NEWS RELEASE

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Newly Released Atlas Provides Insight into Corn Belt Farmers' Climate Beliefs and Behaviors Based on Specific Watersheds

West Lafayette, Indiana-The Useful to Usable climate initiative based at Purdue University in collaboration with Climate and Corn-based Cropping Systems, has published the second Atlas in a two part series. The newly published atlas focuses on farmers' specific behaviors, beliefs about climate and weather, and the tools they utilize to make farm decisions. The 22 watershed areas surveyed cover a substantial portion of 11 Corn Belt states all of which are major corn and soybean crop areas.

The U2U-CSCAP survey was sent in 2012 to 18,707 farmers with at least $100,000 of gross sales and a minimum of 80 acres of corn production in 22 six-digit Hydrologic Code Unit watersheds. Using this information and continuing with the format of the series, the newly published atlas provides additional findings by watershed and each section contains a tabulated presentation of survey data and a series of maps that visually represent the distribution of responses across the entire study region.

"We're happy to present additional data that came out of a 2012 survey of Corn Belt farmers in this atlas, the second in this series", said Sarah Church, Postdoctoral Research Associate at Purdue University, "We mapped farmer survey responses by watershed. It's a great way to show variations and similarities of farmers' decision making, their farming practices, and their thoughts on climate and weather, across the region."

The first atlas in this series presented data on farmer attitudes toward adaptive and mitigative action, farmer beliefs about climate change, farmers' perceptions of risks and experienced hazards, influences of agricultural actors, the capacity of farmers to deal with climate change and weather-related threats, characteristics of the farms surveyed, and general information regarding weather and marginal soils in the study watersheds.

The second atlas takes things further with detailed information on timing of farming practices and decisions, how and when farmers use weather in decision making, the influence of agricultural advisors, personal experiences regarding weather and risks, beliefs and attitudes regarding climate change, and plans to adapt and manage climate variability and risk.

"We hope that this data will be useful for educators and advisors who work with the farmers in the Corn Belt states", Church said.

Visit us at AgClimate4u.org and Sustainablecorn.org

More information on Atlas 2: https://purr.purdue.edu/publications/1965

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