

AGEC 410 – Agricultural and Food Policy

14 – Rural Development

History of much talk, little funding

Mix of Federal, State, and local efforts

Rural is not farming

Status of rural America

Twenty Poorest Counties in the United States, 2003

County	State	Ave. Wage
Meagher	MT	13,485
Petroleum	MT	13,636
Carter	MT	13,657
Judith Basin	MT	13,811
Garfield	MT	13,860
Slope	ND	13,955
Keya Paha	NE	14,084
Golden Valley	MT	14,120
Liberty	MT	14,288
Wheatland	MT	14,441
Grant	ND	14,521
Catron	NM	14,598
Sheridan	ND	14,928
Saguache	CO	15,189
Sierra	NM	15,421
Loup	NE	15,429
Divide	ND	15,592
Corson	SD	15,622
Faulk	SD	15,786
Harding	SD	15,831

Source: *The Economist*. December 10, 2005. p32.

Questions:

To what extent do we want to alter these trends?

What are the policy options faced and programs used?

Why much talk but little money?

Fragmented interest groups

Compete for funding with urban areas

Rely on Agriculture committees to represent.

Policy Options, Business and Job Development:

1. Industrial recruiting – SR 28, Frankfort

2. Grants, loans, tax breaks

Prisoner's Dilemma

costs vs benefits, spillovers

3. Business retention and expansion

4. Incubators

5. Infrastructure development

Policy Options, Issues, and Programs, Education:

1. School Consolidation

2. Financing

3. Improving graduation rates

4. Attracting teachers and administrators

5. Developing community leaders

Policy Options, Issues, Programs, in Rural Health:

1. Limited liability?

2. Restructuring hospitals and clinics

3. Emergency Medical Services

4. Attracting health care professionals

Policy Options, Issues, Program for Rural Poverty:

apply to both urban and rural poverty

Rural areas have some unique aspects

Labor:

Generally a distinction between farm labor and
non-farm labor

agricultural labor not defined as employees

work age rules also differ

Over time differences narrowing