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

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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