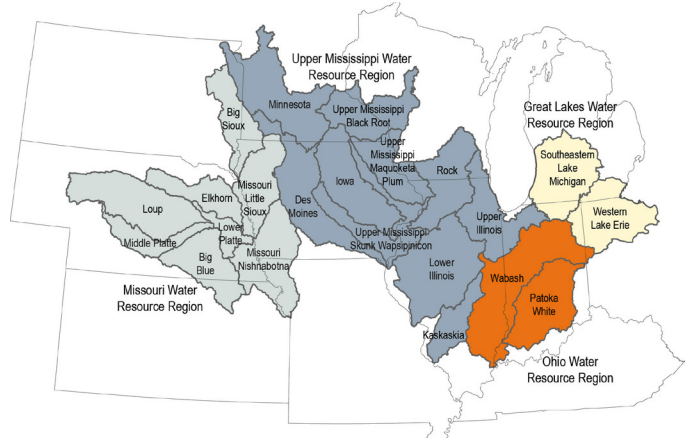




# Farmer Perspectives on Agriculture and Weather Variability in the Corn Belt: A Statistical Atlas



Climate change-related threats to agricultural sustainability are leading to increasingly urgent calls for the development of effective adaptation strategies. In 2011, the USDA funded the Climate and Corn-based Cropping Systems Coordinated Agricultural Project (CSCAP). The project is a partnership among 11 institutions creating new science and educational opportunities. Team members seek to increase resilience and adaptability of Midwest agriculture to more volatile weather patterns by identifying farmer practices and policies that increase sustainability while meeting crop demand. More information about the project can be found at [www.sustainablecorn.org](http://www.sustainablecorn.org).

The effectiveness of any adaptation or mitigation action in Corn Belt agriculture depends on the degree to which the region's farmers are willing and able to act. A primary objective of this project is to conduct social science research

that assesses farmer understanding of climate change and attitudes toward adaptive and mitigative practices and strategies. Toward that end, a survey of 5000 farmers from 22 watersheds in 11 Corn Belt states was conducted in February 2012. The survey was conducted in partnership with the Useful to Usable (U2U) project ([www.AgClimate4U.org](http://www.AgClimate4U.org)), another USDA-funded climate and agriculture project. The watersheds that were surveyed account for more than half of all US corn and soybean production. Farmers selected for the survey were those who grew corn and who had more than \$100,000 in gross farm income in 2011; these larger-scale farmers cultivate approximately 80 percent of the farmland in the region.

The farmer survey data have been compiled in a "statistical atlas" that contains tables and maps that show the geographical distribution of survey results across the Corn Belt. Data presented include:

- Attitudes toward potential climate change adaptation and mitigation actions
- Concerns about climate-related threats to farm operations
- Perceived capacity to deal with the predicted impacts of climate change
- Recent experience with extreme weather events

Weather maps that were developed using data from National Weather Service Cooperative Observer weather stations from across the region are also presented. The maps show differences over time in extreme precipitation, drought, and heat stress by watershed.

The maps and tables are resources that extension educators, agricultural advisors, and other agricultural stakeholders across the region can use to help increase understanding of farmer perspectives in their local areas.

Open and download the report at [www.sustainablecorn.org/What\\_Farmers\\_are\\_Saying/Index.html](http://www.sustainablecorn.org/What_Farmers_are_Saying/Index.html).

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