AGEC 429: AGRICULTURAL POLICY

LECTURE 4: PARTICIPANTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY PROCESS I
Policy Formulation
- Develop programs
- Appropriate funding
- Oversee programs and funds
- Assist constituents

Policy Influencers (Lobbying)
- Elect members of Congress
- Identify problems
- Develop goals
- Make proposals

Policy Implementation
- Evaluate proposals
- Prepare legislative reports, studies and proposals
- Execute programs

Dispute Settlement
Policy Formulation Process (Congress)

1. Proposals (legislative bills) – Senate, House, and/or Administration
2. Hearings by subcommittee
3. Subcommittee “mark-up” sessions
   - process by which congressional sub-committees debate, amend, and rewrite proposed legislation
4. Subcommittee and Full Committee approvals
5. Floor approval in Senate and House Separately
6. Conference Committee
   - drafts a compromise bill that both houses can accept
   - composed of the senior Members of the standing committees of the House and Senate that originally considered the legislation
7. Approval of Conference Report (House and Senate)
8. President signs or vetoes
9. Separate appropriation and budget process
A simplified diagram of the Farm Bill legislative process, part I

House Budget Committee
- sets budget targets

Stakeholders testify and lobby for provisions
- USDA provides proposals and consultation on technical details
- Farm organizations
- Agribusiness
- Environmental groups
- Taxpayers
- Rural communities
- Research scientists

House Agriculture Committee
- committee members introduce legislative proposals

House debate and passage of House bill

Conference Committee

Senate debate and passage of Senate bill

Senate Agriculture Committee
- committee members introduce legislative proposals

Interest groups
A simplified diagram of the Farm Bill legislative process, part II

Conference Committee

House passes conference bill

President signs bill into law

Senate passes conference bill

USDA establishes rules and regulations to implement Farm Bill
CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET PROCESS

A separate process to appropriate funds to implement and run programs.
Participants in the Policy Process

Budget/Appropriations Process Almost Always Runs Past the Deadline

Days Past Fiscal Year Start (Oct. 1) Federal Non-Supplemental Appropriations Process Concluded

- 8 Individual Appropriations Bills Enacted by 12/15/80 (Day 76)
- 9 Individual Appropriations Bills Enacted by 12/29/81 (Day 90)
- All Individual Appropriations Bills Except Foreign Operations Enacted by 11/26/91 (Day 57)
- 7 Individual Appropriations Bills Enacted by 12/1/95 (Day 62), Foreign Operations Appropriations Enacted 2/12/96 (Day 135)
- Military Construction and DOD Appropriations Enacted 10/23/02 (Day 23)
- DOD Appropriations Enacted 9/29/06 (On Time), DHS Appropriations Enacted 10/04/06 (Day 4)
- DOD, DHS, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Appropriations Enacted 9/30/08 (On Time)

- Appropriations by CR (Appropriations process concluded with Full-Year Continuing Resolution enacted)
- Regular Appropriations Process (Appropriations process concluded with enactment of individual appropriations bills, consolidated acts, or omnibus legislation)
- Current Fiscal Year - Zero individual appropriations bills passed & government operating on CR #4 and counting...as of March 16, 2011

Data Sources: Thomas.gov, CRS Report RL32614

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THE EXECUTIVE PROCESS
(Policy Implementation)
Farm Income Support Example

Participants in the Policy Process

Congress first chooses allowable instruments in a Farm Bill:
1. Deficiency Payments
2. Countercyclical Payments
3. Price supports
4. Crop insurance

Just a few examples
(very few!)

Executive then has many decisions to make:
1. Which instrument to implement (or combination)?
2. What amount of payment or price support?
3. What are the probable consequences?
4. What system is needed to administer & monitor the program?

Decisions generally include:
1. Public comments on impact statement of alternatives.
2. Public and congressional pressures.
3. Internal debate within USDA & with other agencies.
THE JUDICIAL PROCESS
(Dispute Settlement)

1. Courts interpret the constitution and settle disputes concerning application of laws.

2. Courts determine “________________________”
   - Broad and vague legislation
   - Congress’ means of passing problems to the courts
Participants in the Policy Process

LOBBYISTS!

POLICY INTEREST GROUPS (PIGS)

- General Farm Organizations
- Commodity Organizations
- Public Interest Groups
- Agribusiness/Trade Associations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q46kxNc5BLE
TWO TYPES OF LOBBYING:

**Direct Lobbying:** Attempting to influence any legislation through communication with any member or employee of a legislative body, or with any government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of the legislation.

**Grassroots Lobbying:** Attempting to influence any legislation by affecting the opinions of the general public or any segment thereof.
Participants in the Policy Process

POLICY INTEREST GROUPS (PIGS)

- General Farm Organizations
  - American Farm Bureau Federation
  - National Farmers Union
  - National Farmers Organization
  - The Grange

- Commodity Organizations
  - Every commodity has at least one – and some have many
  - Some represent just one segment of the industry (e.g., producers)
  - Others represent various segments of the industry (e.g., producers, millers, processors, retailers, exporters, etc.)
  - Some represent different regions of the country
### Examples of Agricultural Commodity and Food Interest Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Soybean Association</th>
<th>National Aquaculture Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Sugar Alliance</td>
<td>National Association of Wheat Growers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Sugarbeet Growers Association</td>
<td>National Bison Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Tilapia Association</td>
<td>National Cattlemen’s Beef Association</td>
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<td>American Vinters Association</td>
<td>National Chicken Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Agriculture Alliance</td>
<td>National Christmas Tree Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catfish Institute</td>
<td>National Corn Growers Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherry Marketing Institute</td>
<td>National Cotton Council of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn Refiners Association</td>
<td>National Farmers Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Plains Buffalo Association</td>
<td>National Farmers Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holstein Association</td>
<td>National Fisheries Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Dairy Association</td>
<td>National Honey Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohair Council of America</td>
<td>National Meat Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushroom Council</td>
<td>National Milk Producers Federation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Many interest groups have no policy goals or objectives (that is they DON’T lobby policy makers).

They exist solely to serve the marketing, buying, networking, information, and other needs of their members.
Participants in the Policy Process

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- Public Interest Groups
  - Typically focus on only 1 issue such as:
    - Environment (Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council, EWG)
    - Hunger (Bread for the World, Catholic Relief Organization, Mercy Corps)
    - Animal rights (PETA)
    - Consumers (CFA, CW, CU, Center for Science in the Public Interest)
    - [http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0002120.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0002120.html)

- Agribusiness/Trade Associations
  - Examples: Restaurant Associations, Farm Equipment Dealers, Farm Chemical Associations, Dairy Foods Associations, and many others
## Examples of Farm Equipment Associations

- Ag Electronics Association (AEA)
- Agricultural & Industrial Manufacturers Reps Association (AIMRA)
- Ag Electronics Association (AEA)
- Agricultural & Industrial Manufacturers Reps Association (AIMRA)
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- American Society of Agricultural Consultants (ASAC)
- American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE)
- American Society of Farm Equipment Appraisers
- **Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)**
- Canadian West Equipment Dealers Association
- Canadian Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute (CFIEI)
- Canadian Farm Builders Association
- Canadian Society for Engineering in Ag, Food & Biological Systems (CSAE)
- **Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA)**
- Farm Equipment Wholesalers Association (FEWA)
- Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association
- Irrigation Association
- Italian Trade Commission
- Lawn & Garden Marketing & Distribution Association
- National Christmas Tree Association
- National Corn Growers Association
- Midwest Equipment Dealers Association
- Mississippi Valley Equipment Association (MVEA)
- National Agri-Marketing Association
- North American Equipment Dealers Association (NAEDA)
- Ohio-Michigan Equipment Dealers Association
- Ontario Retail Farm Equipment Dealers Association
- Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)
- Pacific Northwest Association
- Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
- Propane Education & Research Council
- Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP)
- Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)
- South West Hardware & Implement Association (SWHIA)
- Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association
- Tractor & Machinery Association of Australia
- UNAMOMA/COMAMOTER Western Association