

Public Policy's Role in Shaping the Future of Midwest Agriculture



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Agriculture

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by

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Overview

- Public Policy and Agriculture
- Public Policy Drivers
- Unique Midwest Position
- Public Policy Environment
- Maximizing Unique Midwest Position



Public Policy Objectives and Agriculture

- Traditional (1930s-
 - Support rural economy
 - Enhance food security
 - Maintain/enhance environment
- Modern (1970s-
 - Support rural areas
 - Balance U.S. economy
 - Maintain/enhance environment
 - Manage wildlife
- Future (2000s-
 - Balance U.S. econo/political system
 - Help meet energy needs
 - Aid in food security
 - Enable mitigation of climate change



Public Policy Drivers and Agriculture

- Traditional
 - minimize urban migration
 - eliminate food shortages
 - balance political representation
- Modern
 - enhance trade balance / economic competitiveness
 - support rural and urban business / ag always a growth area
 - promote environmental positives
 - less politicians from agriculture
- Future
 - maintain trade balance / competitiveness
 - provide for domestic and global food security
 - change balance to domestic/renewable energy sources
 - ease concerns over and contribution to climate change
 - few voters or politicians from agriculture



Public Policy Environment and Agriculture

- Major trends emanating out of a lack of understanding of agriculture and science
 - Animal welfare
 - Environmental activism
 - Anti-trade bias
 - “Consumer” driven decisions
- Impact of trends on agriculture
 - costly regulations
 - greater concentration and size
 - decreased competitiveness
 - increased GHG emissions



Unique Midwest Position

- Center for:
 - Banking/Finance/Exchanges
 - Energy (wind, coal, nuclear, bio)
 - Food production/processing
 - Research/technology
 - Transportation
- Home of:
 - Current President; USDA head; other leaders
 - Socio political balance relative to coasts
 - Most productive ag land in the world
 - Several leading policy/thought centers



Maximizing Midwest Agriculture's Advantage

- Cooperate to influence:
 - Policymakers
 - Educators
 - Consumers
 - Food manufacturers
- Build/Expand relationships in/with:
 - Other U.S. regions
 - Foreign investors/markets
 - Energy
 - Conservation/Consumer/Climate groups