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Agricultural-Food Policy Review:

Commodity Program Perspectives

- HISTORICAL OVERVIEW
- DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SETTING
- COMMODITY PROGRAMS AND THEIR PERFORMANCE
- EMERGING AGENDA OF POLICY CONCERNS

PREFACE

This review brings together background information useful for evaluating commodity programs. Articles provide an historical overview of U.S. farm policies, a description of the general economic setting in which 1985 farm legislation will operate, an evaluation of the performance of current commodity programs, and a discussion of possible alternative policy tools and concepts. Particular focus is given to the purpose of commodity programs and an economic assessment of their performance.

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CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
I. DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SETTING	
Historical Overview of U.S. Agricultural Policies and Programs Wayne D. Rasmussen	3
U.S. Agriculture and the Macroeconomy Paul T. Prentice and David A. Torgerson	9
Profile of the U.S. Farm Sector David H. Harrington and Alden C. Manchester	25
The Implications of Emerging Technologies for Farm Programs Lloyd D. Teigen, Felix Spinelli, David H. Harrington, Robert Barry, Richard Farnsworth, and Clark Edwards.	54
World Agricultural Markets and U.S. Farm Policy Alan J. Webb, Jerry Sharples, Forrest Holland, and Philip L. Paarlberg	73
The U.S. Competitive Position in World Commodity Trade Philip L. Paarlberg, Alan J. Webb, John C. Dunmore, and J. Larry Deaton	93
II. COMMODITY PROGRAM PERSPECTIVES	
Commodity Price and Income Support Policies in Perspective James A. Langley, Robert D. Reinsel, John A. Craven, James A. Zellner, and Frederick J. Nelson	122
Effectiveness of Acreage Reduction Programs Milton H. Ericksen and Keith Collins	166
Agricultural Export Programs and U.S. Agricultural Policy S. Elaine Grigsby and Cathy L. Jabara	185
Resource Conservation Programs in the Farm Policy Arena John A. Miranowski and Katherine H. Reichelderfer	202
III. EMERGING AGENDA	
Alternative Tools and Concepts James A. Langley, Lyle P. Schertz, and Barbara C. Stucker	222
Toward a Broader Agenda	241
IV. GLOSSARY OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY TERMS	
R. Thomas Fulton	252

FREE REPORTS ON FARM POLICY

Other USDA reports providing background for 1985 farm bill discussions deal with the major program commodities, the farm industries that produce them, and the farm programs under which they are produced. These reports are available from Information, Rm. 208, 1301 New York Ave., N.W., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20005-4788. To order by telephone, call (202) 786-1515. Titles include: Honey (AIB-465), Wool and Mohair (AIB-466), Wheat (AIB-467), Tobacco (AIB-468), Peanuts (AIB-469), Rice (AIB-470), Corn (AIB-471), Soybeans (AIB-472), Oats (AIB-473), Dairy (AIB-474), Sorghum (AIB-475), Cotton (AIB-476), Barley (AIB-477), and Sugar (AIB-478).

Other free background reports on farm legislation topics are also available: Federal Credit Programs for Agriculture (AIB-483), History of Agricultural Price Support and Adjustment Programs, 1933-84 (AIB-485), The Current Financial Condition of Farmers and Farm Lenders (AIB-490), A Summary Report on the Financial Condition of Family-Size Commercial Farms (AIB-492), Foreign Exchange Constraints to Trade and Development (FAER-209), Financial Constraints to Trade and Growth: The World Debt Crisis and Its Aftermath (FAER-211), Possible Economic Consequences of Reverting to Permanent Legislation or Eliminating Price and Income Supports (AER-526), Do USDA Farm Program Participants Contribute to Soil Erosion? (AER-532), Analysis of Policies to Conserve Soil and Reduce Surplus Crop Production (AER-534), Sodbusting: Land Use Change and Farm Programs (AER-536), and The Impacts of Policy on U.S. Agricultural Trade (Staff Report No. AGES840802).