

Big data discussion groups of Social Sciences and Agriculture

Ag Economics and Rural Sociology Group
2017

Additional questions we need to answer

- How do we prevent from repacking the federal data through the private sector which ends up being very expensive?
- Data infrastructure?
- With NASS there is less compliance to answer the surveys?
- The issue of access and asymmetric knowledge?
- We have to adhere to IRB?
- The usability of big data for smaller institutions (universities): It is a challenge for some of the institutions in terms of access, operability, inconvenience, and you don't know how useable.
- Capacities of small institutions may be a barrier to use.

What does Big Data mean to us?

- Value of developing partnerships because it may otherwise be left out of the game.
- Pushing forward an agenda that strongly encourages ...
- How relevant is big data to what we do?
- There are data infrastructure needs definitely, but why bid data?
- We need to be able to sustainably collect data and use it for research.
- Make the geo coding more accessible so that it is connectable.
- ACS and the Census of Ag.
- The nature of what the social sciences data needs – IRB, Identifiers, basic questions that we need?
- It is about big farmers rather than respond to the needs of humans.
- Small institutions matter and should not be left behind
- Equity seems to be a big issue: Is it large operation? Is sufficient data being generated? Who is left out?
- How can we use big data on the economic viability of rural communities?
- What is the data that can actually accomplish this?

What does Big Data mean for us?

- Equity seems to be a big issue: Is it large operation? Is it sufficient data being generated? Who is left out?
- How can we use big data on the economic viability of rural communities?
- What is the big data that can actually accomplish this?
- Need to include the community piece – rural communities?
- IF we can use the data to improve the economic conditions then it would be a plus?
- Asymmetrical knowledge: private vs public, and small versus large institutions
- Rural communities
- How do we get information collected to the public, the people that need to know and use it?
- How do we get the real data to the people?

What “I” like?

- The fact that it demonstrates the need for small data? We need complex data that links issues, at multiple scales, and units of measure that could be used to address complexity.
- That there is potential to collaborate in the social sciences to define ways of making big data relevant to inclusion.
- So the question are:
 - What is the research needed to make that happen?
 - What are the research questions that we need to ask?
 - What if we can take this big data to demonstrate the gaps and therefore what needs to be done to increase sustainability?

What “I” wish?

- That the big data that we want is capable of being aggregated, spatially defined, and more accessible so we can use it for analysis in complex systems;
- And be this public data domain rather than private, because that is expensive.

What if? We could answer the following:

- What if we had a central federal data that compiles all the data so it would be accessible?
- Can the data address informing policy at the local level?
- How can big data inform sustainability in rural communities?
- How can big data contribute to health, sustainability, food security in rural and poor communities?
- New layer of goals that involve people: GOALS
 - Improving Human Beings
 - Strengthening Families
 - Enhancing communities
 - Improving nutrition and health for youth

Human Dimensions of Big Data: a layer over the ones presented

Improving
Human Beings

Strengthening
Families

Enhancing
Communities

Improving nutrition
& health for youth