

South Dakota Department of Agriculture

**Long-term Highway
Needs and DOT
Agency Review
Committee Hearing
August 20, 2009**

**Bill Even
SD Secretary of
Agriculture**



Local Road Needs for Ag and Rural Development

- SD Dept of Agriculture
- SD County
Commissioner's Assn
- SD Assn of Towns and
Townships
- SD Dept of Tourism and
State Development
- SD Dept of
Transportation



Dakota Ethanol Plant at Wentworth, SD

Our Goals for Today:

1. Follow up on the Local Roads Needs Study.
2. Highlight the importance of agriculture to South Dakota's economic success.
3. Frame the issues.
4. Answer Questions.

Goals for the October Meeting:

1. Present possible solutions.

Importance of Agriculture

- Agriculture is **BIG BUSINESS** in SD.
- \$21.3 billion dollar annual economic impact.
- That is 1/3 of South Dakota's entire economy!



The Numbers . . .

- Agriculture industries employ **173,101** South Dakotans.
- That is **40%** of all the jobs in our state.
- Agriculture industries generate **\$645** million in tax revenues.
- That is approximately **50%** of South Dakota's total tax collections.

South Dakota's Investment in our Farm to Market Road Infrastructure

- 7,841 Miles of State Highways
- 23,630 Miles of County Roads
- 11,680 Miles of County Secondary Roads
- 31,637 Miles of Township Roads
- 74,788 Total Miles

These investments have made the USA the envy of the world and given us a historical competitive advantage.

Today's Competition . . . Brazil.

- Alysson Paolinelli
 - 2006 World Food Prize Laureate
 - Brazil's Minister of Agriculture, 1974 - 1979
- In developing Brazil's agriculture industry, he copied **two** American ideas: **Land Grant Universities** and **rural infrastructure** (roads, bridges, railroads, etc.).



Agriculture has changed dramatically over the past 80 years.



From this . . .



... to this ...



. . . to this.

Our Harvesting Methods Have Changed.



And so have the means of transporting our crop to market.

**From 200 bushel gravity box wagons
that needed no license and paid no
wheel tax . . .**



. . . to 300 bushel single axle trucks . . .



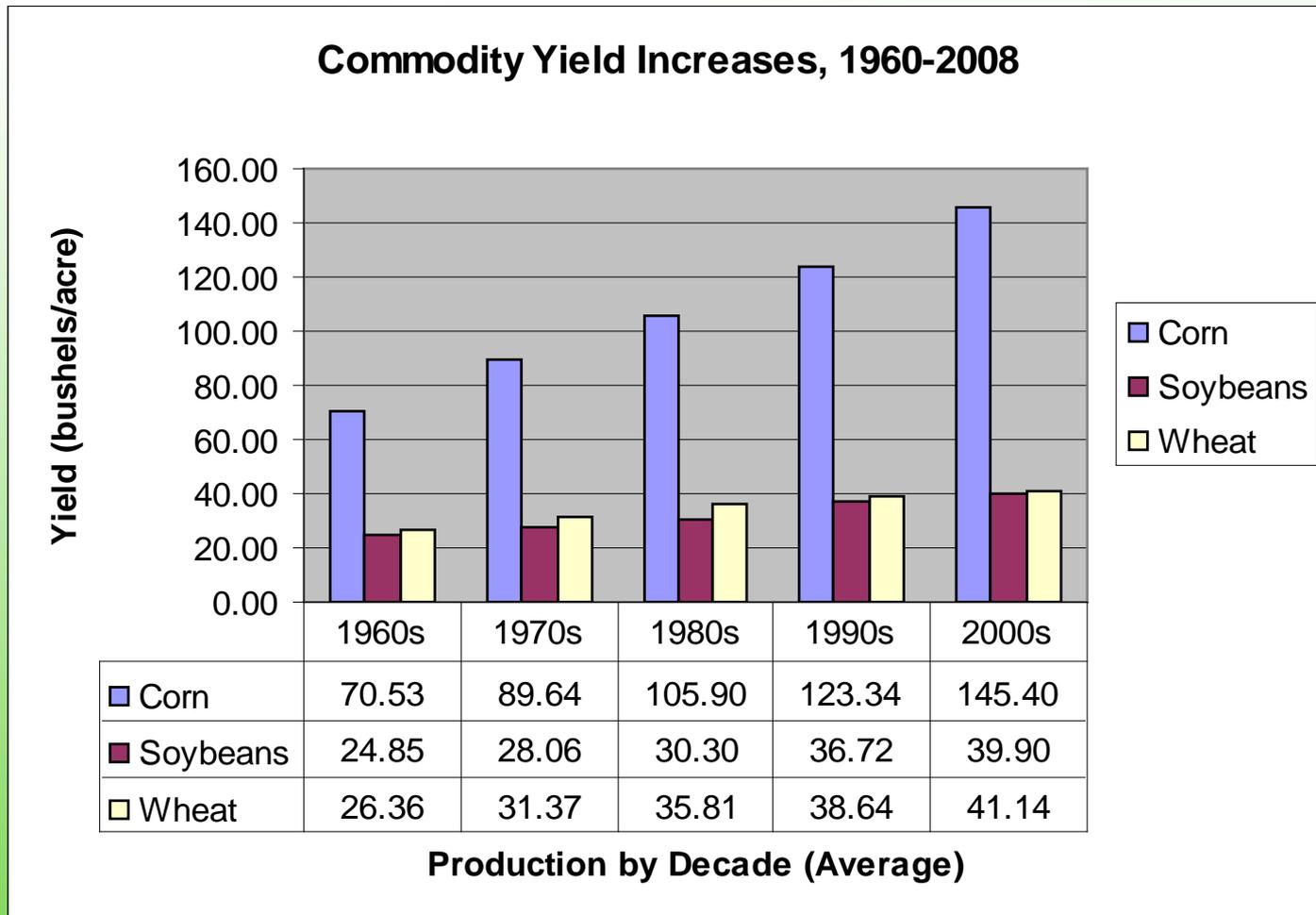
. . . to 600 bushel tandem axle, twin screw diesels . . .



. . . to today's semi tractors with pups capable of hauling more than 1300 bushels.



South Dakota's agricultural productivity has soared dramatically on the same amount of land and the same roads built by our grandfathers.



21st Century field-to-farm-to-market roads will be crucial to our state's economic future.



Framing the Issue

- What this issue is:
- This is bigger than just agriculture's needs.
 - Rural residents
 - City workers who commute from farms, small towns and rural acreages
 - Value-added ag businesses
 - Rural businesses
 - Production agriculture
- They all use county and township roads.
- 25% of SD farmers commute more than 200 days per year to city jobs.
- 42% of SD farmers work at least part-time off-farm.
- Cities and towns need this workforce.

Framing the Issue

- Who owns the vehicle and what is in the vehicle **does not matter**.
- These are questions of:
 - Vehicle weight, frequency of use, and time of use;
 - Road and bridge age, safety, design, maintenance, repair and upgrades;
 - Strategic rural economic development investments; and
 - Multi-jurisdictional leadership, vision, options, cost-benefit analysis, planning, timing and funding.

Framing the Issue

- What this issue is not:
 - A condemnation of ag and rural development.
 - Class warfare: big vs. little, city vs. farm, livestock vs. grain, hunters vs. rural residences
 - A laundry list of specific, isolated road problems; the needs are **statewide**.
 - Something that can be handled completely with zoning ordinances.

Framing the Issue

- Today's farms, ranches and city businesses operate in a **global** environment that transcends township, county, city and state jurisdictional and political boundaries.
- Our rural road needs transcend the same boundaries.
- Band-Aids may help relieve specific pressure points short-term, but South Dakota roads require a **comprehensive, long-term** solution that recognizes 21st Century needs and costs.

Ownership = Responsibility



Even Farm – Homesteaded 1883

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.



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- SD County Commissioner's Association
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- SD Dept of Transportation