How communities can support agriculture

And why they should
Worst 3 year drop since 1930's
Corn prices falling out of bed
There is some good news

• By 2050 there will be more than 9 billion people in the world

• They will need 70% more food (UN FAO)

• How do we hang on until then without depopulating?
30 year depopulation

The last significant downturn in agriculture

Lightest colors lost 50% of their population

Can we survive that again?
What can we do?

• Any thing that lowers cost of production
  • Taxes
  • Regulation
• Alternative crops - hemp etc.
  • Banking
  • Taxes
• Water policy
  • Renewable source for the Ogallala Aquifer
  • Additional storage - no more buy and dry
Global prices, local expenses

Sure we're productive
We also have a high tax and regulatory burden
Alternatives

- Hemp
  - Banking issues
  - Still lumped in with marijuana
- Organic
- Farm to table
- Agritourism
- Recreation
Water is life

These counties grew 1960-1990 because of center pivot irrigation.
We lose this.....

We lose half our people, plus
We cannot effectively advocate these policies as individuals.
There just aren't enough of us. 76.4% of the West's population is in cities.
Join an organization

Make it regional

To be effective
We must also revive our communities
Rural America Is the New ‘Inner City’

A Wall Street Journal analysis shows that since the 1990s, sparsely populated counties have replaced large cities as America’s most troubled areas by key measures of socioeconomic well-being—a decline that’s accelerating than were born—the first time that’s happened since the dawn of universal birth registration in the 1930s.

For more than a century, rural towns sustained themselves, and often thrived, through a mix of agriculture and light manufacturing. Until recently, programs funded by counties and townships, combined with the charitable efforts of churches and community groups, provided a viable social safety net in lean times.

Starting in the 1980s, the nation’s basket cases were its urban areas—where a toxic stew of crime, drugs and suburban flight conspired to
Reinvigorate locally

• Run for city council
• Run for school board
• Run for hospital board
• Start a "boomerang" program
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