Understanding Farmer Climate Adaptations for Agroecosystem Resilience

The project goals are to:
- Support farmer adaptation to a changing climate
- Maintain agricultural production while protecting other critical ecosystem services
- How they are adapting
- How they will adapt in the future
- What farm and farmer characteristics explain adaptation

Factors explaining both sometimes and multiple adapters

Farmers make Two Main Decisions with different factors that explain each

Farmers exhibit Three Main Adapter Types with different factors that explain each

Farmers identify Top Adaptation Methods with different likely impacts

Focus on mitigating future risks
Increase use of conservation tillage
Installing more drainage tile
Focus on mitigating immediate risks

What do farmers think about climate change?
- The climate is changing, and is mostly caused by natural changes in the environment
- The climate is changing, and is mostly caused by human activities
- Unsure
- The climate is not changing

51%
26%
17%
6%

Takeaways:
Role of climate change experience:
- Farmers experiencing direct, negative climate impacts are more likely to adapt
- Adaptation will increase as climate impacts become more common
- Communication should focus on connecting experiences with increasingly common climate impacts

Role of farm size:
- Larger farms are more likely to adapt
- Adaptation will increase as overall farm size increases
- Policy should target small farms with less capacity

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