

U.S. Agriculture 50 Years from Now

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Assumptions Regarding Production and Structure of Farming in 2055

Assumption	Probability	Current Benchmark
Decline in numbers	95	Since 1935
Inc. % produced by large farms	100	10% farms; 70% production
Inc. % part-time farmers	100	40% of land rented
Highly specialized	100	50% one commodity
Increased corporate production/contracts	100	36% of production

Assumptions regarding consumption in 2055

Assumption	Probability	Current Benchmark
80-90% of value away from home	75	50%
Nutrition greater concern	50	33% obese
Greater acceptance of "engineered" foods	50	Organics less than 1%
More \$ exports; more \$ imports	100	26% exported; = \$ imported
Losing ability to cook at home	100	80% cook 3 meals a week

Assumptions about Agricultural Technology in 2055

Assumption	Probability	Current Benchmark
Technology drives productivity	100	1.8% annual inc. productivity
Quality of inputs will increase	100	Input quantity decreases
Inputs and outputs will be traced	95	Tracing system in beef
Biotech will be accepted universally	85	Resistance decreasing
Biggest challenge is animal waste	50	Private legal action

Assumptions Regarding Policy in 2055

Assumption	Probability	Current Benchmark
Free trade will be the rule	60	Depends on Doha outcome
Commodity subsidies materially decrease	80	Accounts for % of crop receipts
Agriculture treated as point pollution	80	CAFOs now point pollution
Ag property tax exemption remains	60	Challenged every session
Aging population major resource drain	100	European countries

General Consequences for Ag

- Dependence on export market
- Dependence on competitiveness with China and South America being center
- Increased dependence on higher valued products—particularly processed products
- Predominance of integration by ownership and contract for the bulk of farm production
- Many country-life part-time farms (nonfarm farmers)
- Urban-rural conflicts on the fringes

Implications for Policy

- Subsidies to achieve societal goal
- Food safety, nutrition, environment and health care important societal goals
- Emphasis of achieving a more level regulatory surface globally
- Old people a major drain on the treasury

Regional Consequences

- Concentration of animal production in the Great Plains
- Movement of animal production out of highly populated areas
 - ❖ NE
 - ❖ SE
 - ❖ Ozarks
 - ❖ West Coast

Land Value Implications

- In Great Plains, outside of metro and retirement communities, ag value primary determinant
- More selectivity (competitiveness, urban-rural pressures) required in investing in land
- Less determined by subsidies for production