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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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).