Agricultural Policy and Farm Bill Directions

Dr. Bradley D. Lubben
Extension Associate Professor, Policy Specialist, and
Director, North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Agricultural Economics

E-mail: brad.lubben@unl.edu

Web information:
agecon.unl.edu/lubben
cap.unl.edu
ncerme.org

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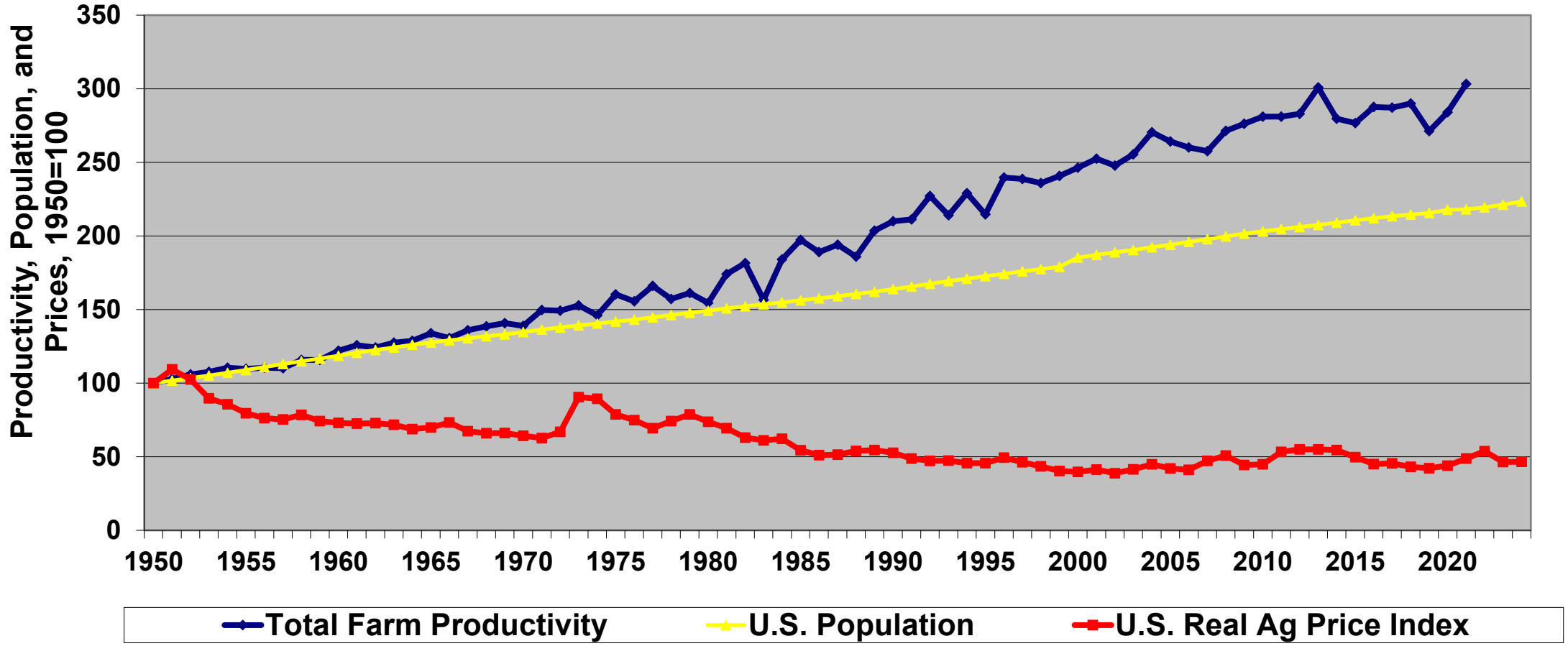
Forces of Policy Change

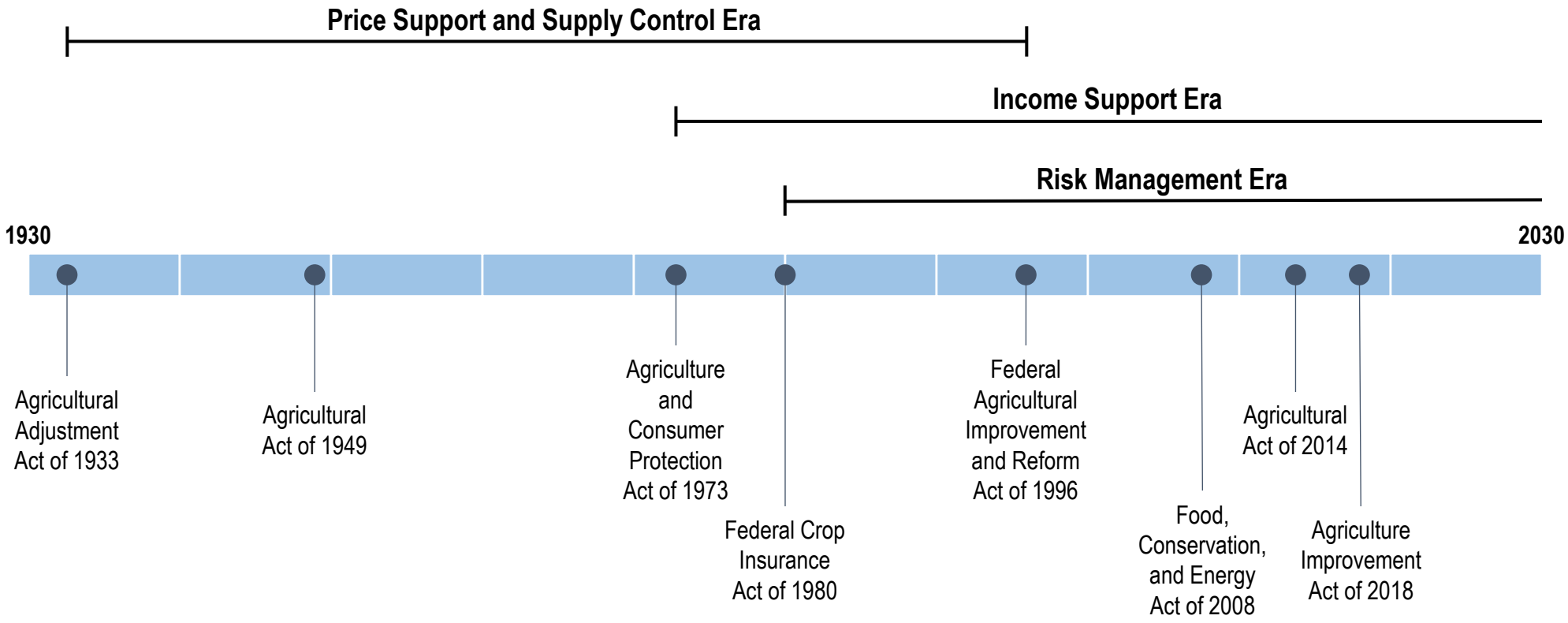
Technology Growth vs. Population Growth



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

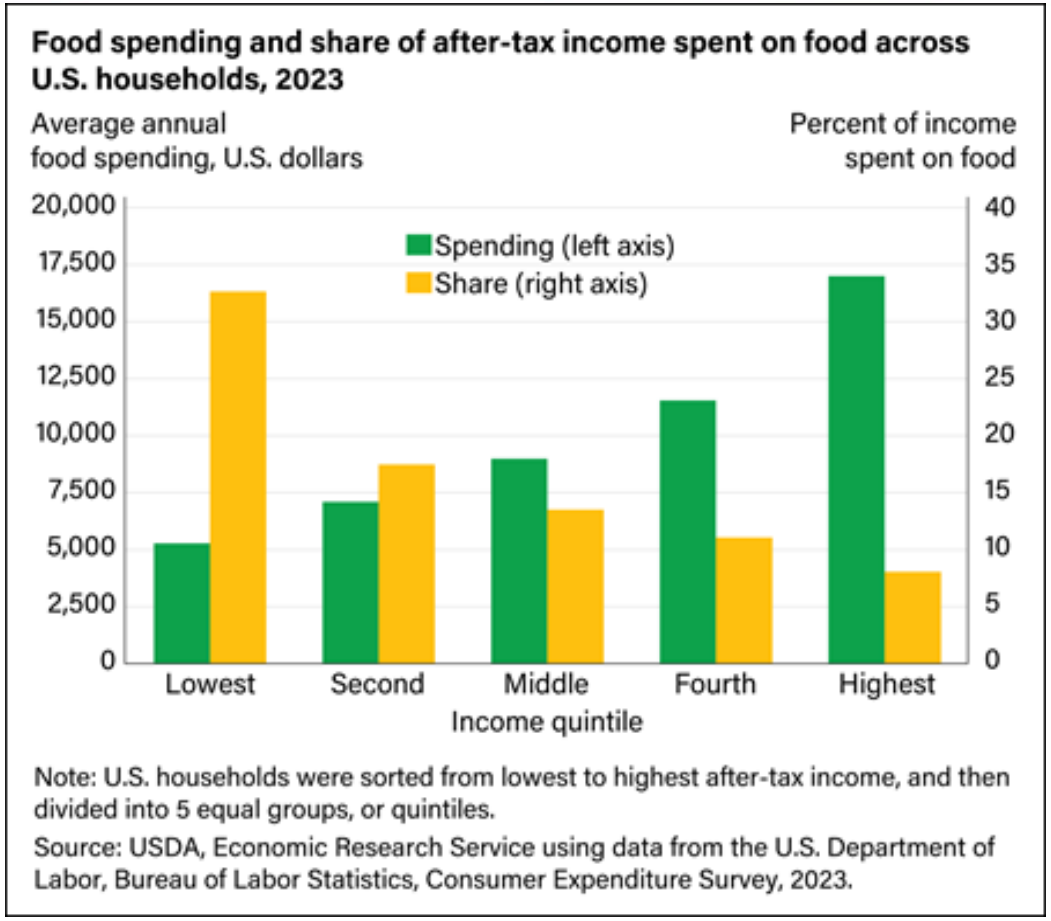
Data file: farm productivity population and price.xlsx

Ag Policy and Farm Bill Evolution



Food Policy

- **Food policy and societal demands**
  - **Food security**
  - **Nutrition**
  - **Consumer demand and food attributes**
  - **Labeling**
  - **Legislation and regulations vs. market standards**

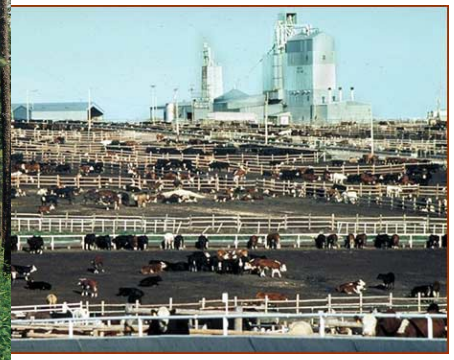


Highest income households spend more on food than the lowest income households have income.

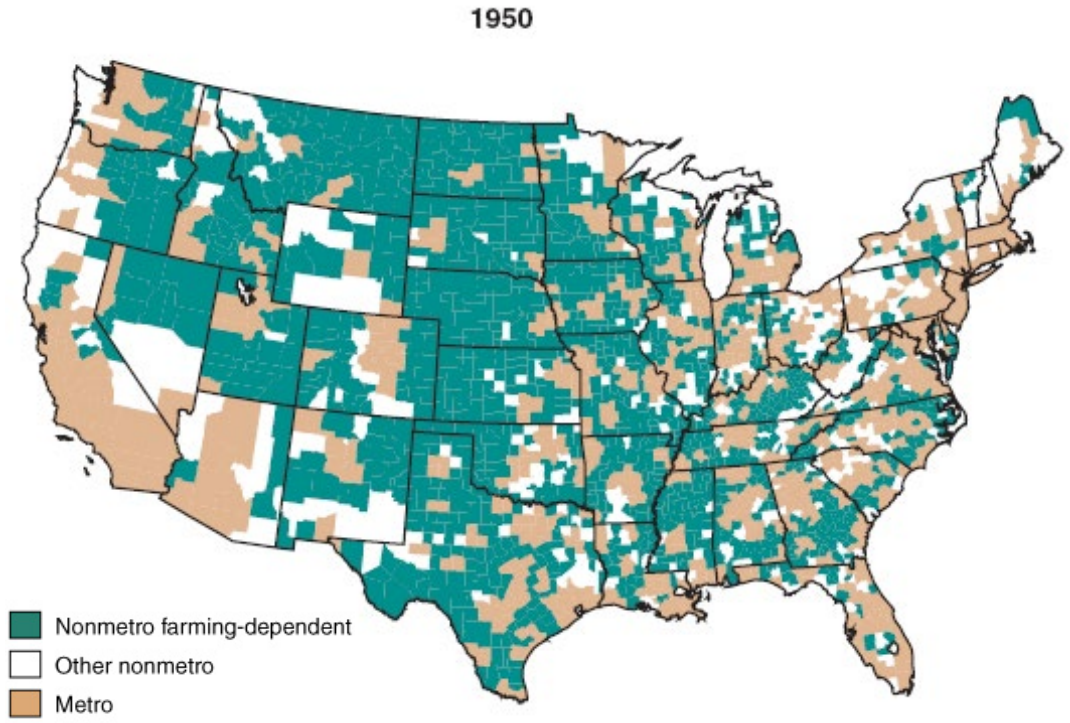
Conservation and the Environment

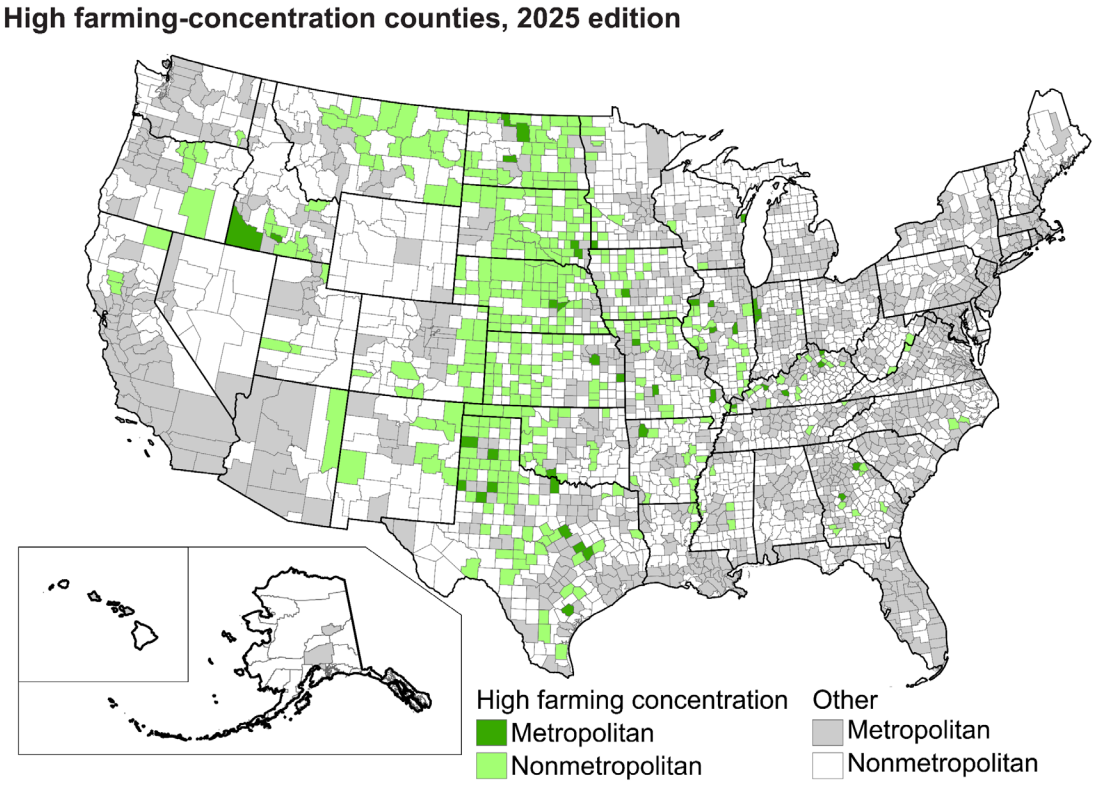
New Outputs for Agriculture

- **Regulations**
  - **Increased requirements and costs for agriculture**
- **Compliance**
  - **Minimum standards as a prerequisite to program benefits**
- **Incentives**
  - **Increased investments and benefits in conservation programs**
- **Markets**
  - **Opportunities for carbon and other ecosystem services in markets and supply chains**



Agriculture as an Economic Driver





Note: Data from USDA Economic Research Service. Farming-dependent counties in 1950 defined as counties with at least 20% of income from agriculture. High farming concentration counties in 2025 defined as counties with at least 20% of labor and proprietors' income or 17% of jobs in farming.