

2 Attitudes Toward Adaptive and Mitigative Action

Attitudes are an assessment or subjective evaluation about a specific object, idea, or policy. Frequently, attitudes are intuitive or affect responses (positive, negative, or neutral) rather than analytical objective or factual analyses. The tables and maps in this section summarize Midwest farmers' attitudes toward a number of potential adaptive and mitigative actions. Adaptive actions are adjustments that farmers make as they react to or anticipate changing conditions that are of concern and may place the farm enterprise at risk. Adaptive actions can be technological, economic, social, managerial, and/or advocating institutional adjustments and are often motivated by intentions to reduce risk and vulnerability of the farm enterprise. Mitigation actions are those that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Mitigation actions can be individual responses but are most often viewed as collective activities and policies that benefit global conditions.

The survey included 15 adaptation and mitigation items to be rated on a five-point agreement scale from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). The question set was preceded by the text, "Organizations, agencies, and individuals can do a number of things to prepare for or address potential changes in climate. Please provide your opinions on the following statements."

Table 1. Attitudes¹ toward various adaptive and mitigative actions to prepare for or address potential changes in climate, percent agree or strongly agree (n = 4,778)

Watershed (HUC6)	Q20A ^a	Q20B ^b	Q20C ^c	Q20D ^d	Q20E ^e	Q20F ^f	Q20G ^g	Q20H ^h	Q20I ⁱ	Q20J ^j	Q20K ^k	Q20N ⁿ	Q20O ^o
Weighted Full Sample	65.4	58.0	84.4	62.4	42.9	51.7	49.5	38.4	63.0	22.6	22.8	47.4	17.2
Loup.....	62.0	46.5	78.2	57.8	38.7	43.7	51.4	39.7	58.9	18.4	22.7	17.7	31.4
Middle Platte.....	59.4	50.7	86.9	68.6	45.3	48.9	35.0	37.7	59.1	21.7	16.8	27.9	46.7
Elkhorn	64.7	51.0	81.9	64.0	41.3	44.7	50.0	42.8	68.2	18.4	20.3	24.3	29.8
Big Blue	59.8	50.6	82.2	63.6	38.5	43.7	45.7	42.7	62.4	17.8	21.4	19.8	29.6
Lower Platte.....	65.6	58.0	82.9	67.3	45.7	48.0	51.0	42.0	67.8	25.2	26.0	28.5	25.0
Big Sioux	70.3	60.0	81.7	58.3	42.3	45.1	45.1	33.1	65.7	20.0	18.9	45.1	14.9
Missouri-Little Sioux	65.2	56.9	81.5	65.7	44.6	55.2	52.6	40.7	63.0	23.8	25.2	41.9	14.9
Missouri-Nishnabotna	68.3	64.9	91.2	67.8	45.4	52.7	50.7	38.7	59.6	24.0	20.3	35.2	13.4
Minnesota	66.7	59.0	85.9	60.8	42.7	48.2	45.6	30.7	69.6	22.0	22.0	59.0	16.5
Des Moines.....	59.8	54.5	84.7	65.2	43.7	50.0	50.4	30.0	54.7	19.9	21.1	55.7	11.9
Iowa.....	66.8	54.3	83.8	64.7	46.0	54.5	51.1	38.9	58.1	23.8	22.1	48.9	13.3
Black Root.....	66.8	55.6	78.7	58.0	44.7	45.6	56.7	44.4	74.0	26.7	21.1	29.7	13.6
Skunk Wapsipicon	62.7	62.3	88.4	60.9	45.4	52.8	50.5	34.4	58.1	21.8	23.6	54.0	10.3
Maquoketa Plum.....	67.2	52.7	83.8	58.9	44.4	51.7	51.1	42.7	68.5	27.4	19.0	38.4	8.6
Lower Illinois.....	61.2	56.6	82.4	58.9	42.1	56.1	46.9	38.8	54.6	24.6	28.4	51.3	16.1
Rock	66.1	58.7	85.5	58.9	35.6	47.8	47.2	40.5	64.6	30.1	25.6	39.3	19.1
Kaskaskia	75.8	70.3	82.5	60.6	39.4	56.2	51.6	38.3	66.1	24.5	23.1	52.4	15.2
Upper Illinois.....	67.6	61.2	86.7	63.7	40.9	61.3	48.9	40.0	65.3	20.6	25.3	58.4	15.3
Wabash	65.6	62.7	87.8	62.6	43.4	57.7	52.1	43.3	61.6	20.0	24.7	59.3	15.7
Patoka-White.....	73.4	68.1	85.9	66.7	47.9	57.3	45.6	38.0	66.5	17.7	18.0	62.0	18.5
Southeastern Lake Michigan	62.4	57.0	80.5	62.8	41.6	54.6	47.3	40.8	66.7	22.9	26.6	53.0	35.8
Western Lake Erie ...	65.6	59.2	83.7	61.9	40.2	49.2	54.8	42.9	68.3	21.8	22.7	67.6	18.1

¹Attitudes were measured on a 5-point agreement scale: strongly disagree, disagree, uncertain, agree, strongly agree.

^aFarmers should take additional steps to protect farmland from increased weather variability.

^bI should take additional steps to protect the land I farm from increased weather variability.

^cSeed companies should develop crop varieties adapted to increased weather variability.

^dUniversity Extension should help farmers to prepare for increased weather variability.

^eState and federal agencies should help farmers to prepare for increased weather variability.

^fFarm organizations (e.g., Farm Bureau, Corn Growers) should help farmers to prepare for increased weather variability.

^gProfitable markets for biomass should be developed to encourage planting of perennial crops (grasses, trees) on vulnerable land.

^hProfitable markets for carbon credits should be developed to encourage use of conservation tillage, cover crops, & other practices.

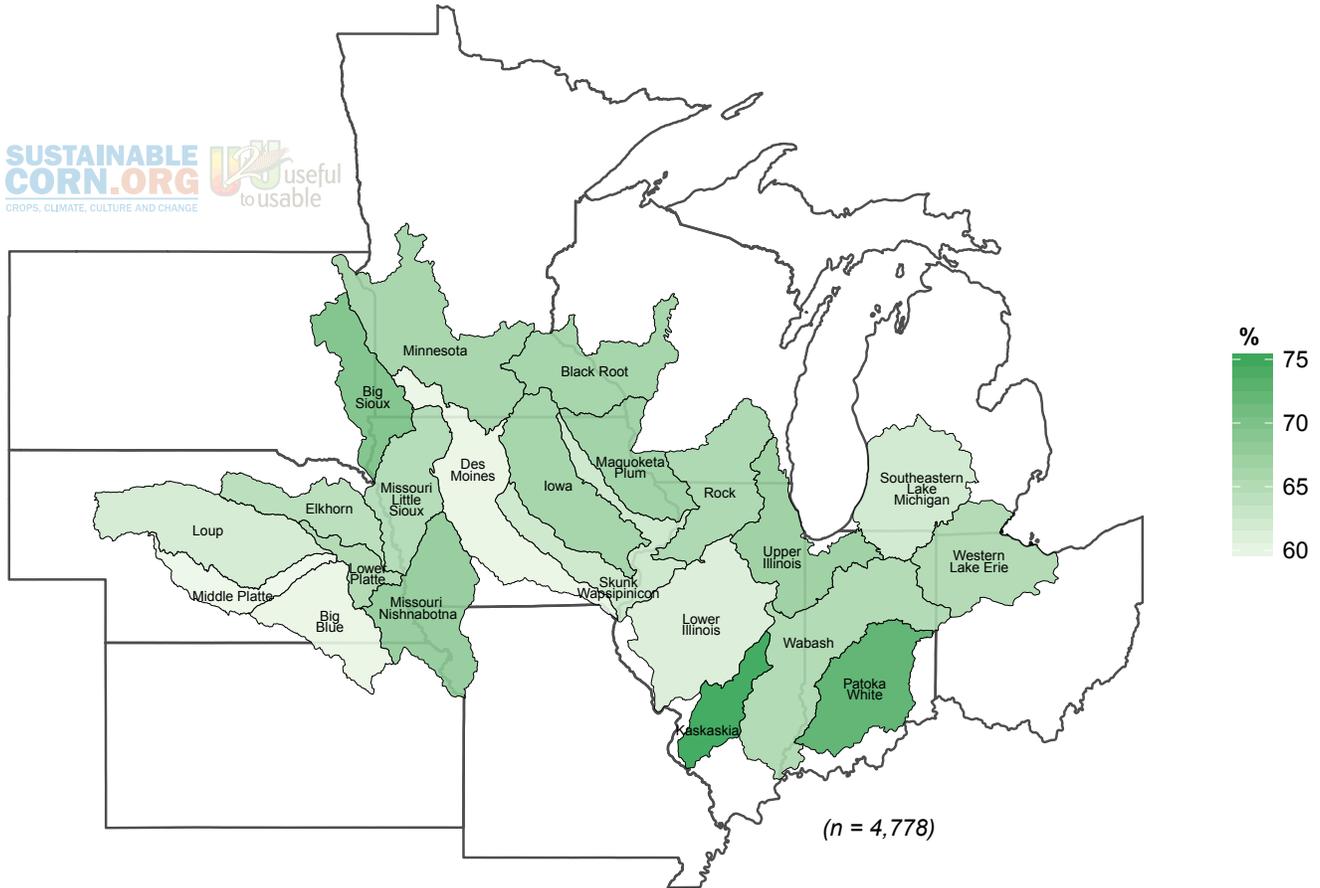
ⁱProfitable markets for small grains and other alternative crops should be developed to encourage diversified crop rotations.

^jGovernment should do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other potential sources of climate change.

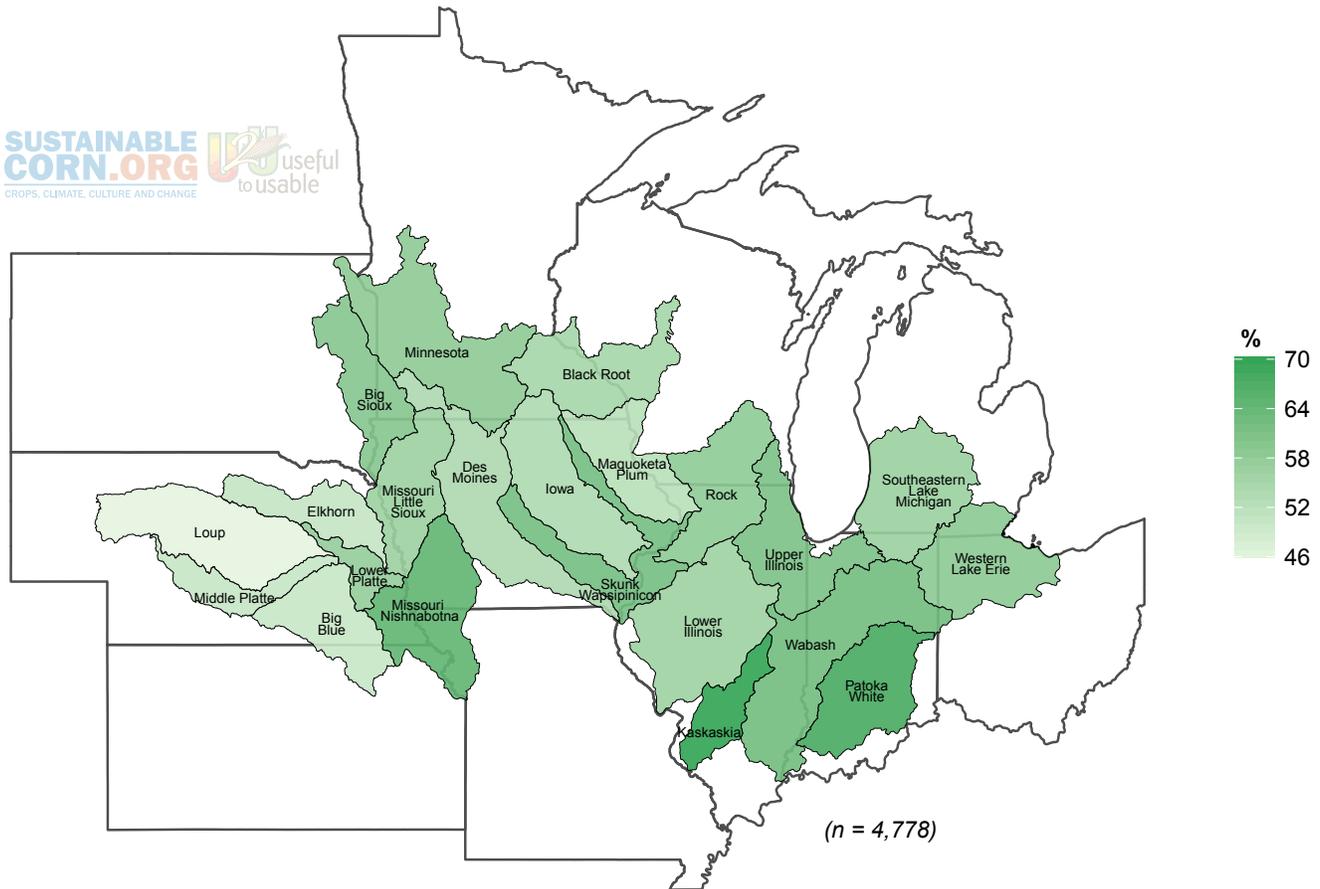
^kI should reduce greenhouse gas emissions from my farm operation.

ⁿFarmers should invest more in agricultural drainage systems to prepare for increased precipitation.

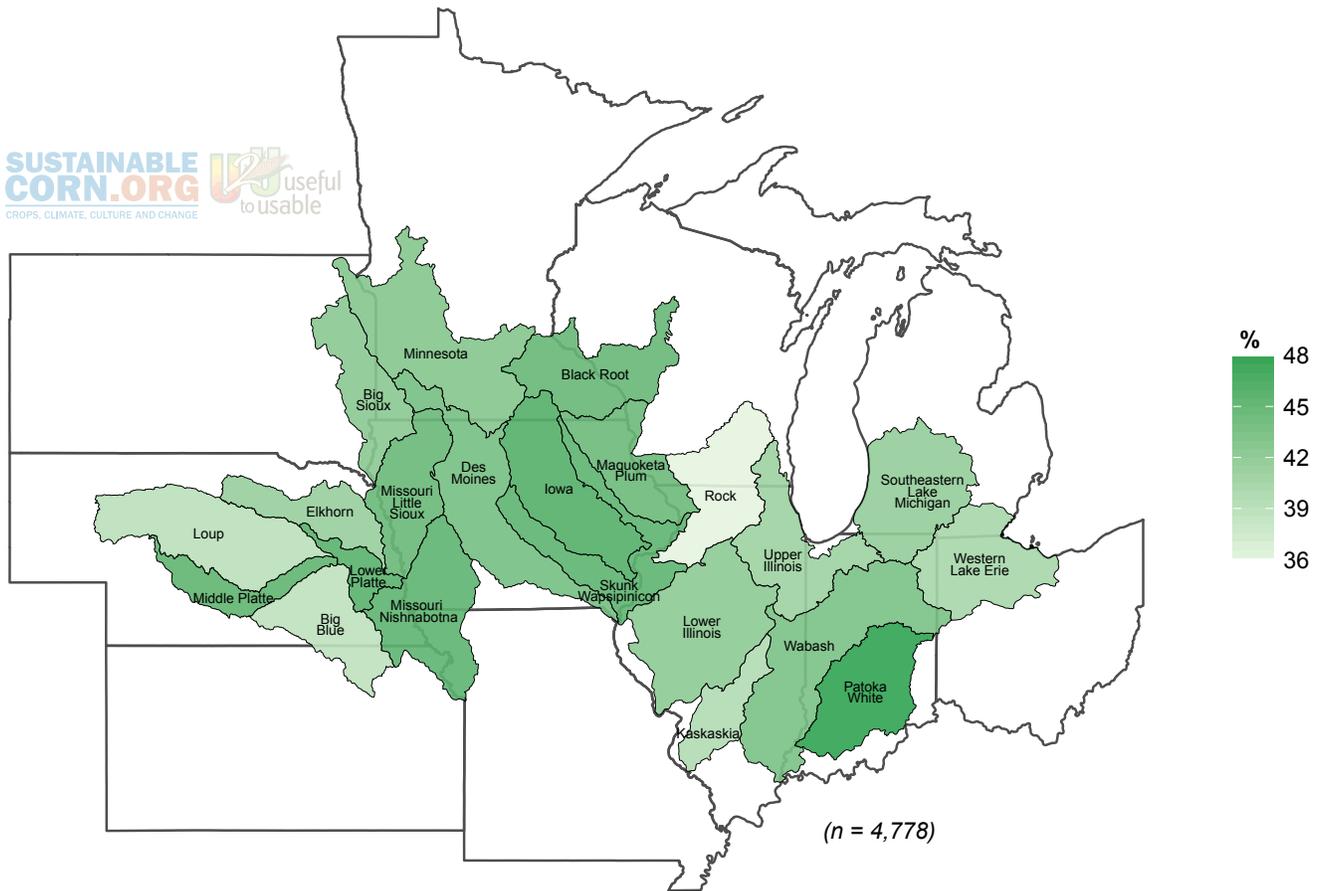
^oFarmers should invest more in irrigation systems to prepare for more frequent drought.



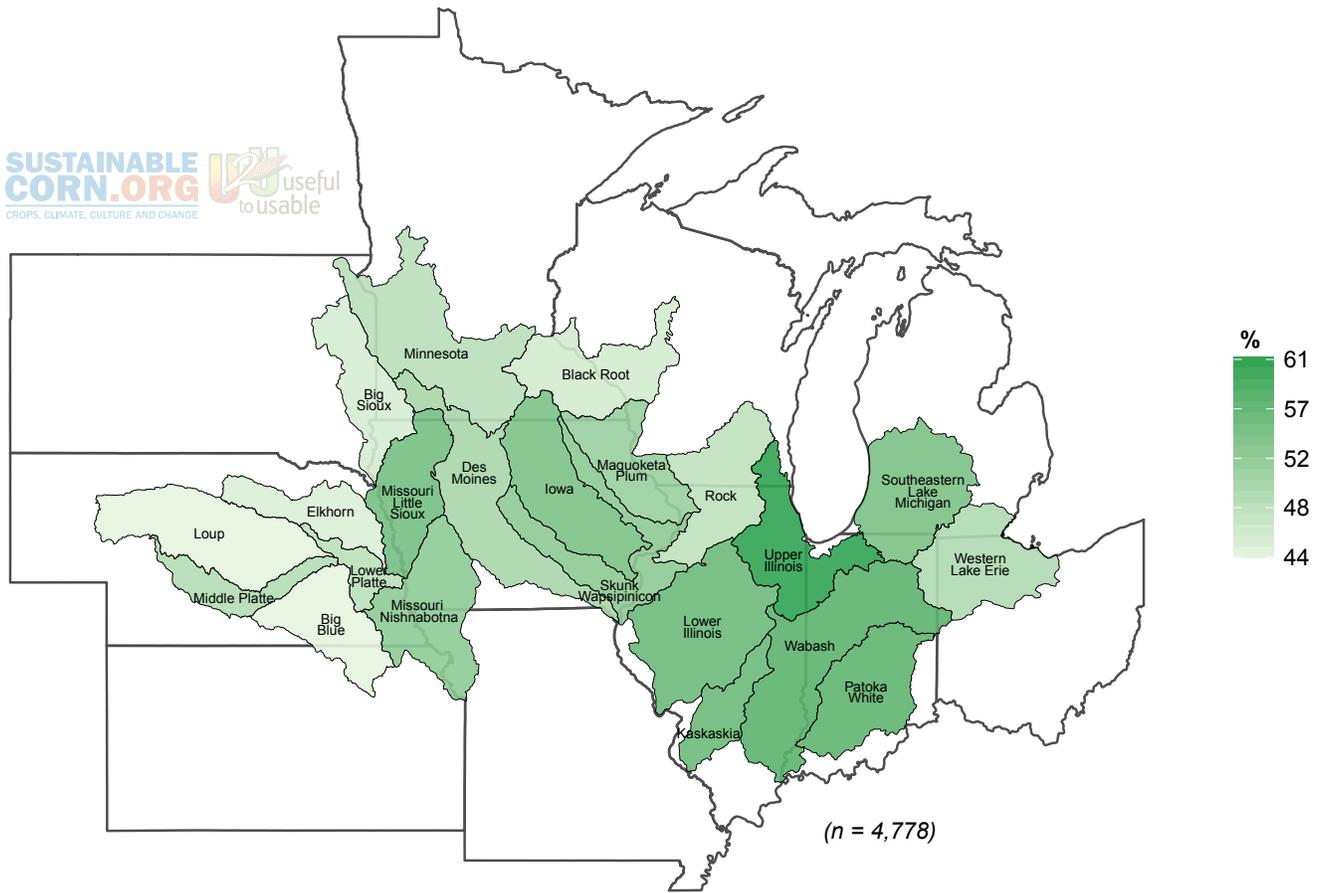
Map 3. Farmers should take additional steps to protect farmland from increased weather variability (Q20A), percent agree or strongly agree.



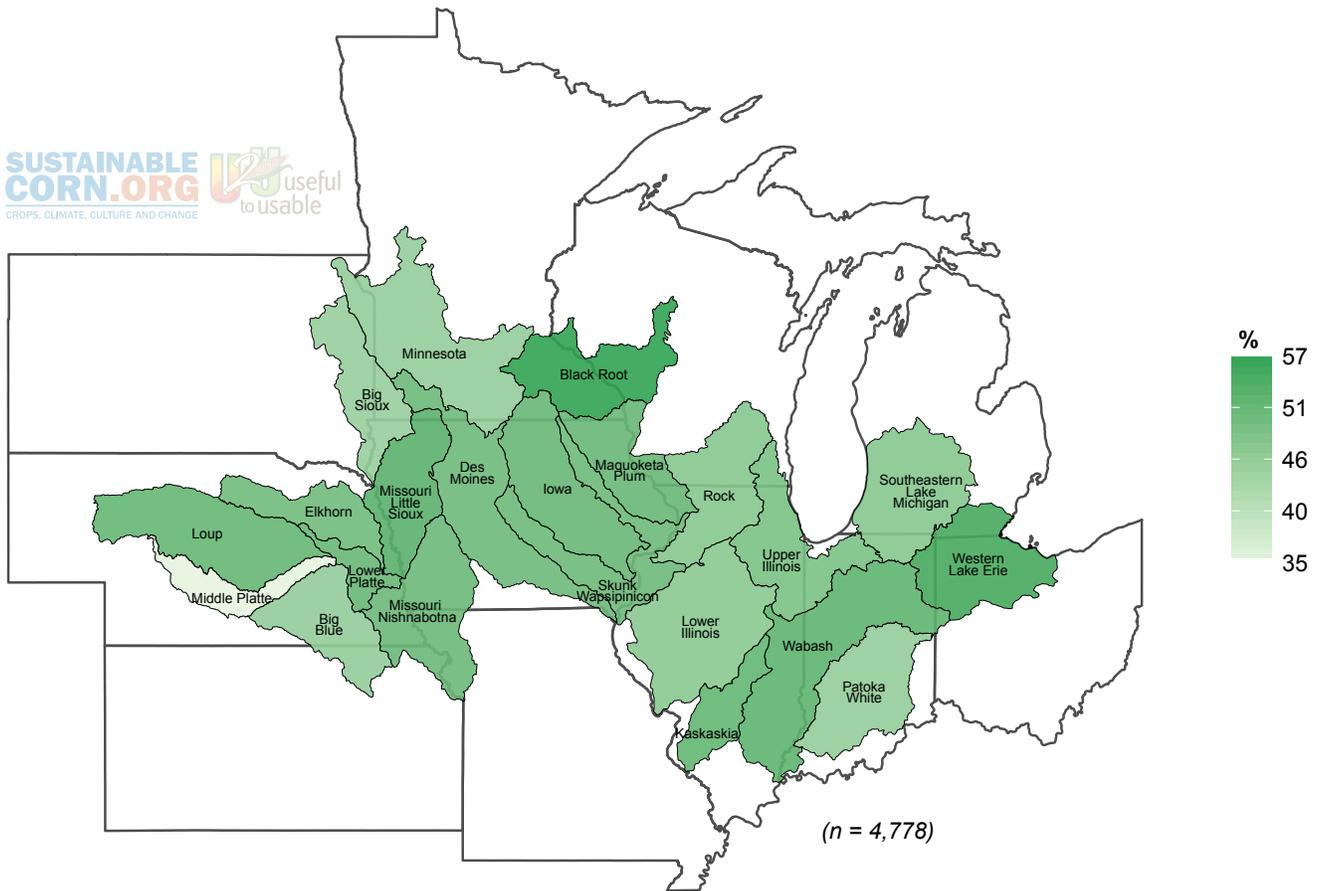
Map 4. I should take additional steps to protect the land I farm from increased weather variability (Q20B), percent agree or strongly agree.



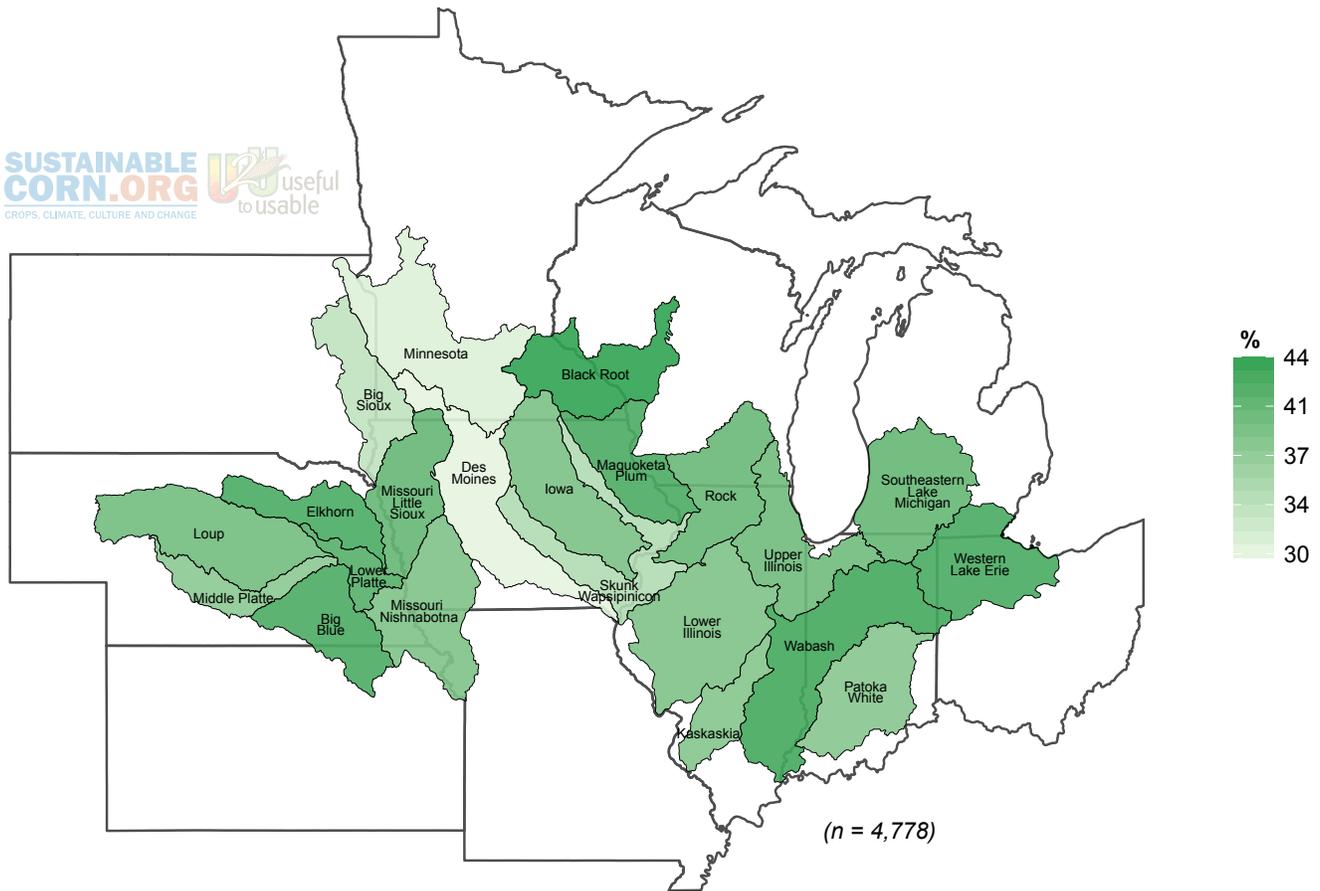
Map 7. State and federal agencies should help farmers to prepare for increased weather variability (Q20E), percent agree or strongly agree.



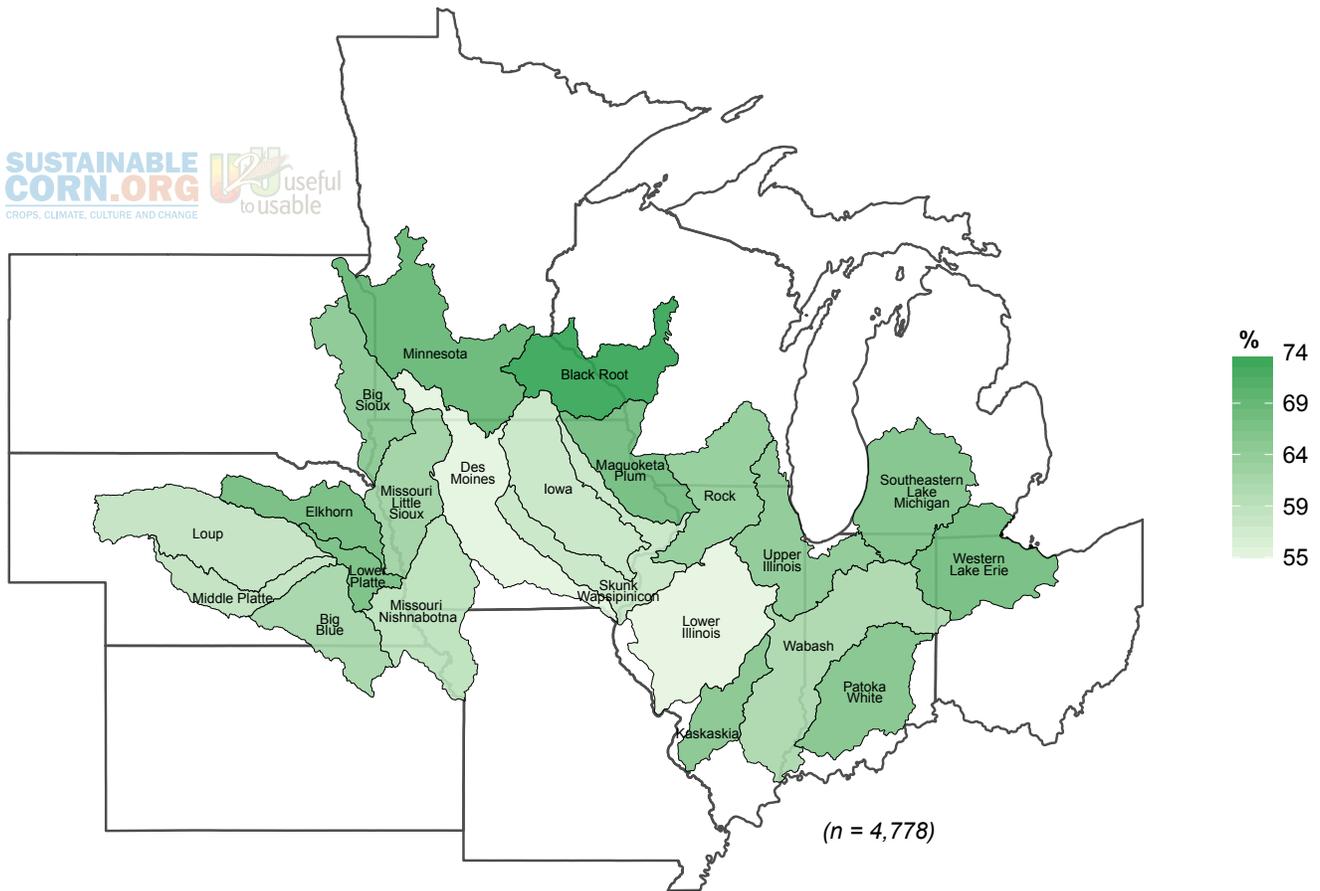
Map 8. Farm organizations should help farmers to prepare for increased weather variability (Q20F), percent agree or strongly agree.



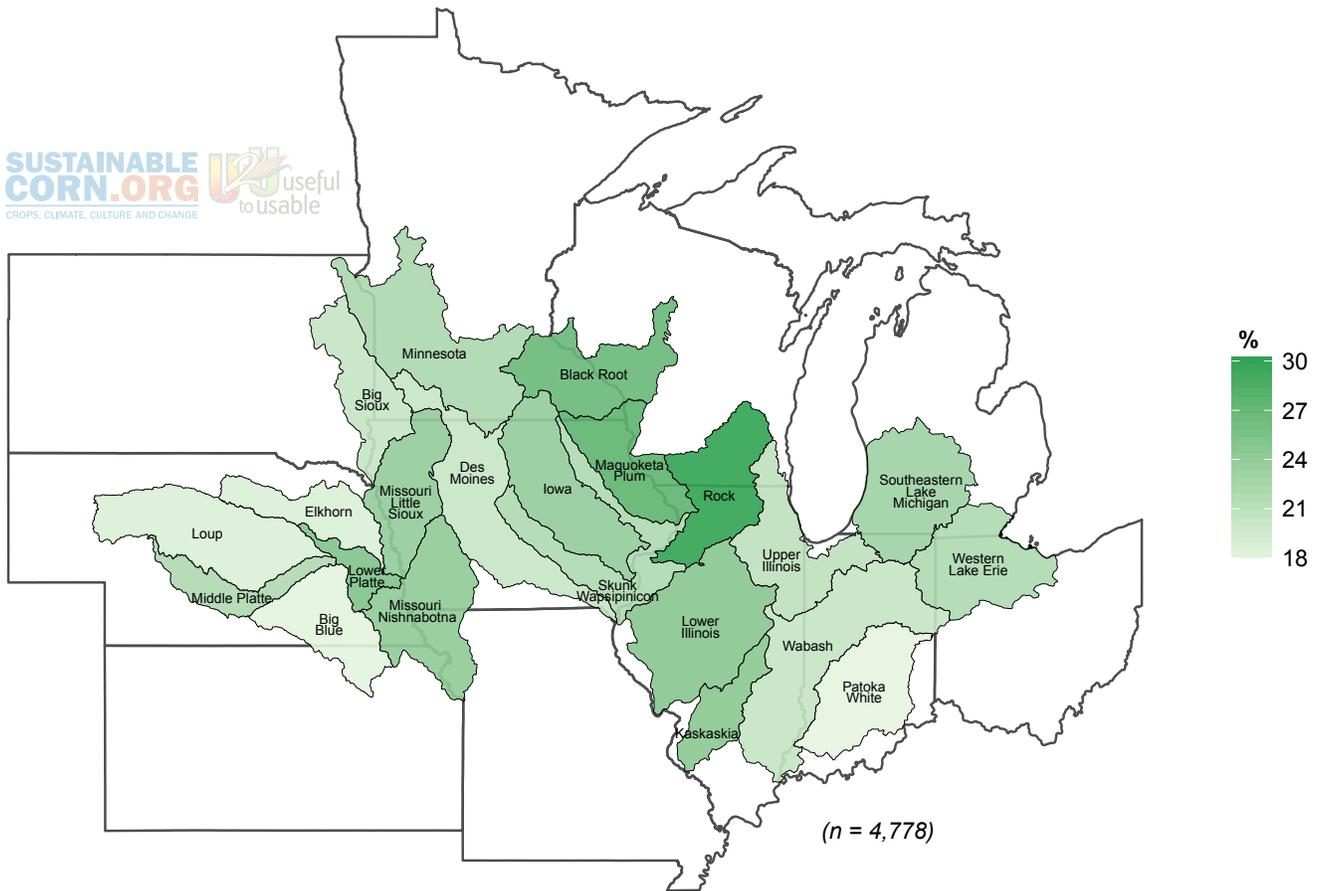
Map 9. Profitable markets for biomass should be developed to encourage planting of perennial crops (grasses, trees) on vulnerable land (Q20G), percent agree or strongly agree.



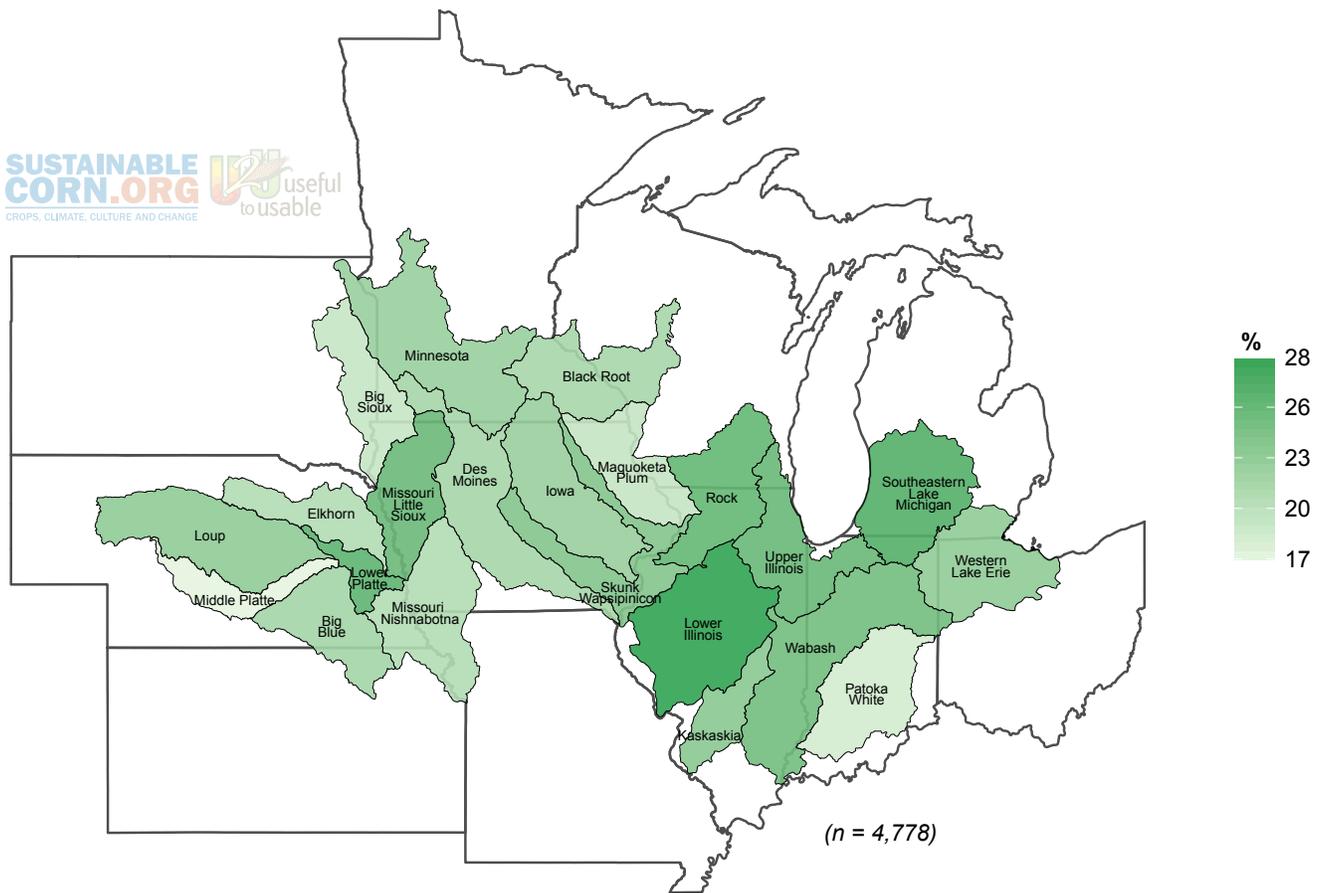
Map 10. Profitable markets for carbon credits should be developed to encourage use of conservation tillage, cover crops, and other practices (Q20H), percent agree or strongly agree.



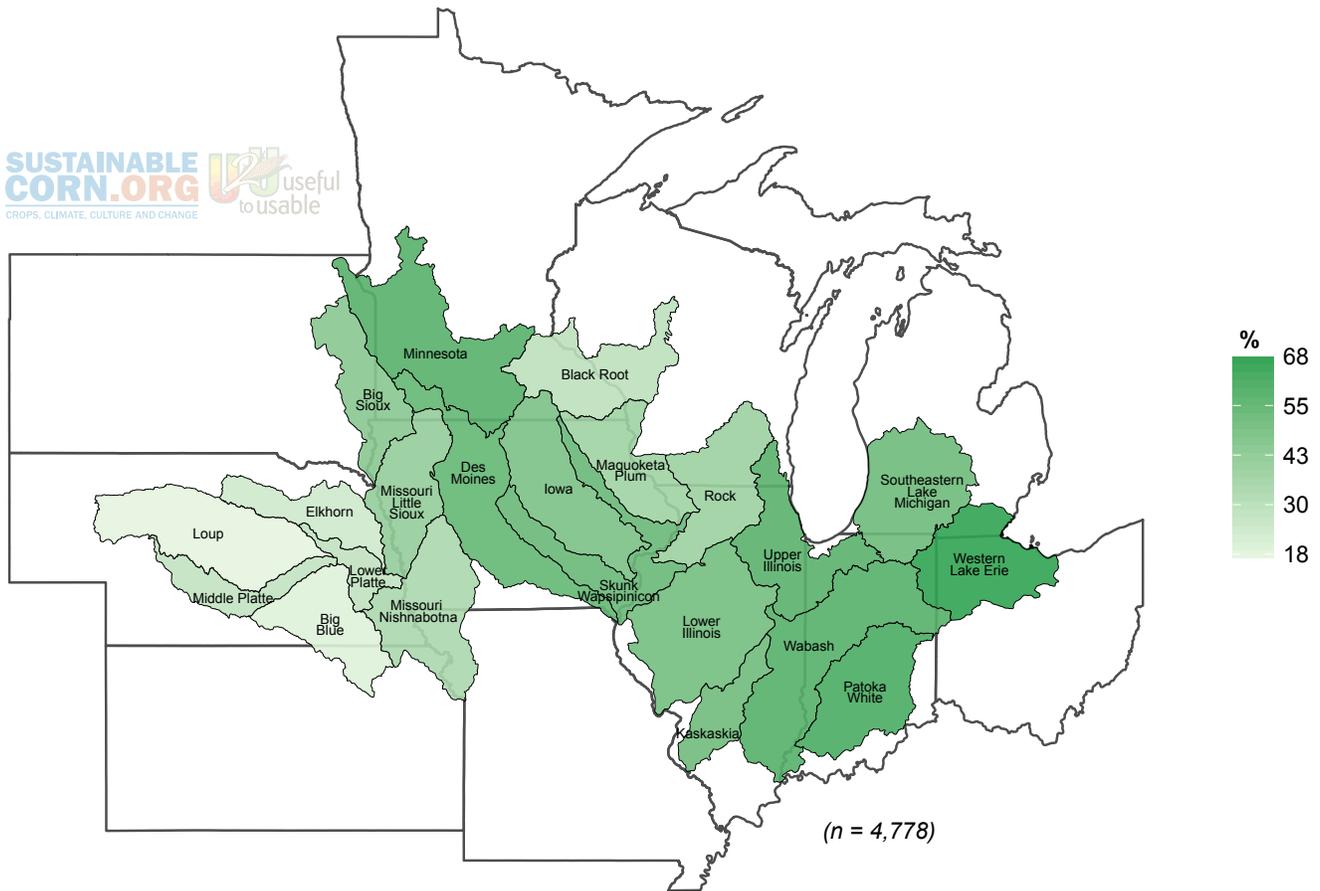
Map 11. Profitable markets for small grains and other alternative crops should be developed to encourage diversified crop rotations (Q20), percent agree or strongly agree.



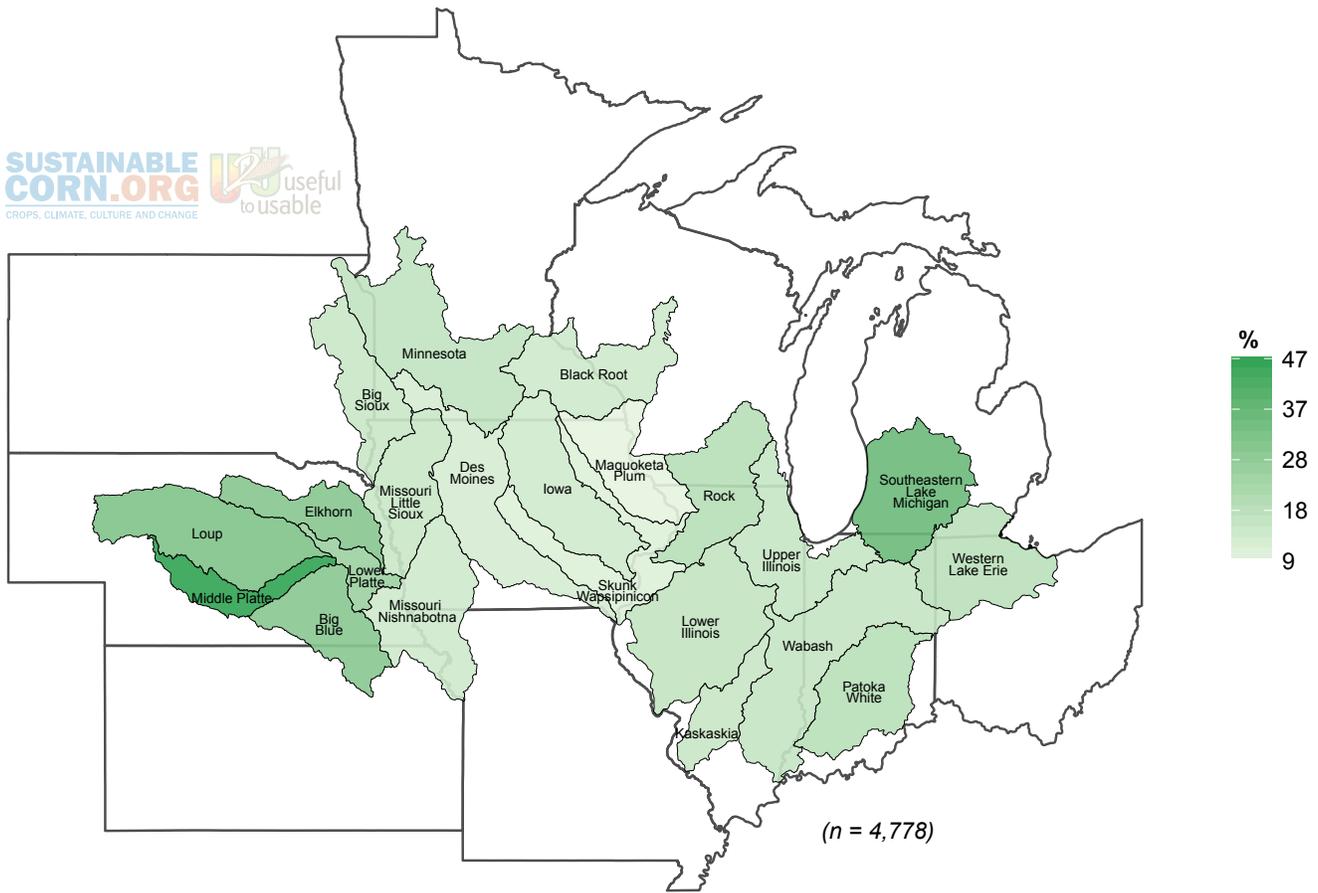
Map 12. Government should do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other potential sources of climate change (Q20J), percent agree or strongly agree.



Map 13. I should reduce greenhouse gas emissions from my farm operation (Q20J), percent agree or strongly agree.



Map 14. Farmers should invest more in agricultural drainage systems to prepare for increased precipitation (Q20N), percent agree or strongly agree.



Map 15. Farmers should invest more in irrigation systems to prepare for more frequent drought (Q200), percent agree or strongly agree.

