

**What:** Quality of Life on the Agricultural Treadmill: Individual and Community Determinants of Farm Family Well-being

**Keywords:** Food system > Economic feasibility, Agricultural practices > Family farm, Social collaborations > Community, Social collaborations > Development

**When/Where:** Published 2012.  
Data from the 1982 to 2010 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Polls  
Published in Journal of Rural Social Sciences.

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Academics: sociologists

**Why:** To examine determinants of subjective QOL over time among (Iowa) farm families.  
"The finding that community vitality is a critical determinant of farm family quality of life supports long-standing appeals to increase investment in community development efforts."

**How:** Begins with historical background of the agricultural system and rural communities, starting with post-WWII. Then explain in depth the various ways of defining and measuring "quality of life."  
Data used is from the annual Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll (1982 to 2010 used here), to construct a regression model (translating subjective information into objective measurements).