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# Increasing Understanding of Public Problems and Policies — 1977

**Federal Policy Process**

**U. S. Energy Policy**

**World Food — U. S. Policy Choices**

**1977 Food and  
Agriculture Legislation**

**Agent Training and  
Leadership Development**

### **Subjects Discussed at Previous Conferences**

- 1961 Extension Education in Farm Policy • Economic Development • Marketing Agreements and Orders • International Trade and American Agriculture
- 1962 Foreign Policy Alternatives • Agricultural Policy Issues • Educational Policies and Methods • State and Local Taxation Policies
- 1963 Economic Development • Foreign Trade and Aid Issues • Evaluation of Agricultural Programs • Improving Policy Education Programs
- 1964 Education in a Democratic Society • Meeting Our International Obligations • Farm Policy Issues—1965 and Beyond • Extension Programs in Public Policy
- 1965 Emerging Foreign Policy Issues • New Directions: Trade, Aid, Farm Policy • Politics and Agricultural Policy • Human Resource Development Issues
- 1966 Meeting World Food Needs • The Food Marketing System • The Crisis in Cotton • Breaking the Poverty Cycle • Helping People Solve Public Problems
- 1967 Southeast Asia Policy Alternatives • Response to World Food Outlook • Policies for Commercial Agriculture • Minimum Family Income Proposals • Community Development Policy
- 1968 Extension Public Affairs Programs • United States' Role in World Affairs • Agricultural Policy Alternatives • Rural Poverty
- 1969 Successful Extension Programs • Inflation and Economic Growth • Competitive Structure for Agriculture • Foreign Trade and Development • The Changing Structure of American Society
- 1970 The University's Role in Public Policy Education • Policy Issues for the Seventies • Income Maintenance Programs • Environment and Quality of Life
- 1971 Who Makes National Policy? • Struggle for Control of the Food System • Where Will People Live and Work?
- 1972 Current Economic Policy • Who Will Control Agriculture? • Rural Development • Property Rights and Land Use • Policy Education
- 1973 Energy Policy Issues • Policy Education Methods • Land Use Policy • Agricultural and Foreign Trade • New Policy Perspectives and Dimensions
- 1974 State of the Economy • Food Policy • Energy Issues • Land Use Policy and Planning • Improving the Performance of Government
- 1975 The U.S. Economic System • Energy and Transportation • World Food Issues • Domestic Food and Farm Policy • Public Policy Education in Perspective
- 1976 The U.S. Political Economy • Food and Agricultural Policy • Impacts of Judicial and Regulatory Decision Making • Energy Policy

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## FOREWORD

This publication reports the major discussions of the 27th national public policy conference, held September 11-15, 1977, at The Inn at Otter Crest, Otter Rock, Oregon. One hundred twenty-three representatives from 46 states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other interested agencies participated in the conference.

As in other years, the conference included speakers and subjects to stimulate and challenge extension workers responsible for public affairs programs to do a better job of policy education. The conference was planned by the National Public Policy Education Committee.

Specific objectives were: (1) to provide timely and useful information on public issues; (2) to explore different approaches in conducting public policy educational programs; and (3) to share ideas and experiences in policy education.

It is hoped that the increased professional competence of participants will result in improved educational programs. It is hoped, too, that this will lead ultimately to intelligent and responsible choices by citizens in solving public problems at both the local and national levels.

The purpose of this report is to extend the benefits of the conference beyond the participants. The report will be made available not only to state and county extension personnel, but also to teachers, students, and others interested in increasing understanding of public policy issues.

The report was edited by a committee consisting of: Arley Waldo (Chairman), University of Minnesota; Robert Jones, Purdue University; William Neely, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; and Lavaughn Johnson, University of Georgia.

The Farm Foundation, following its policy of close cooperation with the state extension services, financed the instructional staff and the transportation of one individual from each state as well as publication of this report.

J. B. Wyckoff, Chairman  
National Public Policy Education Committee  
R. J. Hildreth, Managing Director  
Farm Foundation

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## **PART I**

### ***The Federal Policy Process***