

In recent years the USDA has developed a number of policies tailored towards the growth and development of small and medium sized farms. The extent to which these policies are able to address the diversity of the farming population (women, minority, immigrant, land resources) and different farm categories (whole sale commodity vs. direct marketers) is to be determined. This nationwide study focuses on small and medium sized farms located at the rural urban interface where the high cost of land and development pressures specific to this region pose questions about the applicability of current USDA policy. This presentation will identify the social and geographical pressures that are experienced by farmers within the region, the types of farmer driven definitions of success that have been qualitatively collected and analyzed and identify how this collection of data can deeply inform from a household level the demographic understanding of why farmers are choosing to farm at the Rural Urban Interface.