

6 Capacity

Changing climate conditions will have a number of potential impacts on agriculture. Farmers have differing adaptive capacities to adjust and moderate potential damages or take advantage of opportunities as conditions change. Farmers' ability to cope is based on their current situation, access to data, information and technology and their confidence, ability, and skills to turn data into useable information about how to best respond to weather-related threats. Further, perceptions about uncertainty, the vulnerability of their farm enterprise, and access to resources including crop insurance and other programs can also affect capacity to respond to perceived risks and hazards.

Five survey items measured farmers' self-rated capacity to cope with the potential impacts of climate change on a five-point agreement scale from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). The items were preceded by the text, "given what you believe to be true about the potential impacts of climate change on agriculture in the Corn Belt, please provide your opinions on the following statements."

Table 7. Perceived capacity¹ to deal with the potential impact of climate change, percent agree or strongly agree (n = 4,778)

Watershed (HUC6)	Q19A ^a	Q19B ^b	Q19E ^e	Q19F ^f	Q19H ^h
Full Weighted Sample	48.4	45.0	30.9	32.6	27.2
Loup.....	50.0	41.6	23.4	18.2	26.6
Middle Platte.....	54.3	45.7	29.8	29.8	31.8
Elkhorn	50.0	39.6	31.7	30.5	25.0
Big Blue	49.7	44.9	29.7	30.8	26.5
Lower Platte.....	43.5	45.3	24.2	30.4	23.0
Big Sioux	45.9	42.1	31.7	28.4	26.8
Missouri-Little Sioux	45.3	44.8	29.6	33.2	29.2
Missouri-Nishnabotna.....	40.6	39.3	25.0	30.8	21.9
Minnesota	49.0	40.5	29.5	35.4	30.4
Des Moines.....	46.0	45.6	31.7	36.3	25.9
Iowa.....	49.6	42.7	29.4	31.1	22.2
Black Root.....	43.0	38.0	24.4	27.3	25.2
Skunk Wapsipinicon	45.5	48.5	30.0	33.5	27.5
Maquoketa Plum.....	42.4	37.7	31.0	32.2	26.7
Lower Illinois.....	48.4	49.2	28.7	35.3	23.4
Rock	42.5	37.8	24.7	24.7	27.4
Kaskaskia	40.6	39.1	26.9	30.0	22.3
Upper Illinois.....	44.9	41.9	29.9	27.4	22.7
Wabash	45.2	43.5	33.5	27.2	23.9
Patoka-White.....	35.3	33.8	24.4	21.4	18.4
Southeastern Lake Michigan.....	48.5	42.0	29.9	21.7	29.9
Western Lake Erie.....	40.6	35.4	27.6	32.3	21.7

¹Measured by percent agreement (agree or strongly agree) on a 5-point scale.

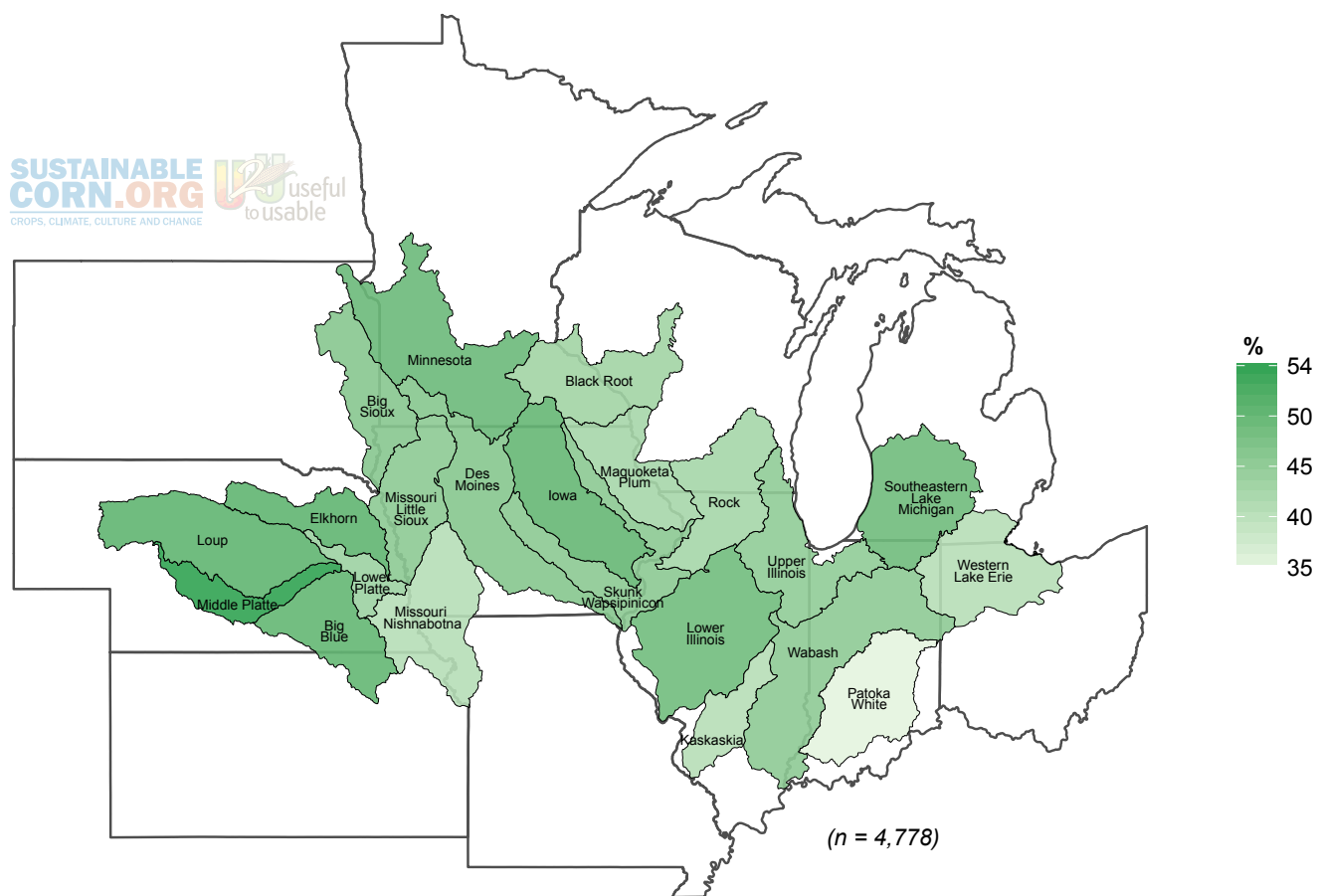
^aI have the knowledge and technical skill to deal with any weather-related threats to the viability of my farm operation.

^bI have the financial capacity to deal with any weather-related threats to the viability of my farm operation.

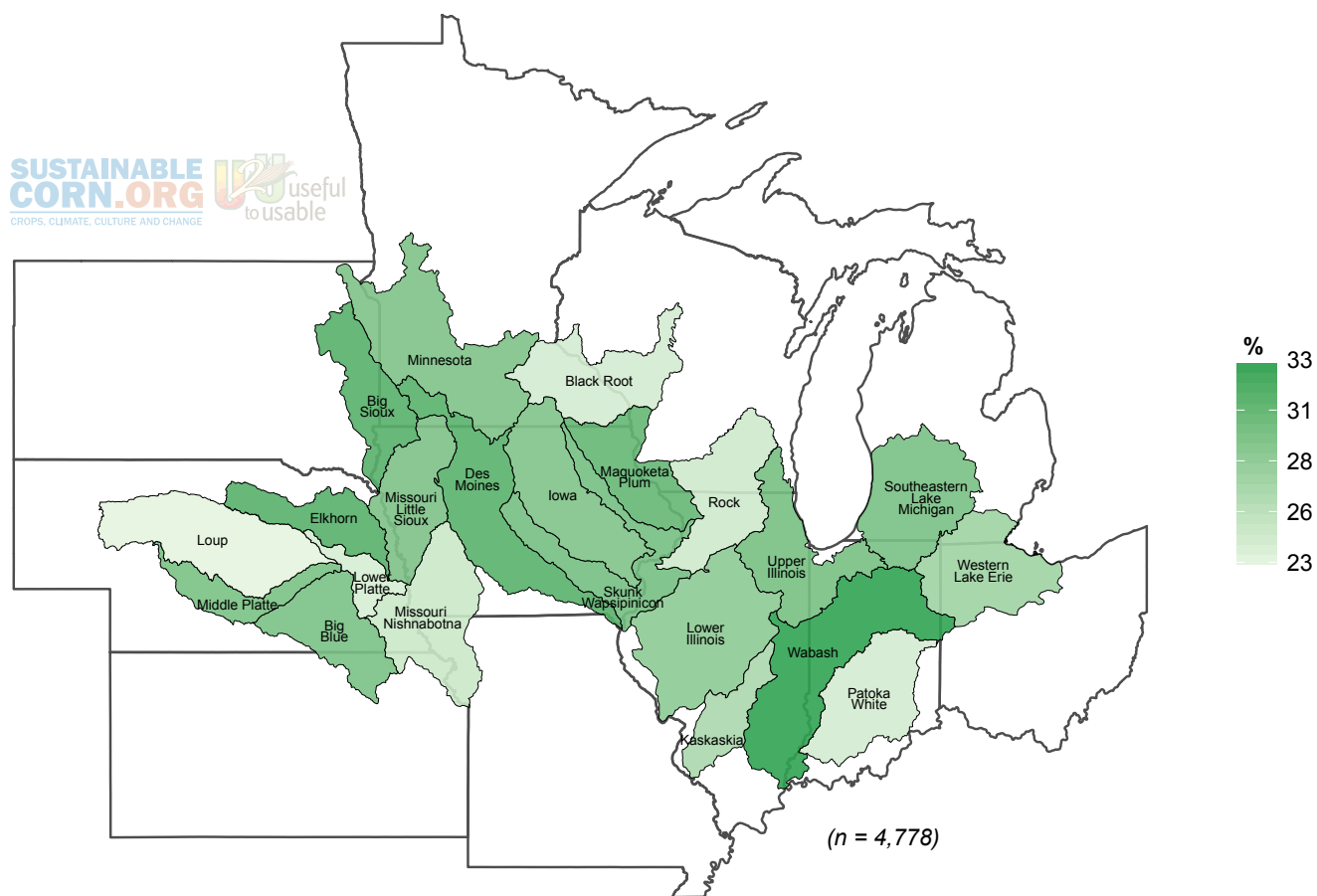
^eClimate change is not a big issue because human ingenuity will enable us to adapt to changes.

^fCrop insurance and other programs will protect the viability of my farm operation regardless of weather.

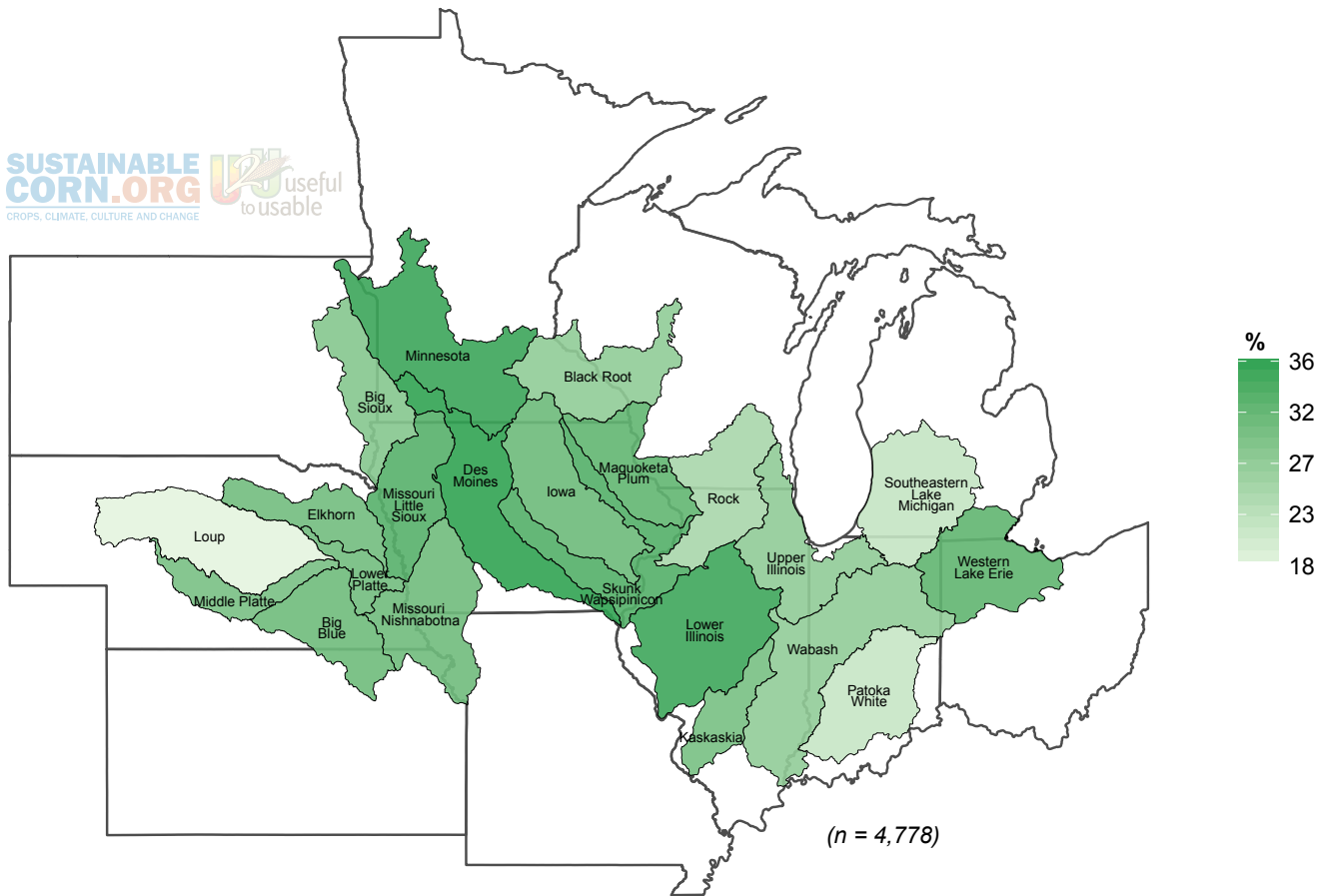
^hI am concerned that available best management practice technologies are not effective enough to protect the land I farm from the impacts of climate change.



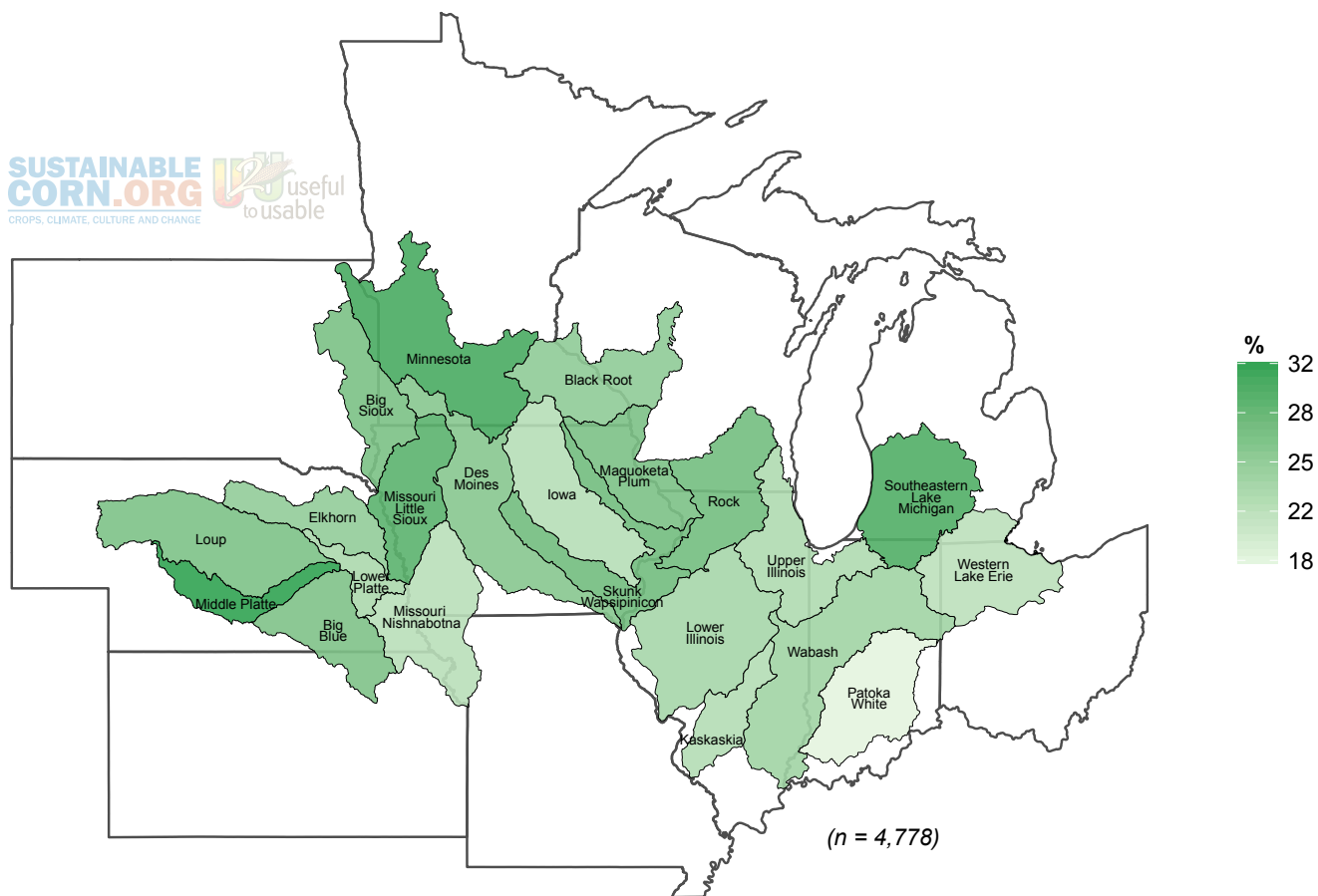
Map 43. I have the knowledge and technical skill to deal with any weather-related threats to the viability of my farm operation (Q19A), percent agree or strongly agree.



Map 45. Climate change is not a big issue because human ingenuity will enable us to adapt to changes (Q19E), percent agree or strongly agree.



Map 46. Crop insurance and other programs will protect the viability of my farm operation regardless of weather (Q19F), percent agree or strongly agree.



Map 47. I am concerned that available best management practice technologies are not effective enough to protect the land I farm from the impacts of climate change (Q19H), percent agree or strongly agree.

