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Dairy Farmer Support for Emissions Pricing Policies

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In a recent national survey of dairy farms, we assess the extent to which producers support the introduction of a policy to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. While agriculture is exempt under the current federal and provincial policies, there are concerns that agriculture may fall within the sphere of policies such as carbon pricing schemes in the future. Producers may also experience indirect impacts on their profitability and competitiveness because of increased input costs. Preliminary results suggest that 67% of dairy producers are in favour of policies intended to address climate change. But producers are less certain about the best mechanism to address climate change. Producers are less favourable to pricing carbon emissions or specifically targeting farm emissions. We find that 27% of the producers favour carbon taxation whereas only 20% favour cap and trade. These results provide valuable insight into the current general opinion among dairy farmers and may assist in guiding future policy and communication initiatives that seek to improve the environmental sustainability of the livestock industry.