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Agricultural Outlook Forum U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS: Rural Development & Natural Resources

Presented: February 24-25, 2011

Jon Scholl



American Farmland Trust





Jon Scholl, President



American Farmland Trust

The nation's leading conservation organization dedicated to:

- saving America's farm and ranch land
- promoting environmentally sound farming practices
- supporting a sustainable future for farms





American Farmland Trust and ERS

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!





ERS: Shining a Light on Key Issues

- Codification system: understanding food in the path of development
- Possible Implications for U.S. Agriculture from Adoption of Select Dietary Guidelines: amount of agricultural land needed to grow food
- Key information to reshape CRP in 1996





Looking Ahead: Agriculture

- Complex industry
- Complex problems
- Polarizing debates
- Facts enlighten decision making process
- •Insufficient information = bad policy
- Won't be done for us





Looking Ahead: Land Resources

- Shape better policy
- Explore new drivers
 Ecosystem Service Markets
- Assess new technologies
- Improve efficiencies
- Data to address national landscape integrity and water security





Rural Development

- More sophisticated focus
- Flourish while remaining rural
- Smart growth and planning for agriculture





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www.farmland.org

