



September 14, 2009

Congratulations to FAPRI Missouri on 25 years of dedication to objective agricultural policy analysis. In 1984, at FAPRI's inception, skeptics both inside and outside the Washington Beltway questioned whether an academic research institute could deliver the analytical goods in a timely way and maintain its balance in an intensively political environment. Over the last 25 years FAPRI has not only proved the skeptics wrong but has established itself as the premier independent source of agricultural policy analysis; its baseline a benchmark for analysts around the world

Over the years, as old policy issues and debates—remember PIK and commodity certificates—have faded into the past and new ones, like climate change and the indirect land use effects of biofuels, have emerged, FAPRI has been in the forefront, providing relevant and rigorous analysis. While it may seem to the casual observer that FAPRI's analyses of new and complex issues emerge from databases and models at the push of a button, those of us who have been involved in agricultural policy understand that it is wisdom and creativity of FAPRI's staff that are truly at the core of what you do!

More challenges lie ahead. Debates over policies to address climate change, the role of biofuels, and the future of farm programs are just beginning and I am sure there are more issues facing us over the horizon. As a society we are in need of sound and objective analysis more than ever. So I look forward to FAPRI's analysis and insights for the next 25 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neilson C. Conklin".

Neilson C. Conklin
President, Farm Foundation

