

## **ABSTRACT**

**THESIS:** Farm Operations, Farm Operators, and Commodity Payments in 2007: A Statistical and Geospatial Approach

**STUDENT:** Dava R. McCann

**DEGREE:** Master of Sciences

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The Farm Bill is a large omnibus bill that covers many titles, including commodity programs, and accounted for \$23.9 billion in government spending in 2006. The purposes of this study are to determine if commodity variables are the only variables that are closely correlated to government commodity payments, and if government payments are distributed equitably by Farm Resource Region, based on the inequitable distribution of payments cited by other researchers. Data included economics, operator characteristics, farm typologies, tenure, and geographic variables. Kendall's correlations and location quotients examined the relationship between these variables and government payments. Choropleth maps were created to visually examine the relationships. This study found that corn, soybean, wheat, and cropland variables were strongly correlated to government payment variables, supporting the hypothesis. However, other variables were also strongly correlated to government payment variables, and payments varied widely by Farm Resource Region. The hypotheses were rejected.