Policy Issues and Nutrient Management Planning

Nutrient Management Program Work Team Lunch Seminar & Discussion
Definitions:

- **Politics** - Who Gets What

- **Policy Making** - Deciding Who Gets What

Source: Congressional Desk Book, 2001-2002, Judy Schneider and Michael L. Koempel
Who has interests in determining how ag resources are divided up?

- Farmers
  - commodity groups
- Environmentalists/Conservationists/Preservationists
  - second largest source of federal $
- Food and commodity processors
- Ag bankers/other support businesses/ornganizations
- Rural community leaders
- Hunger advocates
- Animal right groups
- Others????
Of these interests, who do you think knows a lot about NMP?

- Farmers--commodity groups
- Environmentalists/Conservationists/Preservationists
- Food and commodity processors
- Ag bankers/other support businesses/organizations
- Rural community leaders
- Hunger advocates
- Animal right groups
- Others????
Manure management is talked about at policy tables, not nutrient management.

Subsequently, resources are directed to the engineering solutions of the manure problem and not the nutrient problem on farms.
Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002

Current Farm Bill
1996--FAIR

2002 Congressional Budget Agreement

Emergency Ag Supplemental Appropriations
~ $30.5 Billion in last 4 years

House Ag Committee Hearings
House Passed Farm Bill
House-Senate Conference

Senate Ag Committee Hearings
Senate Passed Farm Bill
Pass Conference Report

President Signs New Farm Bill
House & Senate
Crop Prices Are Well Below the Levels that Shaped Provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill

Index of Prices Received by Farmers

Source: US House Committee on Agriculture, Chairman’s letter to Committee on Budget
What Shaped this Farm Bill?

• Desire to do something about emergency appropriations, and still protect farm income

• Desire to get agriculture’s agreed windfall from surplus

• Regional Equity
  – Midwest States big winners
  – Eggplant Caucus
Direct Government Payments as a Percentage of State Net Cash Income (1999-2000 average)

Over 40 percent
Over 25 to 40 percent
25 percent or less

Source: Terry N. Barr, Chief Economist, Nat'l Council of Farmer Cooperatives; USDA data
What Shaped this Farm Bill?

- Desire to do something about emergency appropriations
- Desire to get agriculture’s agreed windfall from surplus
- Regional Equity
- WWW.EWG.ORG → farm size
- Marketplace competition issues
- Western water rights
Economic concerns will continue to drive ag policy, but there is an increasing influence of ‘social’ concern.

How do you think these social concerns will be manifested in policies that may influence nutrient management planning?
Ag Policy and NMPing

• EQIP
  – 60% for livestock farms
  – no watershed priority areas
  – no farm size limits
  – no restriction on manure handling facilities
  – high caps, $450,000
Ag Policy and NMPing

• Conservation Security Program
  – payments for maintaining and increasing farm stewardship on working lands
  – 3 tiers of payments based on level of conservation practices
  – up to $45K annually over next 10 years

Resource battle between working land and land retirement programs.
Ag Policy and NMPing

• TMDLs
  – TMDL = WA + LA + MOS
    (Point Sources) (Non-point Sources) (Margin of Safety)
  – need to quantify reductions in agriculture
  – ag non-point vs. urban non-point source funding
Ag Policy and NMPing

• Clean Air regulation
  – Odors \( \equiv \) SO\(_4\)\(^{-}\) monitoring
  – Greenhouse gasses
  – PM\(_{2.5}\)
  – Need for engineering and nutrition solutions

• Nutrient balance ‘tax’
  – Holland program
Sorry, most of the farm-bill money will go to big corporate farms.

Never has so much money been showered on so few.
Questions???

Other Thoughts???

Thank You for the Invitation