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**Increasing Understanding  
of Public Problems and  
Policies — 1985**

**The Changing Face of America: Its  
Policy Implications**

**The Changing Face of Agriculture**

**Status of the 1985 Agricultural and  
Food Legislation**

**Tax Policy Revision**

**Developing Policy Education  
Programs on Controversial Issues**

## Subjects Discussed at Previous Conferences

- 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
- 1977 Federal Policy Process • U.S. Energy Policy • World Food — U.S. Policy Choices • 1977 Food and Agriculture Legislation • Agent Training and Leadership Development
- 1978 Food and Nutrition Policy • Policy Options for Small Farms • International Agricultural Trade • The Land-Grant System and Public Policy
- 1979 Controlling Inflation: Alternative Approaches, Impacts and Implications • Policy Legislative Process
- 1980 Dispersed vs. Concentrated Agriculture • Ethics of Public Policy • Productivity • Rural Transportation • Energy Policy Issues • Policy Issues and Educational Approaches
- 1981 Government Programs and Individual Decisions • Public Support of Research and Extension • Agriculture in the 1980s • Methodology of Public Policy Education
- 1982 Domestic Economic Policy • Federal Government Role in Resource Management • Trade Policy • Financing Government Under Tight Budgets • Food Policy
- 1983 Economic Transition • Land Ownership Issues and Policy Education Approaches • The U.S. Food and Agricultural System in the International Setting • The Policy Education Process
- 1984 Federal Deficit • Providing Public Services in an Era of Declining Taxpayer Support • Water Policy • Distribution Issues in Food & Agricultural Policy • Methodology Workshops • Emerging Politics of Food & Agriculture

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WALTER J. ARMBRUSTER, Associate Managing Director, Farm Foundation, Oak Brook, Illinois

## FOREWORD

This publication reports the major discussions of the 35th National Public Policy Education Conference held September 16-19, 1985, at Kerrville, Texas. The 129 participants represented most states, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other public agencies.

The conference, planned by the National Public Policy Education Committee, is held to help those extension workers responsible for public affairs programs do a better job in policy education. This, in turn, should help citizens faced with solving local and national problems make more intelligent and responsible decisions.

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

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 extension service. The Foundation also financed publication and distribution of these proceedings which are made available to state and county extension personnel, teachers, students, and others interested in increasing understanding of public policy issues.

Ronald D. Knutson, Chairman  
National Public Policy Education  
Committee

R.J. Hildreth, Managing Director  
Farm Foundation

January, 1986

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*THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA:  
ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS*