

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY

BACKGROUND

America has been blessed with agricultural resources capable of abundant production. Nearly twenty million bales of cotton were produced from these lands in the early 1950's and during the same period the estimated world consumption of cotton was thirty million bales. History indicates that thirty years later, Americans have reduced their production of cotton to nine million bales while the world productions of cotton has increased to 65 million bales. In addition, soybean producers have lost their place as leaders in the world market due to the cancellation of foreign commodity sales by national leaders. This decrease in the production of farm products has contributed to the high rate of our nation's unemployment, as well as to the reduction in the sale of farm machinery and operating fuels and has adversely affected agri-business, one of the nation's largest businesses. In order for the American Farmer to stay competitive in the world market, he must produce and deliver quality farm products in the future.

Productivity has always been the trademark of American agriculture. With only three percent of America's population engaged in farming industries, we are able to feed this country and provide the United States with its largest source of exports. Our productivity as well as full recognition of worldwide laws of supply and demand must be the foundation upon which a national policy for agriculture is formulated. Such a policy is essential for the United States to assist Americans in regaining our share of the world market and in providing a direction for our country to once again become a dependable source of supply.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Agriculture's current policy to lay land idle and encourage non-production has created a drastic loss of U.S. sales in the international market. The Southern Legislative Conference urges Congress to develop an agricultural policy for the United States which will provide sufficient incentives for maintaining a dependable supply but also allow for the delivery of quality agricultural products at a competitive price.

Adopted by Southern Legislative Conference
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