

Legislative Update

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Looking Back at 2016

- Ag seemed to spend more time in the courtroom pandering to extremist: EWG, PETA, Friends of the Earth etc. Group them all under one organization: “The AIC” - The Association of Irritated Citizens

Looking Back at 2016

- Ag seemed to spend more time in the courtroom pandering to extremist
- Cultural and economic challenges
- USDA budget: Crop insurance, SNAP allocations
- GMO's
- Food labelling

Head of EPA says “Farewell”

EPA head’s top regret: Failing to connect with Rural America

Hard-nosed regulation proved to be a job killer. We tried to change the outreach and messaging but it didn’t work. The USDA needs to convince farmers that it is in their best interest to employ practices to counter climate change and curb farm runoff, while resolving other environmental issues. The message would be better received from USDA rather than EPA.

A New Administration Takes Over

The country is divided. There is a clear split between urban and rural communities. The House/Senate Ag Committees have challenges ahead.

A New Administration Takes Over

The leading issues to be considered for the House/Senate:

- Immigration Reform
- Farm Bill
- EPA Authority
- WOTUS
- NAFTA
- International Trade
- GMO Issues
- Transfer of regulations process between the states
- Worker Protection Standards
- Estate Taxes

House of Representatives just passed H.R.5

The rule clarifies the Administrative Procedures Act and defines "high impact rules" and "major guidelines" relating to Agency action taken without a formal rule-making process. The ruling gives guidance toward cost benefit analysis of the impact of proposed regulation.

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The ruling prohibits those working in a official capacity of an agency and those receiving funds from the federal agency from advocating in support of or against the rule. However, agencies would continue to be allowed to provide information regarding the rule in an impartial manner. This amendment would address many of the issues that surrounded Administration activities related to WOTUS.

