

To: Friends of the Earth Action
Fr: Lake Research Partners
Re: Iowa Poll Summary
Date: January 9, 2020

Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa want to increase resources for family farmers to help them increase the use of conservation practices and adapt to a changing climate while meeting our food needs. They favor breaking up large agriculture corporations and halting the development of new factory farms. Further, caucus-goers strongly agree that candidates for President should refuse donations from large food and agriculture organizations. These findings are from a poll conducted by telephone January 2-5, 2020 of 400 registered Iowa voters who were screened as likely participants in the 2020 Democratic Presidential Caucus.

Increasing Resources for Family Farms

Democratic caucus-goers strongly support increasing resources and federal spending for family farmers.

- A strong 89 percent majority of Democratic caucus-goers support increasing resources and federal spending in order to help family farmers increase the use of conservation practices that protect soil, water, and wildlife, including 73 percent who strongly favor.
- A 72 percent majority supports increasing resources and federal spending in order to help family farmers adapt to a changing climate while meeting our food needs.

Breaking up Big Agriculture

Iowa Democrats want to break up large food and agriculture corporations and temporarily stop further mergers.

- A 64 percent majority of Democratic caucus-goers favor breaking up the largest food and agriculture corporations, including over a third (37 percent) who strongly favor, while just 13 percent oppose and 22 percent volunteer that they do not know.
- A 41 percent plurality of Democratic caucus-goers favor temporarily stopping large food and agriculture corporations from merging with other corporations, while just 27 percent oppose and 31 percent volunteer that they do not know.
- When we inform people about current market dynamics (*“Currently in the United States, four corporations control 84 percent of the market for beef, 70 percent of the market for soy, 66 percent of the market for hogs, 80 percent of the market for corn, 59 percent of the market for poultry, and 60 percent of the market for seeds.”*) support for temporarily stopping mergers increases by 15 points to 56 percent, which includes a 10-point increase in strong support from 26 to 36 percent.

Reducing Factory Farms

Democratic caucus-goers favor temporarily stopping the development of new factory farms and expansion of existing ones with strong intensity.

- A 64 percent majority favors this, including 44 percent who strongly favor, while just 18 percent oppose and 16 percent volunteer that they do not know.

- We tested two statements about the consequences of factory farms. Caucus-goers favor the proposal at higher levels than their initial support after hearing each statement, but the statement focusing on the impacts of waste to water, air, and quality of life generates greater support.
 - 78 percent favor the proposal to temporarily stop the development of new factory farms and expansion of existing ones after hearing that *“waste from industrial animal farms pollute the water and air in neighboring areas, lower the quality of life, and hurt independent family farms in Iowa and states across the country,”* a 14-point increase in support over initial levels and 7-point increase in strong support (from 44 to 51 percent).
 - 68 percent favor the proposal after hearing that *“the millions of factory-farmed animals in Iowa produce close to 380 billion pounds of manure every year, which is enough to fill Iowa’s tallest building, the Principal Building in Des Moines, over 2 times every day,”* a 4-point increase in support over initial levels and 3-point increase in strong support (from 44 to 47 percent).

Refusing Donations from Big Agriculture

Over three quarters (77 percent) of Democratic caucus-goers agree that candidates for President should refuse donations from large food and agriculture corporations, including 55 percent who strongly agree.

Democrats agree on this regardless of gender, age, or educational attainment, but the strongest agreement is among Democratic women over the age of 60, of whom 82 percent agree including 61 percent who strongly agree.

###

Lake Research Partners conducted this survey of 400 registered Iowa voters who were screened as likely participants in the 2020 Democratic Presidential Caucus. 309 interviews were conducted by telephone using professional interviewers, of which 145 were conducted on cell phones and 164 were conducted on landlines. 91 interviews were among participants reached by cell phone who completed the survey using a link sent via SMS. Interviews were conducted January 2nd through 5th, 2020. The margin of error for the entire sample at the 95% confidence interval is +/- 4.9%.