Emerging Trends in Agricultural Policy, Alternative Energy Sources and Food Consumption Trends

Joe L. Outlaw

Professor and Extension Economist Co-Director, Agricultural and Food Policy Center

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers American Society of Agricultural Consultants Austin, Texas October 7, 2005



Outline

- Ag Policy Trends
- Current Farm Setting
- Trends in Biotechnology Usage
- Energy Trends
- Food Trends



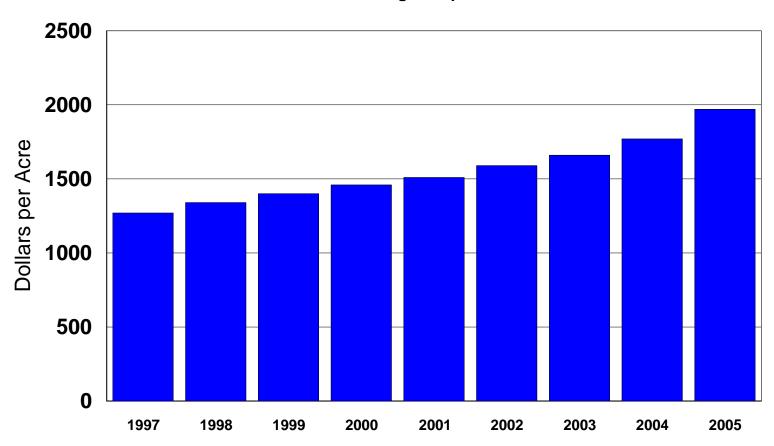
Ag Policy Trends

- Cooperation across parties gone
- Perceived strong catalysts for change
 - Deficit
 - WTO negotiations
 - Administration
- Old guard interest groups getting diluted
- Emergence of AgroEnergy Policy bloc



Cropland Value has Steadily Increased

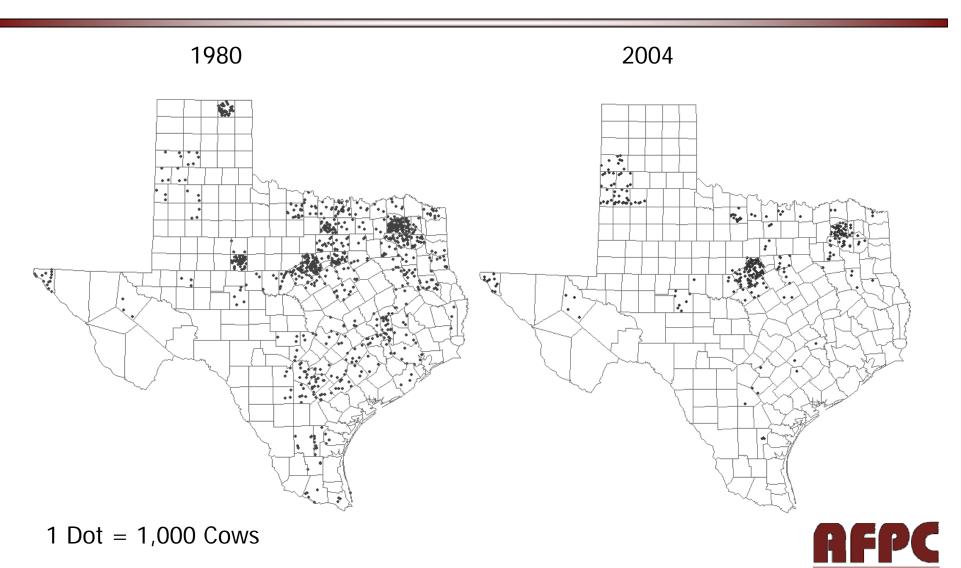
US Average Cropland Value



Source: NASS



Economics Still Rule: TX Dairy Industry Example



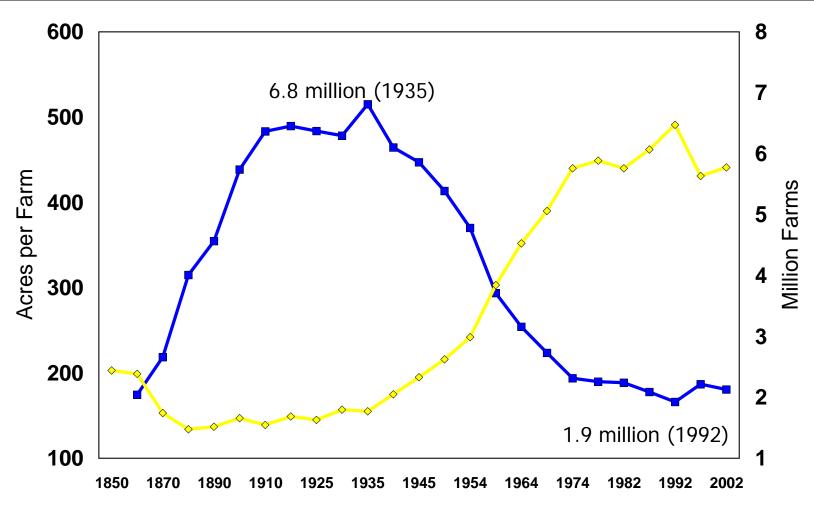
What are the Comparative Advantages of the US Ag Sector Relative to its Major Competitors?

- Abundant, fertile land
- Cutting-edge technology
 - Plant and animal genetics
 - Pesticides and Fertilizers
 - Farm machinery
 - Management techniques
- Highly skilled agricultural managers
- Marketing Infrastructure

Perhaps the Most dynamic



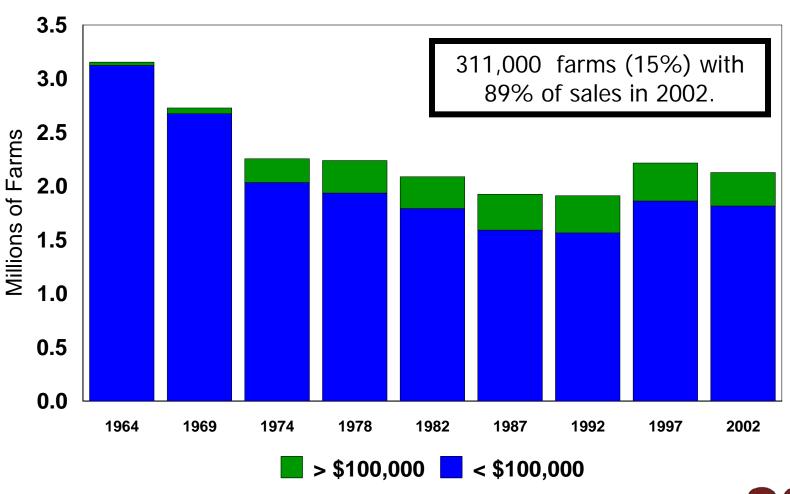
Farm numbers are declining, while acreage per farm is rising



Source: USDA



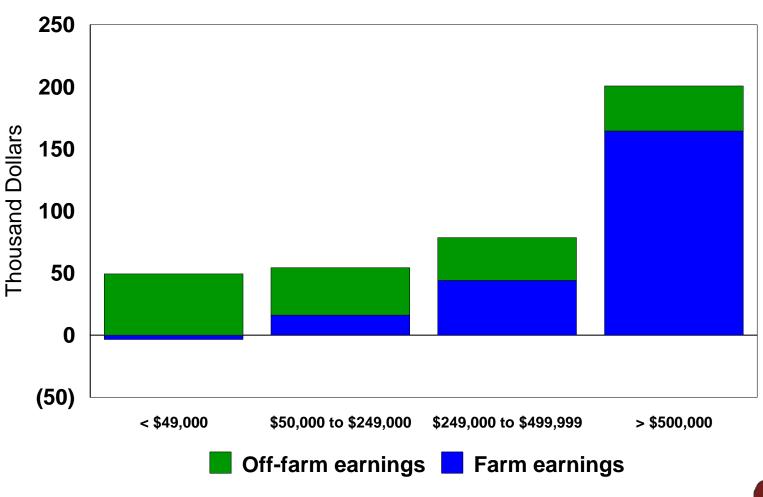
Fewer But Larger Farms Produce the Majority of Output



Source: USDA



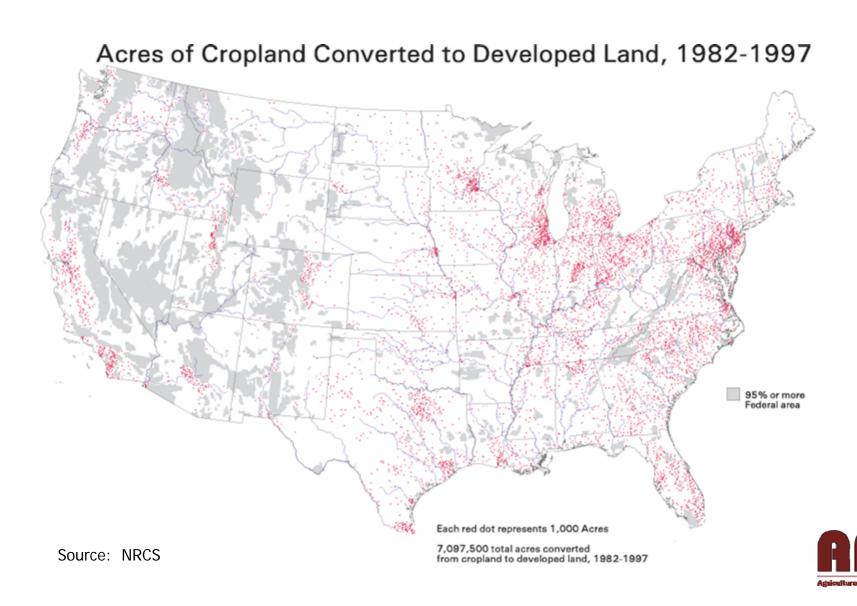
Off-Farm Income is Important to Most Farm Sizes



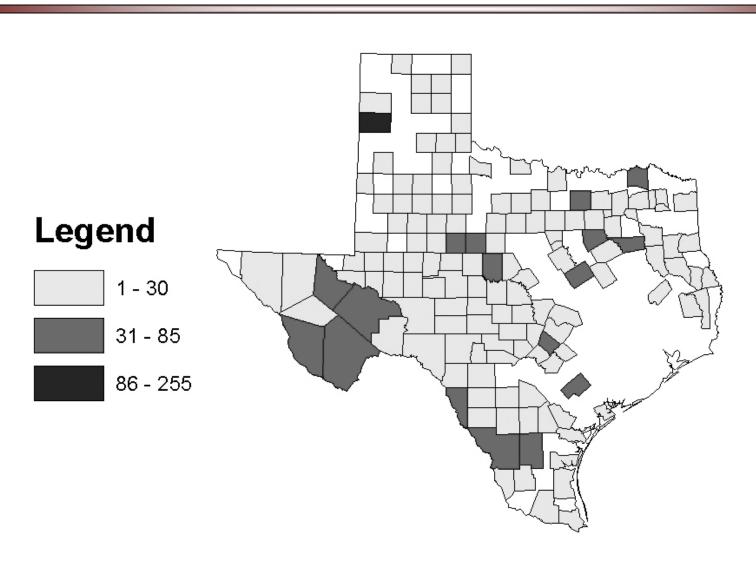
Source: USDA



Farmland Lost to Development



Loss of Beef Cattle Numbers From 1980 to 2004 (1,000s) by County





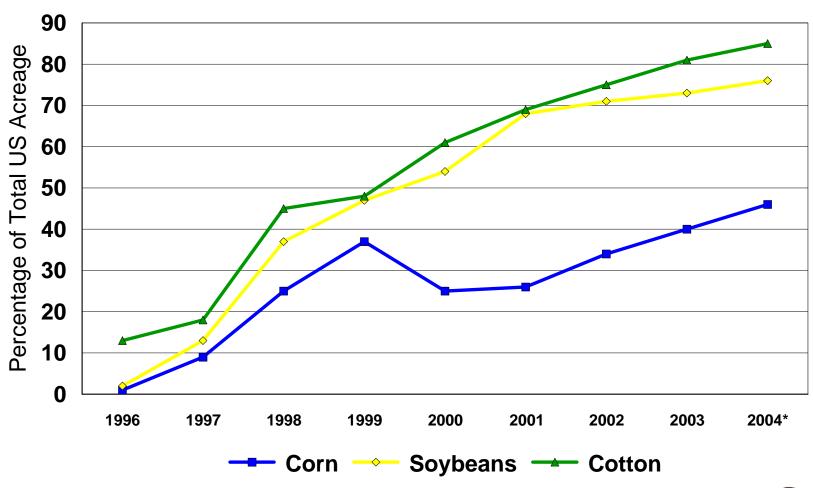
Four Firm Concentration Ratios (CR4): Selected Years

Beef Packers	72% (1990)	76% (1995)	70% (1998)	81% (2000)
Beef Feedlots	37% (1987)	34% (1989)	44% (1992)	59% (2001)
Broilers	35% (1986)	44% (1990)	49% (1998)	50% (2001)
Pork Production				49% (2002)
Food Retailing			24% (1997)	38% (2001)

Source: USDA, trade association publications



US Acreage Using Biotechnology Continues to Increase



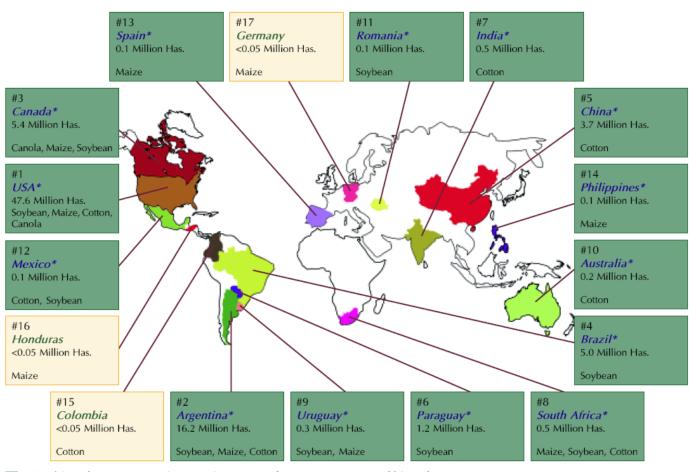
^{*} Estimate

Source: Council for Biotechnology Information



Agricultural Biotechnology has Spread Around the World

Biotech Crop Countries and Mega-Countries*, 2004



*14 biotech mega-countries growing 50,000 hectares, or more, of biotech crops.

Source: Clive James, 2004



Biotech Acreage Increasing Worldwide

China

- 2003 6.9 million acres
- 2004 9.1 million acres
- Most acreage is Bt cotton, but the crop to watch is Bt rice.

India

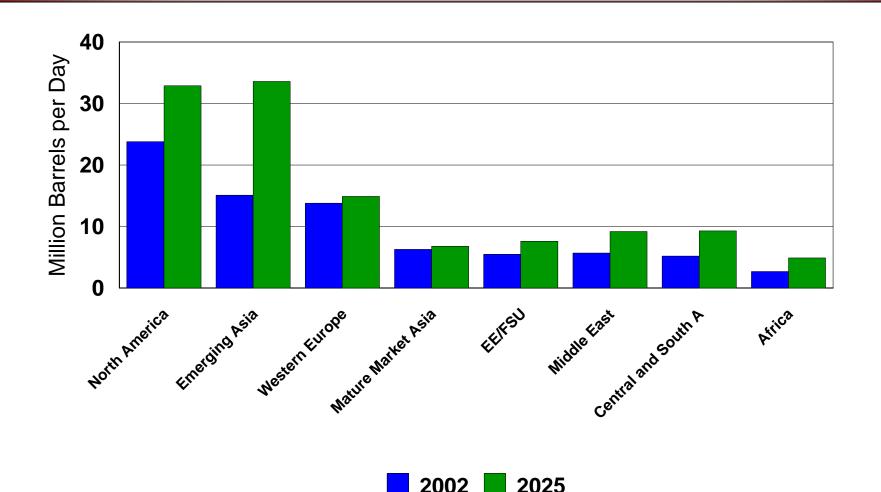
- 2003 250,000 acres
- 2004 1.24 million acres

The World

- 1996 4.3 million acres
- 2004 200 million acres
- 2010 Estimate 375 million acres or 10 percent of the cultivable land, in 30 countries.

Agricultural and Food Policy Genter

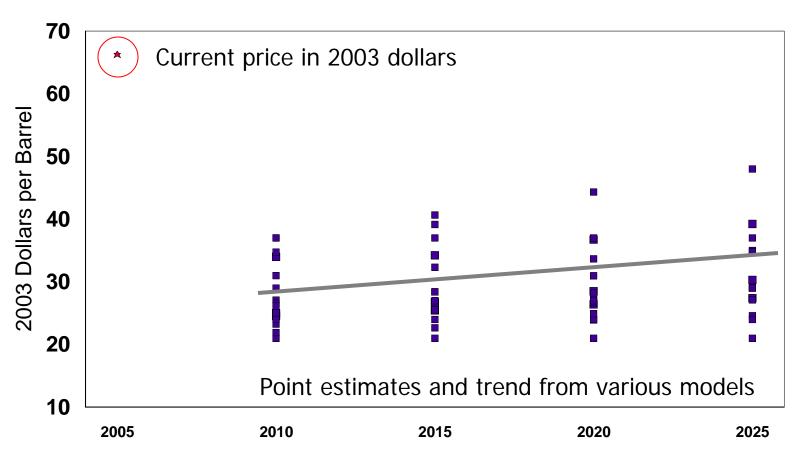
Oil Consumption in Asia is Projected to More Than Double in 20 Years





Going to Have to Get Better at Projecting Energy Prices

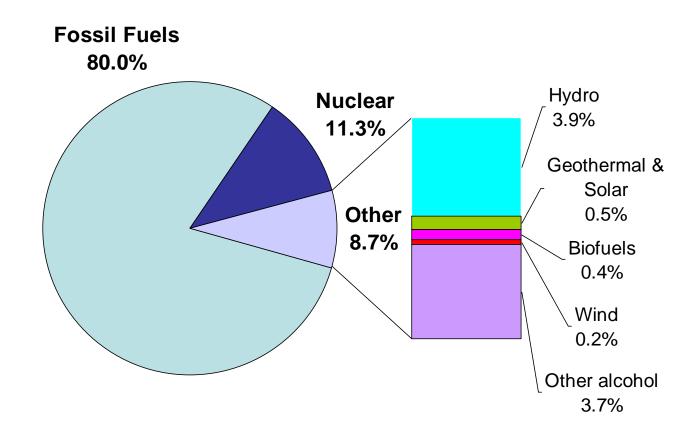
Forecasts of World Oil Prices, 2010-2025



Source: US Energy Information Administration

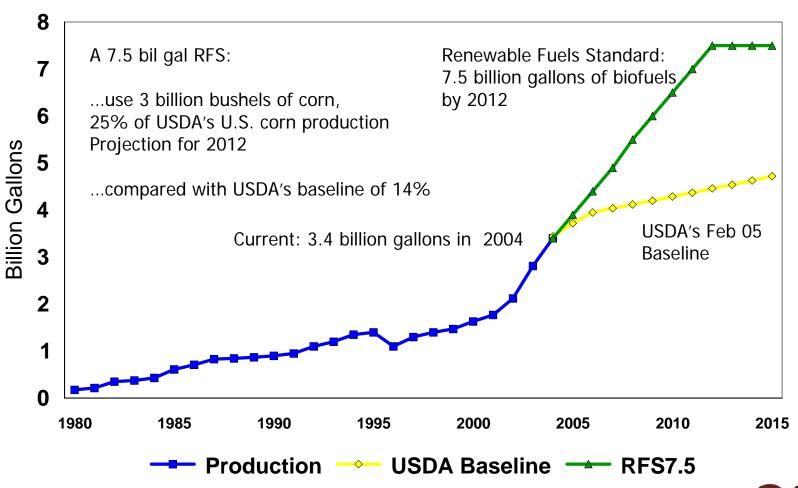


US Energy Production, 2003





Future US Ethanol Production

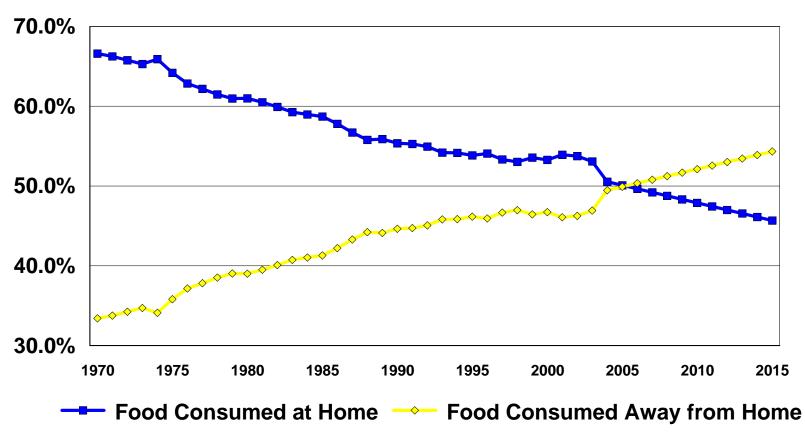


Source: American Coalition for Ethanol



Food Expenditure Trends

Expenditures on Food Consumed at Home and Away from Home

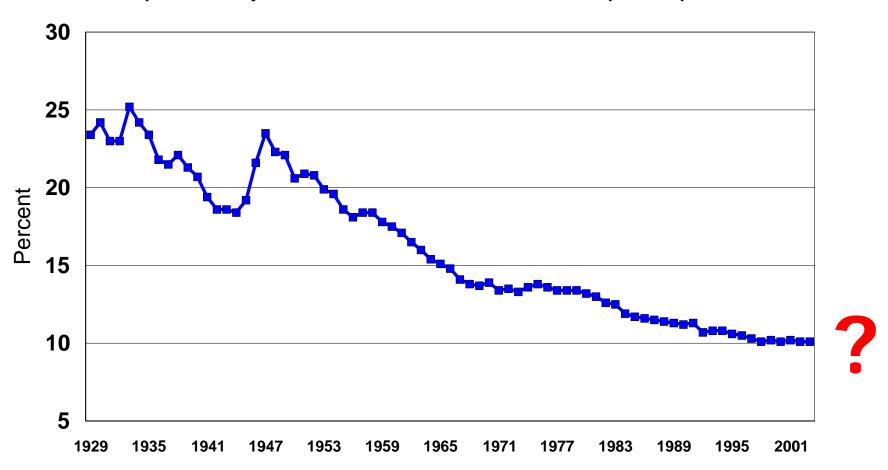


Source: ERS



Food's Share of Disposable Income Relatively Flat

Food expenditures by families and individuals as a share of disposable personal income

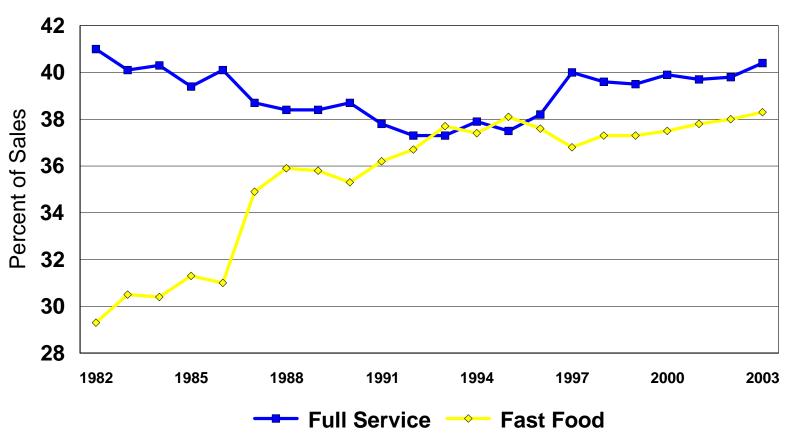


Source: ERS



Eating out trends

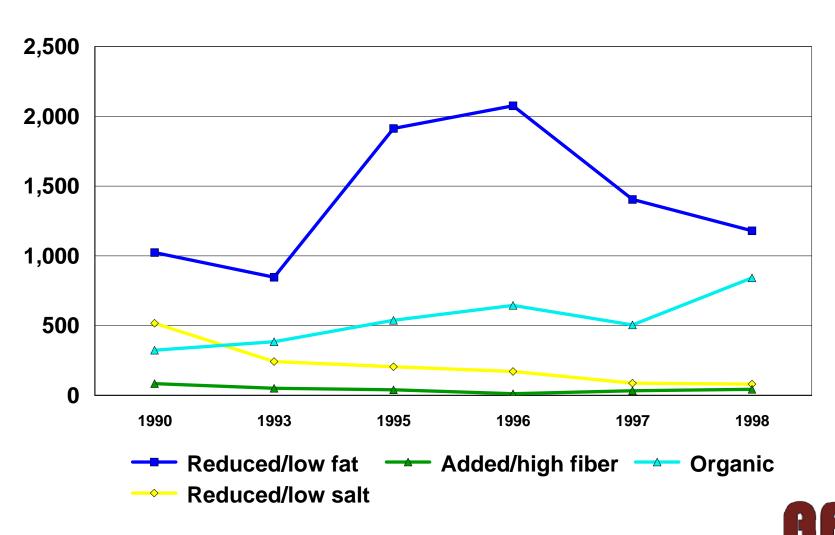
The Away from Home Market by Outlet Type



Source: ERS



Food Product Introductions by Claim



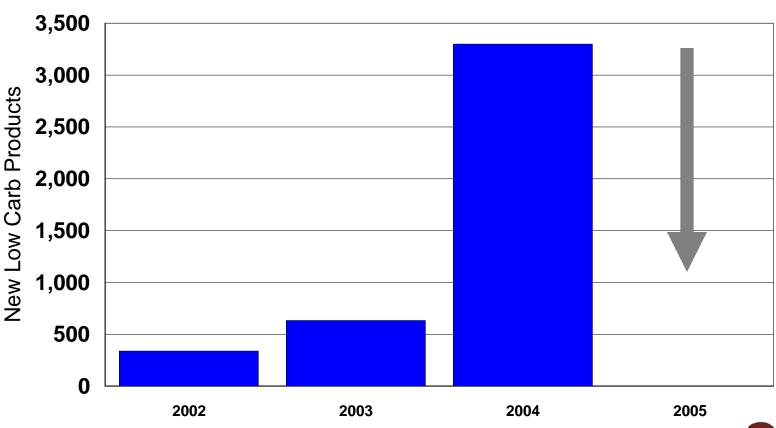
Source: New Product News

Lifecycle Analysis: Low Carb Craze

- November 1999 "Low Carb Diets" on cover of TIME Magazine
- February 2004 low carb diet peak, 9.1% of Americans on the diet
- May 2004 Krispy Kreme Doughnuts blames low carb diets for profits coming in below Wall Street estimates
- June 2004 New World Pasta Company, nations largest pasta maker, declares bankruptcy
- September 2004 Interstate bakeries, maker of Wonder Bread and Twinkies, files for bankruptcy
- July 2005 2.2% of Americans on a low carb diet
- August 2005 Atkins Nutritionals declares bankruptcy
- October 2005 Jack in the Box® launches "Bread is Back!" campaign

Low Carb Craze Fading Fast

New Low Carb Product Introductions



Source: Productscan Online



Conclusions

- Think about the last 10 years...
 - 1995 record crop prices
 - 1998-2001 market loss assistance payments
 - 2002 farm bill increase government support and low prices
- The Next 10 years likely to be at least as interesting
- Land values will depend on policy choices

