

THE CHANGING STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Varel G. Bailey

VIEW FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

- CHANGES
- DRIVERS OF CHANGE
- POLICY OPTIONS

CHANGES

- Thumbnail of Anita, Iowa
- Bi-modal size of farms
- Vertical integration by commodity

DRIVERS of CHANGE

- Economic
- Political
- Societal

ECONOMIC DRIVERS

- Declining real value of commodities
- Globalization
- Capital
- Markets

POLITICAL DRIVERS

- Political power
- Bureaucracy tax
- Patents for biologicals
- Monopoly tools
- Capital gains tax

SOCIETAL DRIVERS

- Financial mores
- Changing “culture” in agriculture

POLICY OPTIONS

- Do nothing
- Biological patents
- Anti-trust
- Regulations
- Applied research
- Capital gains tax
- Rural regional leadership

KEY

- The key to a vibrant, caring, proactive agriculture is the empowerment of people.
- It is the removal of barriers to change, the creation of the knowledge to compete and the stimulation to innovate that will enhance the ever changing structure of agriculture