



30th A-State Agribusiness Conference: Back to the Future

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“This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.”



About the Center

- Created by Congress in 1987
- Stakeholder-driven
- Objective, non-partisan research and information regarding laws and regulations affecting agriculture
- Serves as the nation's leading source for agricultural and food law research and information
 - A unit of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
 - USDA Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library



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University of Arkansas System



Keeping Up With The Future



- Issues every 2 weeks (once only in December)
- Concise ag law & policy updates w/ links to NALC resources
- For anyone in the ag industry



“Back to the Future”: Two Questions for us to Consider Today

30 years ago, what was this audience thinking about, specifically with respect to the agricultural industry?

30 years from now, what would be included in the “Back to the Future II” presentation? (Or, what questions/issues do you have on your mind today about how certain things turned out?)



30 Years Ago: February 15, 1995

“The 1995 Farm Bill, Commodity Outlook and Issues, and the Environmental Success of High Yield Farming”

“Saving the Planet with Pesticides and Free Trade”



30 Years Ago

- 1980s Farm Crisis in the immediate backdrop
- In the last year of the 1990 Farm Bill, and about to embark on the experiment of “Freedom to Farm”
- President Bill Clinton & The Republican Revolution
- Significant and growing federal budget deficit
- Ag exports generally strong



30 Years Ago

- Ukrainian independence & the Dissolution of the Soviet Union (1991)
- Last Russian troops departed Germany (1994)
- Establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- World Trade Organization (WTO) created January 1, 1995
- The Agreement on Agriculture on same day
- First GM crop(s) commercially planted
- Some “checkoff” programs were recently established





30 Years From Now

- Is there still a Farm Bill, or has the last Farm Bill already been enacted?
- Is there a farm safety net, and, if so, what does it look like?
- Is there still an Agriculture Committee in the U.S. House and Senate?
- What does the crop protection industry look like?
- What tools are available to producers and under what circumstances?



30 Years From Now

- What does the crop protection industry look like?
- What crop protection/pesticide tools are available to producers and under what circumstances?
- Has on-farm usage agricultural biotechnology increased or decreased?
- What does “coexistence” look like within production agriculture?



30 Years From Now

- How did the Russian invasion of Ukraine conclude, and what was the impact of that outcome on ag trade and markets?
- Does Ukraine exist? What government controls the agricultural lands and fertilizer markets in present-day Ukraine?
- Did we have a conflict with China such that global supply chains were redrawn?



30 Years From Now

- How well did we navigate competing pressures on and rural land from ag production, urban encroachment, surface and groundwater management, and wind, natural gas, solar, and carbon?
- Did *a lot* of producers and landowners end up making any good money on carbon contracts?
- Did “cell-cultured meat” ever catch on with consumers?
- How much more (or less) prevalent is indoor agriculture?



30 Years From Now

- What is the role of foreign investors in U.S. agriculture, including ownership of private agricultural land?
- What role do states play in regulating commerce in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's "Proposition 12" decision?
- Is the Corporate Transparency Act still law or has it been significantly amended?
- Supreme Court impact on ag industry?



Thoughts About the Past and the Future

- Agriculture is a very, very mature industry but still dynamic enough to constantly change
- No matter what, agriculture will always be about moving dirt, water, and money
- Agriculture and the United States – can't have one without the other
- “This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it”



Back to the Future/Questions

