



Introduction

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey that is designed to help UConn Extension, the public outreach division of the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, meet the needs of Connecticut's residents.

Protocol Title: Assessing the Needs of Connecticut's Communities

Purpose of the research study: The purpose of the research study is to examine Connecticut residents' perceptions of how much effort UConn Extension should apply to addressing various community issues.

What you will be asked to do in the study: There are three sections of this survey. In the first section, you will be asked a few questions about you. In the second section, you will be asked to consider how much effort UConn Extension should spend on various issues. In the third section, you will be asked to provide a little bit more information about you.

Time required: The survey is anticipated to take approximately 10 minutes.

Risks and benefits: There are no risks or benefits to participating in this study.

Compensation: You will be compensated for the amount you agreed upon before you entered into the survey.

Confidentiality: Your identity will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law. Your name will not be used in any report. Only the researchers will have access to the information we collect online. There is a minimal risk that security of any online data may be breached, but since no identifying information will be collected, and the online host (Qualtrics) uses several forms of encryption and other protections, it is unlikely that a security breach of the online data will result in any adverse consequence for you.

Voluntary participation: Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no penalty for not participating.

Right to withdraw from the study: You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without consequence.

Whom to contact if you have questions about the study or if you believe you have experienced harm or injury because of being in this study: Dr. Amy Harder, 1376 Storrs

Rd., Unit 4134, Storrs, CT 06269-4134; 860-486-6270;
amy.harder@uconn.edu

Whom to contact about your rights as a research participant in this study: For any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the UConn IRB Office at irb@uconn.edu or at (860) 486-8802.

Agreement:

I have read the procedure described above. I voluntarily agree to participate in the procedure and acknowledge I may use my computer to save a copy of this description.

- Yes (I agree to participate in this study by selecting this option)
- No (Selecting this option will exit the survey)

Do you currently reside in Connecticut?

- Yes
- No

Please select your age group.

- Under 18
- 18 - 24

- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 - 74
- 75 - 84
- 85 or older

Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, or non-binary?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary / third gender
- Prefer not to say

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- Yes
- No

Which of the following categories best describe your racial background? Please select all that apply.

- White

- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other:

Which of the following categories best describes your total annual household income before taxes in 2022?

- Less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

Priorities

UConn Extension, the outreach branch of the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources at the University of Florida, provides educational programs and services to individuals, communities, and businesses in each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities. Programs address issues related to:

- Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable agricultural industry and food supply
- Enhancing health and well-being locally, nationally, and globally
- Designing sustainable landscapes across urban-rural interfaces
- Advancing adaptation and resilience in a changing climate.

From your perspective, how much effort do you think UConn Extension should spend on the following issues?

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Preserving farmland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting water quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting air quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting soil quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring safe food handling practices to prevent foodborne illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisting farmers in agricultural production	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening local food systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving agricultural profitability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How much effort do you think UConn Extension should spend on the following issues?

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Helping individuals have access to affordable healthy food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping youth develop leadership and other life skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting more adults involved in mentoring youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing obesity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping consumers make healthy food choices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving individuals' physical fitness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventing chronic disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How much effort do you think UConn Extension should spend on the following issues?

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Helping rural communities improve their economic well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisting local government with land use decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping communities be better prepared for natural disasters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping households become more energy efficient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building the capacity of community nonprofits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping urban communities improve their economic well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisting local businesses with land use decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How much effort do you think UConn Extension should spend on the following issues?

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Addressing hunger issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Preserving foods for home use (e.g., canning, dehydrating)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping first-time homeowners make smart financial decisions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addressing alcohol abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addressing prescription drug abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addressing illegal drug abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Addressing mental health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventing suicide	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How much effort do you think UConn Extension should spend on the following issues?

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Helping individuals access affordable healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening couple and/or marital relationships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Teaching financial literacy skills to teens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening workforce readiness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping households reduce water use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving climate change resiliency for communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening the financial well-being of small businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How much effort do you think UConn Extension should spend on the following issues?

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Controlling invasive plants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting the coastal environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting freshwater resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, wetlands)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing saltwater intrusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting the marine environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	No effort	Low effort	Moderate effort	High effort	Very high effort
Controlling invasive pests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting natural habitats and ecosystems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing human-wildlife conflicts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What is the most pressing issue for UConn Extension to address and why do you think this?

Respondent Demographics

Prior to this survey, had you heard of any of the following organizations or groups? Please select all that apply.

- UConn College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources (CAHNR)
- UConn Extension
- UConn 4-H
- UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR)

- UConn Home and Garden Education Center
- UConn Master Composters
- UConn Master Gardeners
- Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab (CVMDL)
- Expanded Food and Nutritional Education Program (EFNEP)
- SNAP-Ed

In the past 12 months did you or a member of your household participate in or receive information from UConn Extension (which includes your local Extension office)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Finally, we need to learn more about you. This information, as with all information provided in this survey, will be used for statistical analysis only and will remain strictly confidential.

Please select the option that best describes the community where you live.

- Urban
- Suburban

Rural

Please select the option that best describes the area where you live.

Coastal area

Inland area

Please enter your 6 digit residential zip code:

How long have you lived in Connecticut?

Less than a year

1-5 years

6-10 years

More than 10 years

Do you regularly speak another language in your home besides English?

- Yes (Please report which language):
- No

What is the highest level of education you have completed? If currently enrolled, please indicate the highest level of education *completed*.

- Did not complete high school
- High school degree or equivalent
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate and/or Professional degree

Which option best describes your employment status?

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Unemployed looking for work
- Unemployed not looking for work
- Retired
- Student
- Unable to work

Military

Other (please specify):

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