

Bringing **people** together  
Building knowledge

**10<sup>th</sup> Farmer Cooperatives Conference**

St. Paul, Minn.  
Nov. 5-6, 2007

Annual Report

Farm Foundation

2007

## Farm Foundation

- Founded in 1933
- Trustees are leaders in agriculture and agribusiness
- Funding
  - Endowment Income
  - Support from individuals, businesses and government agencies
- Every \$1 invested leverages \$4+

## Farm Foundation

- Unique in the agricultural community, addressing issues impacting the entire industry, not just one region or commodity
- A 74-year reputation for objectivity. We do not lobby or advocate positions.
- We promote understanding of issues facing agriculture, the food system and rural America.

## Farm Foundation

- Promote understanding of the relationship among natural resources, human capital, technology, public institutions & society
- Provide an agenda-free environment for discussion & debate of timely economic and policy issues
- Address emerging economic & policy issues
- Communication to diverse audiences

## Farm Foundation

Program Focus

- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Globalization
- Rural Community Viability
- Role of Agricultural Institutions
- Consumer Issues
- New Technology

## Farm Foundation

Current Program Initiatives

- *Domestic & Trade Impacts of U.S. Farm Policy*
- *Transition to a Bioeconomy*
- *Second Decade of Crop Biotechnology*
- *Farm Foundation Forums*

## Farm Foundation

### Farmer Cooperatives Conference

- *Priority Area Objective* - Identify new institutional arrangements with the potential to serve agriculture & the food system more effectively in today's global & fast-changing economy.
- *High Priority Topic* - Examine the long-term economic viability of cooperatives of all types with particular attention to issues of access to capital.

## Farm Foundation

- Goal: More informed public policy
  - Supply private & public decision makers with informative economic analysis.
  - Identify gaps in research/analysis & set a future research agenda.
  - Increase public understanding of the issues by fostering dialogue & building networks.

### *The Mission of Farm Foundation*

Farm Foundation's mission is to improve the economic and social well-being of U.S. agriculture, the food system and rural communities by serving as a **CATALYST** to assist private- and public-sector decision makers in identifying and understanding forces that will shape the future.

**CONSTRUCTIVE  
DIALOGUE.  
OBJECTIVE  
ANALYSIS.  
INNOVATIVE  
IDEAS.**