

Motivation, Expectations, and Experience of Acreage Owners: Implications for U.S. Agriculture (A01-francis111925-Poster)

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Abstract:

This study was conducted as a class project for an undergraduate/graduate-level, cross-listed seminar course exploring urbanization of farmland in the U.S. The course was facilitated by a tenured agronomy professor with diverse interests, including the social issues involved in decision-making by individuals and organizations related to land use patterns. The process of introducing participatory social science research into a predominantly physical and biological science environment revealed unexpected benefits for both students and faculty, and helped them understand the principles and methods of rigorous social science research. A survey of current and future acreage owners explored their motivations and expectations in moving from town, as well as the reality of acreage living. Results were interesting but inconclusive. Class research projects can be used as an effective as a teaching device, but need the rigor of appropriate research methods. Shirley Trout and John Christiansen are additional authors.

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urbanization of farmland in the U.S., expectations and realities of acreages, farmland loss in U.S., conversion of farmland to other uses