Social Forces and Cultural Factors Impacting Farm Transition

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- Social and Cultural Factors
  - Agriculture at the Rural-Urban Interface (RUI)

- Social Diversity
  - Multi-generation vs. First-generation Farmers
  - Race, Ethnicity, Gender

- Communities & Institutional Theories of Work Force Development
  - Health Insurance
  - Child Care
  - Housing
Agriculturally Important Rural-Urban Interface Counties

- Represent less than 20% of all counties
- **Account for 41% of U.S. agricultural sales**
  - 95% of U.S. fruit and nut sales
  - 95% of U.S. nursery greenhouse sales
  - 84% of U.S. vegetable sales

2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture Data

Spatial Distribution of Agriculturally Important Counties at the RUI

Image by Clark 2012
Transition and Persistence of the Family Farm

motivations & goals
socialization
lifecycle
succession

Multi-generation Farm Families

http://www.grassfieldscheese.com
Enterprise Growth

Number of Family Members

Expand & Intensify Production

Business C
Business B
Business A
Current Production

Land Base

First-generation Farm Families

www.rainfreshharvests.com/
Research and Policy Implications

- Succession
- Land protection
- Farm Diversification
- Inheritance Planning
- Quality of life
- Socialization
- Younger Farmers
- Long term panel studies

Farmer Diversity

Percent of Operators by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

- American Indian
- Asian
- Black
- More than one race
- Hispanic
- Women

NASS, Census of Agriculture 2007
Current Approach

Land, Capital, Markets, Labor, Skills

Household

Institutional Theories of Workforce Development

Land, Capital, Markets, Labor, Skills

Health Care, Child Care, Housing

Household
Barriers to Farm Persistence and Growth

Top five issues identified as *Serious Problems* for the farm business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commercial Farmer Issues</th>
<th>% Serious Threat</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cost of health insurance</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cost of farm inputs</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cost of farmland</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Net income from farm</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Current prices for my farm products</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sippel Family Farm, Mt. Gilead, Ohio

[www.sippelfamilyfarm.com](http://www.sippelfamilyfarm.com)
Child Care

Map 1
Number of Child Care Providers Licensed for Children Under 5 by Community, 2010

Source: Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Licensed Daycare Providers 2010

Housing and Communities
Research and Policy Implications

- Policies and programs that respond to diversity
  - geography, production system
  - culture, ethnicity, race and gender

- Analyzing overlap between
  - land, capital, credit, market conditions
  - rural development
  - community development
  - farm transition
  - state and federal policy contexts

- Recognize the grey

Thank You

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