Producer Perspective on Production and Conservation Research. (S06-schmale120714-Oral)

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Abstract:

It is reasonable to assume that the following should be the desired goals of national agricultural policy: (1) long-term production of adequate amounts of food / fiber (2) minimal or no degradation of natural resources used in this production (3) sufficient income and a viable social structure for producers. For a producer, the above policy goals often contradict each other. Because agricultural production is subject to the uncertainties of the weather, assuring adequate amounts of food / fiber almost always results in overproduction, which severely depresses producer income and damages the social structure of rural areas. Production research, if it fails to take into account all three goals, has often aggravated the conflict between them. For example, technologies that rely on high inputs in order to maximize production actually depress producer income when viewed from a perspective encompassing all producers. A new and expanded viewpoint for production researchers, one that takes into account all three goals, would make production research a valuable part in achieving them.

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