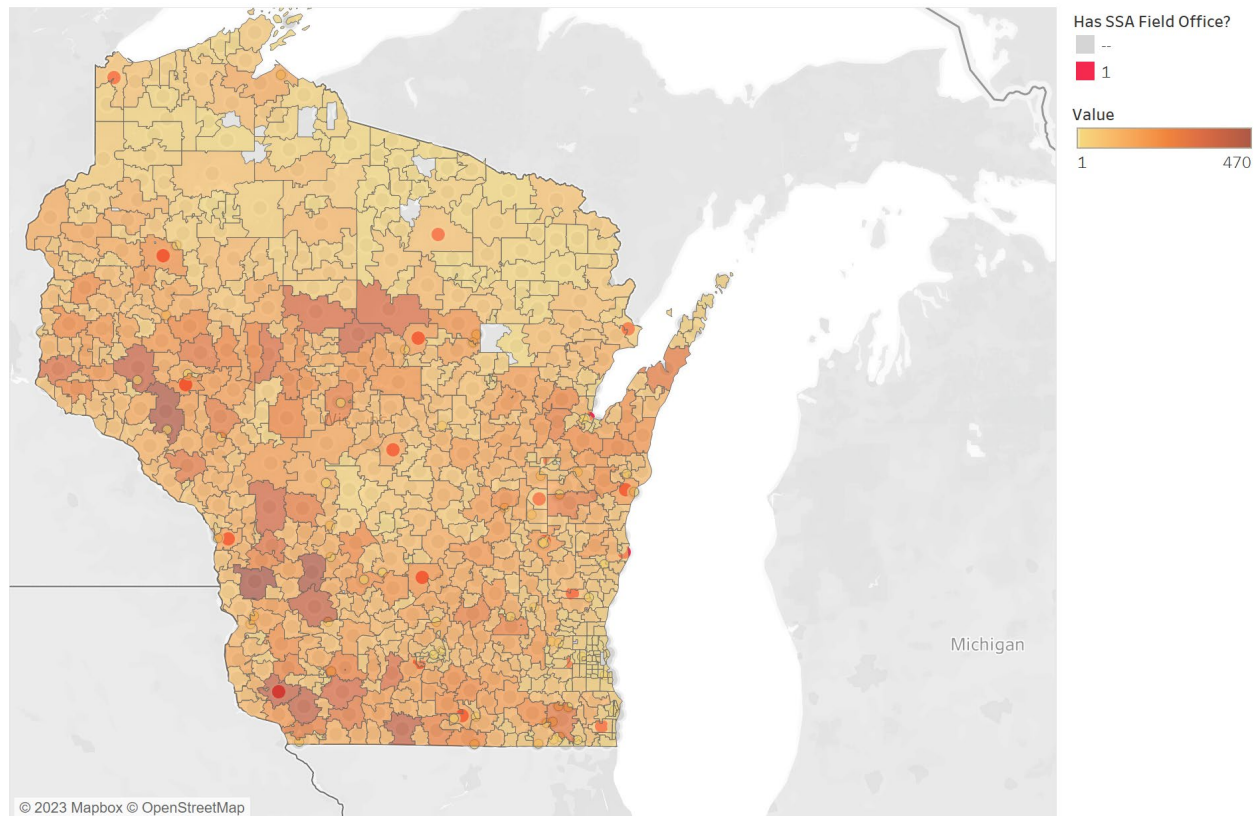
*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

This can be compared to the locations of farms throughout Wisconsin according to the 2017 USDA Agricultural Census. Figure 2 shows the number of farms in each zip code as well as the location of SSA offices. Darker-colored zip codes have more farms and lighter-colored zip codes have fewer farms; the red dots in zip codes denote that there is an SSA office located within

that zip code. Farms are more concentrated in the lower 75 percent of the state and in the western half of the state. This corresponds with where the majority of the survey responses are from.

Figure 2. Wisconsin Farm and SSA Office Locations

2017 counts of farms by zip and zip codes with SSA Office



Source: *USDA Agricultural Census 2017*

Table 1 presents summary statistics of the demographic characteristics of the sample and, when available, summary statistics for the population of Wisconsin farmers from the 2017 USDA Agricultural Census (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2017). On average, farmers in my sample are older than those in the 2017 Agricultural Census. In addition, my sample also has a larger percentage of farmers aged 65 and older. Although not intentional, this is advantageous given the aims of the survey to better understand retirement and farm continuation planning. My

sample has a larger percentage of farmers who report that farming is their primary occupation compared to the Census. This characteristic is necessary to keep in mind when considering the implications of this research, as these farm owners are less likely to have an outside stream of income and/or retirement savings to rely on if they exit farming.

When looking at family characteristics, the median number of children is two. This is important to note when thinking about farm continuation planning, as many operators plan to pass on their farm to their children. The last three rows of Table 1 report on the share of farms within 10, 20, and 30 miles of an SSA office respectively. As we don't observe actual addresses, these distances are measured from the centroid of the zip code in which the farm is located to the centroid of the zip code in which the nearest SSA office is located. However, these variables serve as reasonable proxies for the distance one would have to travel if they wanted to visit their nearest SSA office in person.

Table 1. Summary Statistics

	<b>Survey</b>	<b>2017 USDA Agricultural Census</b>
Average Age	62.7	56
Percent 65+	49.4	28.6
Percent Male	83.0	65.1
Average Years in Operation	55.5	
Percent Farming Primary Occupation	79.4	46.3
Percent Married	82.5	
Median Number of Children	3	
Median Household Size	2	
Percent within 10 Miles of SSA Office	14.7	14.8
Percent within 20 Miles of SSA Office	45.5	44.0
Percent within 30 Miles of SSA Office	79.5	72.0

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024 & USDA Agricultural Census 2017*



## Findings

### Interactions with Social Security

To better understand how farmers interact with the Social Security Administration, four questions were asked in the survey. The first question asked if respondents had needed to interact with SSA since March 2020. The results of this question are presented in Table 2. Most respondents said they did not need to interact with SSA (about 70 percent). Of those who needed to interact with SSA, all but two said they were successfully able to. The reasons given for being unsuccessful were inability to use the internet and too long of wait times when calling.

Table 2. Needed to Interact with SSA since March 2020?

	Count	Percent	Average Age
No interactions with SSA	215	70%	60.6
Yes and I was able to	90	29.3%	67.6
Yes I needed to but was unable to	2	0.7%	63.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>62.6</b>

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

The next question asked about the individual's preferred method(s) of interacting with SSA. For this question, individuals were given four ways of communicating with SSA (call, email, online services, visit in person); for each they were given a scale to rate their likelihood of using that method of communication to communicate with SSA. Results showing the full distribution of preferences for each method are shown in Table 3. Two major findings stand out in this table. First, calling appears to be the most preferred method of communication, with less than 8 percent of respondents saying that they would not be likely to use that method and over 63 percent of respondents saying that they would either be very or extremely likely to use that method of communication. Second, online services appear to be the least likely to be used with over 44 percent of respondents saying they would not be likely to use that method and less than 23 percent saying they would be very or extremely likely to use the method.

Table 3. Likelihood to Use Communication Method

	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Extremely</b>
Call	7.8%	9.5%	19.1%	39.8%	23.8%
Email	25.1%	18.3%	23.3%	28.7%	4.7%
Online Services	44.3%	15.7%	17.1%	19.6%	3.2%
Visit In Person	21.2%	19.8%	22.9%	21.8%	14.3%

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

To better understand the findings here, two further measures of communication preference were constructed: whether the individual only preferred one method of communication and whether the individual only had one strongly preferred method of communication. First, an individual was said to have only one method of preferred communication if for only one of the above-described methods they answered at least slightly and answered not at all for the other three methods. Table 4 shows the number of individuals who fall into each category along with the average age and the share that live within 30 miles of their nearest SSA field office. In addition, the last row of the table includes a count of those who only prefer non-internet-based communication methods. These individuals answered at least slightly for call and/or visit in person but not at all for email and online services. Having one single preferred communication method appears to be rare, however, only preferring to use non-internet-based communication methods is a relatively more frequent preference. Those that only prefer non-internet-based methods seem to be older than those who only prefer internet-based methods.

Table 4. Only One Preferred Communication Method

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Average Age</b>	<b>Share Within 30 Miles</b>
Call	7	72.9	85.7%
Email	3	51.3	100%
Online Services	2	55.5	100%
Visit In Person	4	72	75%
Non-Internet	51	68.5	84%

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

The next measure is for one strongly preferred method of communication. This is defined as the individual stating that they would be very or extremely likely to use one given method of communication and only somewhat, slightly, or not at all for the other three methods. Table 5

presents the counts of individuals with each preference along with the average age and share of those with the preference living within 30 miles of their nearest SSA office. Similar to Table 4, the last row is for respondents who have a strong preference for non-internet methods. Having one strongly preferred method of communication appears to be more common than having a single preferred method, and again non-internet methods appear to be more commonly preferred when compared to methods that require use of the internet.

Table 5. Strongly Preferred Communication Method

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Average Age</b>	<b>Share Within 30 Miles</b>
Call	58	64.4	84.5%
Email	13	61.5	84.6%
Online Services	15	54.6	93.3%
Visit In Person	22	69.0	72.7%
<b>Non-Internet</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>82.3%</b>

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

The last two questions pertaining to SSA interactions ask whether the individual had heard of “My Social Security” and, if so, whether they had set up an account. This is another way of measuring interactions with SSA. Table 6 presents information on those who have and have not heard of “My Social Security.” Approximately 37 percent of respondents had heard of “My Social Security;” notably, the average age of those who have heard of it is five years older than that of those who have not. This may mean that SSA is doing a good job of informing those who are nearing retirement age of the availability of the tool.

Table 6. Heard of “My Social Security”?

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Average Age</b>
Yes	109	37.0%	65.3
No	186	63.0%	60.3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>62.1</b>

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

Table 7 presents information for those who have heard of “My Social Security” if they have created an account. Over 78 percent of those who had heard of it had already signed up for

an account. This is a very promising sign, as it shows that there is interest in the platform and that once individuals hear about it they are willing and able to set up their account. There is very little difference in the average age of those who have and have not created an account.

Table 7. Set Up “My Social Security” Account

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Average Age</b>
Yes	83	78.3%	64.8
No	23	21.7%	66.3
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>65.1</b>

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

## Financial and retirement planning

The next goal of this research was to better understand how farmers plan for retirement. As noted earlier, planning for retirement for most farmers goes beyond simply figuring out how to finance retirement, but often includes considerations about farm continuation. The survey included multiple questions about retirement and farm continuation planning, the first of which was if the individual has an age at which they are targeting retiring from farming. Almost 65 percent of respondents said they do not have a target age at which they would like to retire from farming.

Individuals who do not consider farming to be their primary occupation were more likely than those who do consider farming their primary occupation to have a target age at which they would like to retire from farming. However, for those who do have a target age at retirement, the average target age was higher for those who consider farming to be their primary occupation (69 vs. 65.3).

To better understand what resources farmers use for financial planning, they were asked to check all of the resources that they use from the following list: Professional financial advisor, UW-Extension services/workshops, online resources, financial institution services, friends and/or family, an attorney, and an accountant. The share of respondents that use each source along with the average age of those responding yes is shown in Table 8. The most commonly used services are those of an attorney or an accountant with online and UW-Extension services being the least likely to be used. Out of the 285 respondents who answered all questions pertaining to which resources they use, only 22 (about 7.7 percent) report using none of the services and only 19 (about

6.7 percent) report only using one listed service. This highlights the importance of having multiple resources for financial planning for farmers.

Table 8. Sources Used for Financial Planning

	Percent Responding Yes	Average Age
Professional Financial Advisor	55.4%	63.0
UW-Extension	10.4%	64.6
Online Resources	27.0%	57.9
Financial Institution	47.1%	61.8
Friends/Family	44.1%	60.6
Attorney	62.7%	63.9
Accountant	75.3%	62.3

Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024

Farmers were also asked how much they consider eligibility for Social Security Programs or Medicaid/Medicare now or in the future when making financial decisions. Results are shown in Table 9. The programs most reported to be considered at least “quite a bit” are Medicare and/or Medicaid in the future, whereas SSA programs now are the least. An interesting group to consider is those who responded “not at all.” Looking at the timing dimension, 14.7 percent of respondents do not consider programs now or in the future, 14.1 percent only consider eligibility in the future, and only 2.0 percent of respondents only stated considering eligibility now but not in the future. Looking at the program dimension, of those who consider eligibility for programs at least a little the vast majority consider eligibility for both SSA and Medicare and/or Medicaid. Only 3.4 percent of respondents reported only considering eligibility for SSA programs and only 4.7 percent reported only considering eligibility for Medicare and/or Medicaid.

Table 9. Considering Eligibility for Programs Now and in the Future

	Not at all	A little	Some	Quite a bit	A great deal
SSA programs now	34.5%	9.8%	27.0%	14.7%	14.0%
SSA programs future	22.3%	15.7%	31.0%	17.3%	13.7%
Medicare/Medicaid now	33.8%	8.2%	20.7%	17.1%	20.3%
Medicare/Medicaid future	19.0%	11.0%	25.3%	23.3%	21.3%

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

As discussed earlier, retirement in farming goes beyond just financial considerations but for many also includes farm continuation planning. Table 10 presents results on if individuals have a continuation plan in place in addition to the average age for each response. The majority of respondents had at least started a continuation plan. However, only a little over 41 percent of respondents had one formally in place. There is a clear age gradient when looking at the level of continuation planning that has been completed, with the average age of those with a plan formally in place being the oldest and those without a plan being the youngest.

Table 10. Continuation Planning

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Average Age</b>
Yes	41.5%	66.8
Have started but do not have one formally in place yet	23.9%	61.9
No	34.6%	58.0

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

Lastly, differences in continuation planning are examined according to whether individuals had attended any UW-Extension seminars or events in the last five years. Table 11 shows the status of the individual's continuation planning according to whether they had attended a UW-Extension event. In addition, the table is broken out to differentiate between individuals who attended an event about retirement or farm continuation planning and individuals who attended a different type of event. As one would hope, those who have attended an event specifically about retirement or continuation planning have the highest percentage of having a plan in place or at least having a plan started. However, attending an event about a topic other than retirement or continuation planning does not appear to have spillover effects. Individuals who attended other events appear to be just as likely as those who had not attended any events to report having a continuation plan in place.

Table 11. Continuation Planning by UW-Extension Event Attendance

<b>Attended Retirement or Farm Continuation Planning Event</b>	
Yes, continuation plan in place	56.8%
Have started continuation plan in but not formally in place yet	27.0%
No continuation plan in place	16.2%
<b>Attended a Different Extension Event</b>	
Yes, continuation plan in place	36.0%
Have started continuation plan in but not formally in place yet	32.0%
No continuation plan in place	32.0%
<b>Has Not Attended an Event</b>	
Yes, continuation plan in place	40.0%
Have started continuation plan in but not formally in place yet	19.4%
No continuation plan in place	40.6%

*Source: Wisconsin Farmers Survey 2024*

## Conclusion

First, when thinking about interactions with SSA, it was found that calling was the most common singly preferred and strongly preferred method of interaction, whereas the use of online methods such as email or online services appears to be less preferable. However, for almost 15 percent of respondents using either email or online services, is their most preferred method of communication. In addition, SSA is encouraging individuals to use online options. For example, when trying to find the nearest office on their website, individuals are met with a message saying, “Our website, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), is the best way to get help. If you cannot use our website, please call our National 800 Number or your local Social Security office. We can often help by phone and save you a trip to an office.” The importance of having a variety of methods for interacting is clearly highlighted here. For some individuals in more rural areas where internet coverage may be limited or for more senior individuals who are not as proficient with the Internet, still having the ability to call and/or visit an office in person is crucial. Continuing to monitor these preferences over time will be important to inform decisions about methods that SSA makes available to individuals for communication.

When looking at “My Social Security” it is notable that less than 40 percent of individuals had heard of the platform. Specifically of note, the average age of those who had not heard of the platform is approximately 60, whereas the average age of those who have heard of the platform is about 65. This may suggest that those near the full retirement age are being better targeted with the information. However, there is still room for improvement in educating individuals about the

existence and benefits of using said platform. These findings may be helpful when thinking about future ways that the platform is described and benefits explained.

A key finding of this research is that most farmers are using more than one resource for financial planning. In addition, most farmers are factoring in eligibility for programs at least “a little” when making financial decisions. However, continuing to stress the importance of factoring in program eligibility both now and in the future when making decisions is essential for both farmers and those who advise them financially.

Lastly, when looking at continuation planning, only a little over 41 percent of respondents reported having a plan in place. This is important to note given that the average age of the sample is almost 63, with almost half of the sample aged 65+. This may present a clear opportunity for UW-Extension to work with farmers to help them begin to implement their continuation plans. Particularly, the lack of spillovers across events may be an easy opportunity for this. For example, having brochures with information about continuation planning at other events that individuals may grab may be the nudge they need to start having difficult yet important conversations around the topics of retirement and what will happen to the farm in the case of retirement.

This survey is a first step at better understanding how farmers, in this case specifically those in Wisconsin, are preparing for retirement. Overall, future work is needed to further study and understand the challenges faced by farmers so relevant parties (financial planners, extension agencies, lawmakers etc.) can best serve this important group of individuals.



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## Appendix: Survey Instrument

### Wisconsin Farmer's Retirement Survey

Thank you for your interest in our study. This questionnaire will help us learn more about how Wisconsin farmers are planning for the continuation of their farm and retirement or semi-retirement, as well as their interactions with the Social Security Administration. Participation in the study consists of completing this questionnaire, which should take about 10 minutes.

Your participation is voluntary, and you may skip any questions that you do not want to answer. Even if you start the questionnaire, you are not required to complete it. You can stop at any time by simply closing your web browser. Your answers will be kept confidential and the information you provide will not be published in a way that would allow you to be personally identified.

There are minimal risks to participants. The risk of a confidentiality breach will be minimized by storing survey data securely according to campus policy; by masking participant identities in publication; and when necessary, storing identifiable or sensitive information separately from other study data. We don't expect any direct benefits to you from participation in this study.

If you have questions about the study, please feel free to contact Marissa Eckrote-Nordland at [meckrote@uwlax.edu](mailto:meckrote@uwlax.edu), or (715) 570-8838.

If you are not satisfied with the response of the research team, have more questions, or want to talk with someone about your rights as a research participant, please contact the confidential research compliance line at 1-833-652-2506.

#### Instructions to complete the survey:

To choose a response, click on the button that corresponds to your answer.

If you would like to change your answer, click on a different button, or for questions with multiple answers just click the same button again.

You may go back to earlier pages by clicking the 'BACK' button at the bottom of the screen. To advance to the next page of the survey click the 'NEXT' button.

After the entire survey has been completed, please click on the 'SUBMIT' button on the last page. Once you click 'SUBMIT' you will not be able to re-enter the survey.

#### **Wisconsin Farmer Retirement Study**

Please fill out the following questions to help us better understand Wisconsin farmer's plans for retirement or semi-retirement.

**(q1) First, we have a few questions about your work.**

**Do you consider farming to be your main job?**

- Yes  
 No

**(q1a) What do you consider to be your main job?**

**(q2) Which one of the following best describes your role in the farm operation you are associated with?**

- Primary farm operator
- Joint operator, a partner, or one of several key decision-makers
- Spouse of one of the key decision-makers on this farm
- Hired farm manager with no ownership interest in the farm

**(q3) For how many years has your farm been in operation? Please round up to the nearest year.**

Years in operation

**(q4) For about how about many years have you paid Income or Self-Employment taxes, also known as FICA taxes?**

Years

**(q5) Have you paid FICA taxes for at least five of the last ten years?**

- Yes
- No

**(q6) Next, we have some questions about your interactions with the Social Security Administration or SSA.**

**Since March of 2020, have you needed to interact with the Social Security Administration or SSA?**

- Yes, you needed to and were able to
- Yes, you needed to but were unable to
- No, you have not needed to

**(q6a) Why were you unable to interact with the SSA?**

- You wanted to go into your local field office, but it was closed
- You wanted to go into your local field office, but you were unable due to health concerns
- You wanted to address an issue online, but you were unable to due to lack of internet access
- You wanted to address an issue online, but you were unable to due to troubles navigating online resources
- Other reason, Please tell us:

**If you need to ask a question or interact with the SSA in the future, how likely are you to use each of the following methods to contact them?**

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
(q7a) Phone call	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q7b) Email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q7c) Online services, such as chat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(q7d) Visit an office in-person

**(q8) Have you heard of "My Social Security", the online portal for managing your SSA records?**

- Yes
- No

**(q8a) Have you set up a "My Social Security" account through the SSA?**

- Yes
- No

**(q9) Next, we have some questions about your plans for retirement.**

**At what age would you like to retire from farming? If you do not have a target age in mind, please mark "No target age in mind".**

- Age
- No target age in mind

**(q10) Do you have a formal farm transition plan in place?**

- Yes
- No
- No; I have started but do not have one formally in place

**(q10a) Which one of the following best describes your farm transition plan?**

- Farm will be passed on or sold to family members
- Farm will be sold to a pre-determined company or person who is not a family member
- Farm will be put up for sale and the buyer has not yet been determined
- Other plan. Please tell us:

**Do you plan to use each of the following sources of income to finance your retirement, or semi-retirement?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
(q11a) Farm assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q11b) Private savings separate from money received from selling the farm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q11c) Inherited assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q11d) Social Security benefit payments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q11e) Pension or annuity payments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q11f) Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRAs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- |   |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (q11g) Other non-retirement account or non-IRA account assets | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (q11h) Farm income  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**(q12) In your opinion, over the next 10 years, how likely is there to be changes to the social security program that would reduce your future benefits compared to what you would get under the current system?**

- Not at all
- Slightly
- Somewhat
- Very
- Extremely

**Do you use each of the following resources for financial planning?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
(q13a) Professional financial advisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q13b) UW-Extension services or workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q13c) Online resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q13d) Financial institution services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q13e) Friends or family members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q13f) Attorney	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q13g) Accountant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**When making financial decisions, how much do you consider your eligibility for each of the following types of programs?**

	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>A little</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Quite a bit</b>	<b>A great deal</b>
(q14a) Social Security programs <u>now</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q14b) Social Security programs in the <u>future</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q14c) Medicare or Medicaid <u>now</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q14d) Medicare or Medicaid in the <u>future</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**In the past five years, did you attend events or seminars organized by UW-Extension on each of the following topics?**

	Yes	No
(q15a) Agricultural Practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q15b) Retirement, Farm Continuation, or Transition Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q15c) Mental Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(q15d) Other topic, please tell us: <input type="text"/>		

**(q16) Finally, we have some questions about you.****What is your age?** Age**(q17) Including biological, adopted, foster, or stepchildren, how many children do you currently have?** Children**(q18) Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?** People in household**(q19) What is your sex?** Female Male**(q20) What is your current marital status?** Married Widowed Divorced Separated Single, never married**(q20a) Does your spouse work at a job outside of farming?** Yes No**(q21) What is the highest level of education you have completed?** Some high school or less Completed high school or obtained GED Trade school such as Cosmetology school or Electrical school Some college Associate degree or a 2-year college degree Bachelor's degree or a 4-year college degree

- Master's degree
- Advanced degree such as a Ph.D, a Law degree or a Medical degree

**(q22) In 2022, including all sources, what was your total annual household income before taxes?**

- Negative income
- \$0 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$119,999
- \$120,000 to \$139,999
- \$140,000 to \$159,999
- \$160,000 to \$179,999
- \$180,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

**(q23) In 2022, approximately how much of your total household income came from farming?**

- None
- A little
- Some
- Most
- All

**(q24) What is the main type of internet service you use at home?**

- You do not have internet access at home
- Residential broadband or DSL, cable, or fiber such as Spectrum or CenturyLink
- Hot spot, such as Visible or T-Mobile
- Satellite, such as Viasat or HughesNet
- Dial-up, such as NetZero or EarthLink

**(comments) Please share any additional comments you may have about participation in the *Wisconsin Farmer's Retirement* study:**

**These are all the questions we have for you.**

**After the entire survey has been completed and you are ready to submit your survey, please click on the 'SUBMIT' button below. Once you click 'SUBMIT' you will not be able to re-enter the survey.**

**Thank you for participating in this important study!**