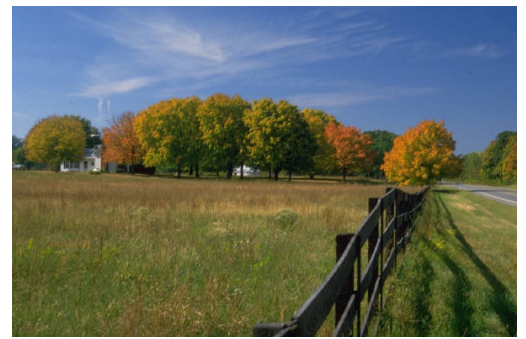




Iowa Farm & Land Chapter #2  
REALTORS® Land Institute  
[www.rlifarmandranch.com](http://www.rlifarmandranch.com)



“Under all is the Land”

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: March 23, 2010

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The Iowa Farm and Land Chapter #2 REALTORS® Land Institute is pleased to announce the results of our March 2010 Land Trends and Values Survey. Our REALTORS® Land Institute Chapter is an arm of the National Association of REALTORS® and is organized for REALTORS® who specialize in farm and land sales, management and appraisal. Participants in the survey are specialists in farmland and are asked for their opinions about the current status of the Iowa farmland market.

Participants were asked to estimate the average value of farmland as of March 1, 2010. These estimates are for bare, unimproved land with a sale price on a cash basis. Pasture and timberland values were also requested as supplemental information.

The results of these surveys show a statewide average increase of cropland values of 2.8% for the September 2009 to March 2010 period. Combining this 2.8% increase with the 1.9% decrease reported in September 2009 indicates a statewide average increase of .9% for the year from March 1, 2009 to March 1, 2010.

All nine Iowa crop reporting districts showed an increase. The districts varied from a 4.4% increase in Central Iowa to a .8% increase in Northeast Iowa for the September 2009 to March 2010 period.

Factors contributing to the increase in farmland values include: limited amount of land offered for sale, lack of alternative investments, and favorable long term interest rates. Other factors include: lower input costs and strong cash rents. Concerns that could affect farmland value in the future include: lower commodity prices, recent losses in the livestock industry, uncertainty of future government programs, and continued uncertainty in the U.S. and world economy.

The Iowa Farm & Land REALTORS® farmland value survey has been conducted as of March and September since 1978. This survey plus the Central States Farm Multiple Listing Exchange are activities of REALTORS® specializing in agricultural land brokerage on a daily basis.