

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

## This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

#### Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<a href="http://ageconsearch.umn.edu">http://ageconsearch.umn.edu</a>
<a href="mailto:aesearch@umn.edu">aesearch@umn.edu</a>

Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.



# CONSOLIDATION AND COMPETITION IN AGRIBUSINESS

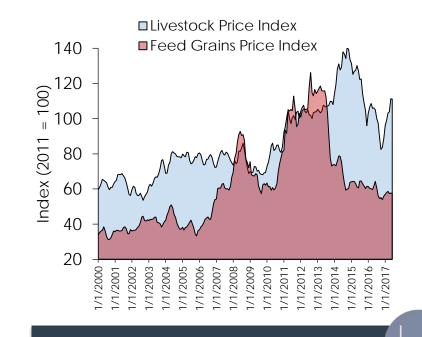






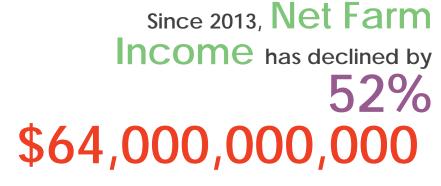


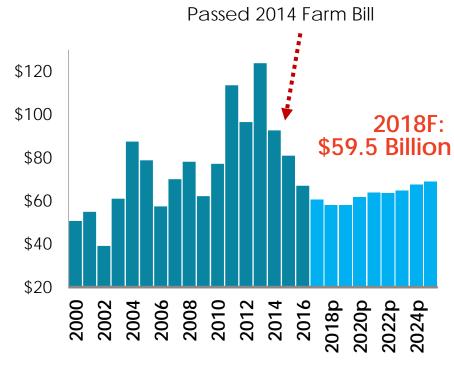
#### CONDITIONS IN THE FARM ECONOMY



#### **Lower Commodity Prices**

The decline in farm revenues and modest declines in cash expenses pressured farm income lower. **Expected to stabilize at lower levels.** 

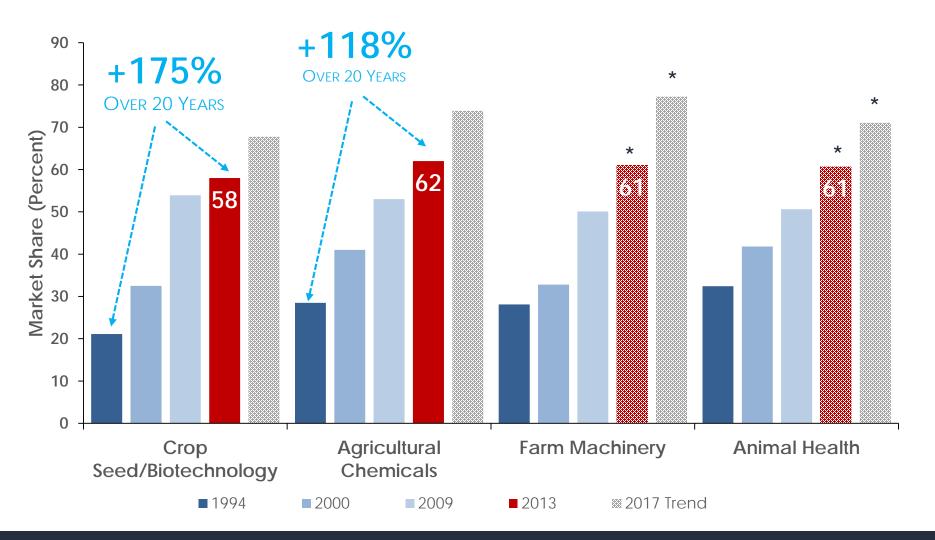






#### **EVOLUTION OF MARKET CONCENTRATION**

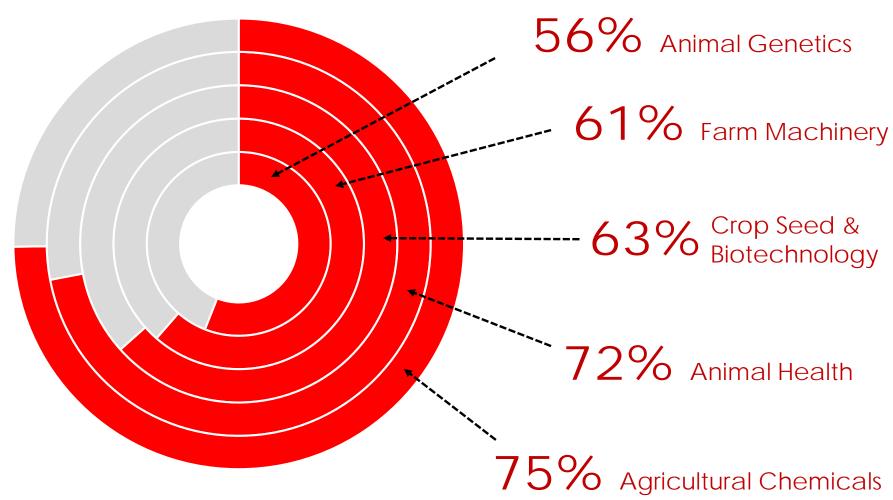
#### FOUR FIRM CONCENTRATION RATIO





#### SHARE OF GLOBAL SALES BY SECTOR

#### EIGHT FIRM CONCENTRATION RATIO, 2009





#### **REASONS FOR MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS**

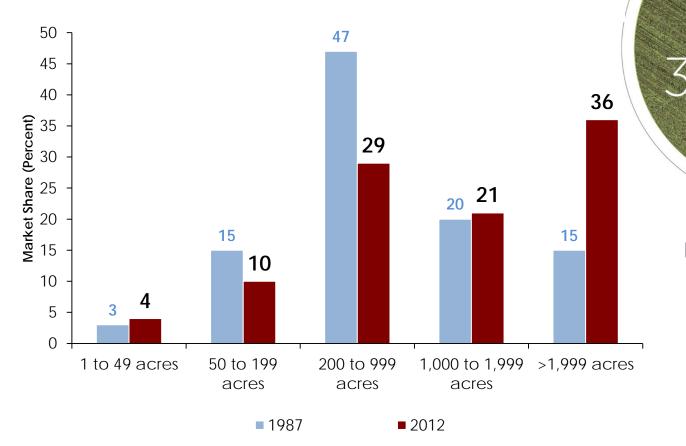
- SEED: ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITIES AND SHARE REGULATORY FIXED COSTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY
- LIVESTOCK: ANIMAL BREEDING CAPACITY AS PART OF THE INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN
- MACHINERY: LOW FARM INCOME AND POOR BUYING POWER OF FARMERS ERODED PROFITABILITY OF FIRMS
- CHEMICALS: STRICT REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT AND RULES OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT INCREASED TRANSACTION COSTS
- ANIMAL HEALTH: M&A IN PHARMACEUTICALS

Source: USDA ERS



#### **CROPLAND CONSOLIDATION**

Large crop farms (2,000 acres or more) accounted for 36% of U.S. cropland in 2012, only 15% in 1987

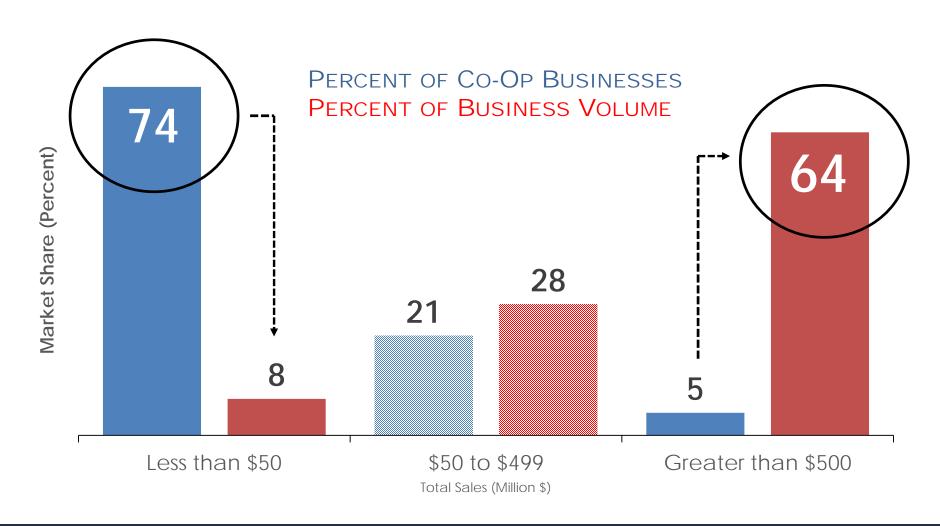






#### **COOPERATIVE CONCENTRATION**

#### 92% OF CO-OP SALES BY 26% OF CO-OPS





#### **CO-OP MARKET SHARE**

Percent of Milk Handled by Cooperatives, 2015



Percent of Grains, Oilseeds, Fruits and Vegetables Handled by Cooperatives, 2015



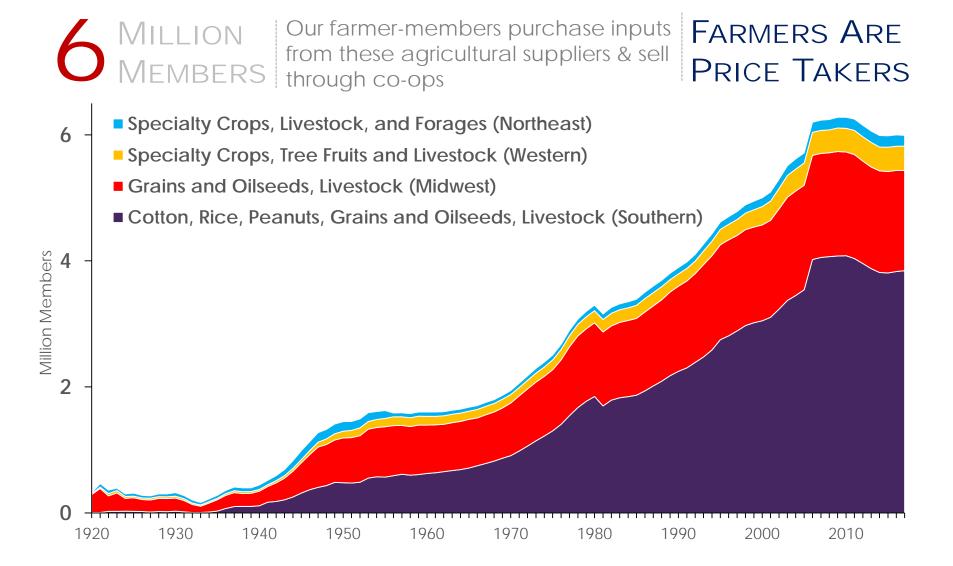


#### **CONSOLIDATION IN PROCESSED FOOD**





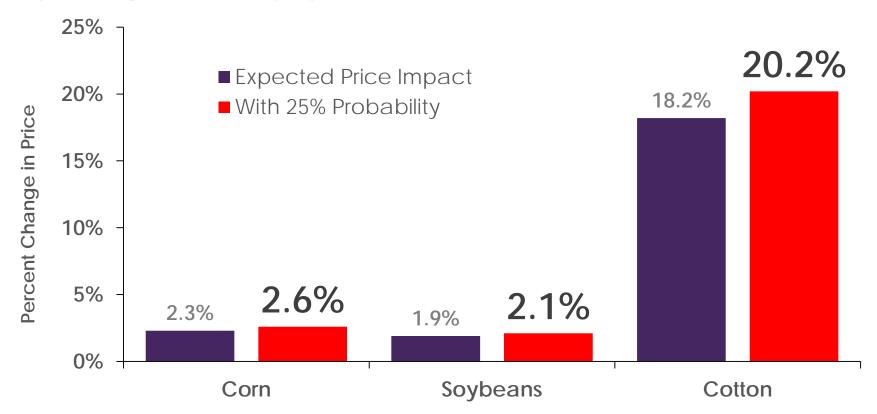
#### WHY FARM BUREAU CARES





#### AFPC (TAMU) STUDY ON M&A

## Proposed Mergers Could Potentially Lead to Higher Seed Prices\*



<sup>\*</sup>Does Not Include Impact of Divesture Remedies

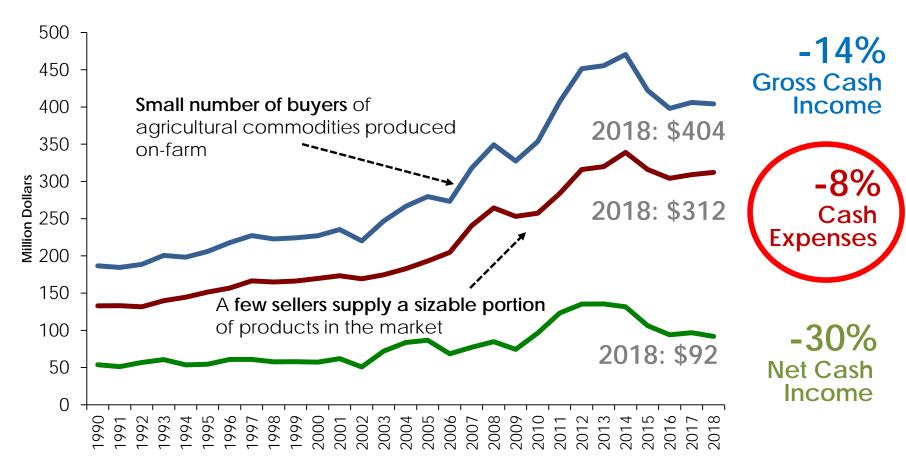


#### IMPERFECT COMPETITION IN AG FOOD

#### FEW BUYERS OF OUTPUTS & FEW SELLERS OF INPUTS

WHAT WILL BE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FARMERS AND RANCHERS?

Since 2014









EFFICIENCY IN RESEARCH: ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE
SUGGESTS FIRMS ARE INVESTING MILLION OF DOLLARS
PER DAY IN AGRICULTURAL-RELATED RESEARCH
-AMPLIFIES RESEARCH IN KEY AREAS



DEDICATION TO AGRICULTURE: FOCUS OF BUSINESS TO SERVICE AGRICULTURE, MULTIPLE TECHNOLOGIES UNDER ONE ROOF



STREAMLINE FLOW: PROCUREMENT, MEMBERSHIPS, SPONSORSHIPS IN LARGER SUPPLY CHAIN





### **CONCERNS FROM WITHIN INDUSTRY**



DOMINANT MARKET POSITION: IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN COMPETITION, E.G. PRICE & INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH, WITH LARGER MARKET SHARE FIRMS



COMPANIES LOSE LOW IMPACT BUSINESS: THROUGH ANTI-TRUST DIVESTURE REMEDIES COMPANIES MAY LOSE LOW RISK BUSINESSES



CREATES GENERIC AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE NIMBLE FIRMS



BARRIERS TO ENTRY: NIMBLE FIRMS HAVE LARGE CAPITAL AND LABOR COSTS TO PENETRATE MARKET



FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS: POTENTIAL TO DRAIN THE U.S. OF TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP AND IP ASSETS



#### FARM BUREAU'S POSITION



#### SEP. 2016:

"Farmers and ranchers, in particular, are interested in how these deals will impact research and development budgets [...].

We depend on access to enhanced technology, and would hate to see agricultural innovation suffer at the cost of business decisions."