

In recent years USDA has developed a number of policies and programs tailored towards the growth and development of small and medium sized farms. The extent to which these policies are able to address the varying needs of a diverse farm population (women, minority, immigrant, land resources), that find themselves in different stages of the businesses and life cycle (first generation, multigenerational, beginning, older and younger farmers) and different types of farms (whole sale commodity vs. direct marketers) is yet to be determined. The effectiveness of these program and policy initiatives is particularly salient to farms located at the rural-urban interface, a region vulnerable to non-farm development pressures. This poster examines the efficacy of federal level small and medium farm support policies and programs in relationship to the social and demographic characteristics of small and medium farms located at the rural-urban interface.