Future of ag

(Continued from Page D6)

U.S. will remain low and will be inadequate to fund the needs of both the private and public sectors," Frederickson said. He noted that the federal deficit is projected to average about 5 percent of gross national product for the next several years.

"It's also likely," Fredrickson said, "that legislation will be passed by the start of the 1990s to limit, if not reduce, the size of the deficit." He also observed that foreign institutions, as well as domestic non-bank financial institutions and public and private pension funds, will become more important sources of capital for the U.S. economy.

Fredrickson said that study findings in the area of government policy point to a substantial decline in government price support and income enhancement programs for agriculture.

Fredrickson also observed that, despite the importance of exports to the farm sector and the general economy, diverse foreign and domestic interests may prevent the government from establishing an effective, long-term trade policy. Exports will increase during the next decade but only slightly, averaging 3 to 4 percent more per year.

Ag policy
The report also says that traditional farm groups will find it increasingly difficult to control the agricultural policy agenda. Diverse, non-traditional agricultural groups and institutions will continue efforts to influence agricultural policy.

Amdahl noted a further problem relating to government policy and agriculture. "There will be far more small farmers than large farmers," he said. "By their sheer numbers, small farmers will have more political clout than the large farmers even though large farmers will generate 85 percent of the income and output.

'Too, the segmentation in agriculture means the large and small farmer can no longer be considered part of the same market or the same agricultural interest group," Amdahl said. 'We're looking at a future where

there are two major segments of farming that are so different that policy for one makes no sense to the other."

The 1995 study identified agricultural segmentation as a major theme which affects policy.

Agricultural interests are divided as they approach Congress. Even agricultural cooperatives - one of our most democratic institutions have to treat some members differently which results in loss of harmony essential for coping with a risky future.

Business technology development is another major area of change expected to have profound effects on agriculture in the future.

"Technological advances in electronic communications are expected to significantly change the work environment of the Farm Credit System and other financial institutions serving agriculture," Buffington said. "Our research indicates that new information technology and information networks will be the backbone of the future financial services industry and will enable the industry to provide more services more efficiently.

New Technology

Not only is business technology one of the major areas of change in agriculture, it also is a catalyst for change, according to the 1995

business technology 'As becomes more sophisticated, information can be moved around faster - both inside an organization and between an organization and its business environment," Buf-fington explained. "As a result, an organization's response time has to be faster because the quick responders will reap the greater rewards.

'Advances in business technology will accelerate the pace of change in agriculture," Buf-fington said. "We've got to accept the inevitability of change as well as a quickening pace of change.'

Project 1995 findings also indicate that agricultural finance institutions will experience a changing corporate culture in the coming years. Other agribusinesses may face sımılar changes.

'Agricultural employers face a decline in the availability of new employees with farm backgrounds the agricultural finance sector the planning for that future.'

diversification of business activities will force employers to recruit from non-traditional sources. As a result," he said, "the Farm Credit System anticipates its future corporate culture will look less agricultural and more financial.'

In summary, the findings of Project 1995 indicate that the basic structure of agriculture is changing. The changes occurring at every level of the industry are mutually reinforcing.

'We see the changes as evolutionary, not revolutionary," Farr said. "The Farm Credit System conducted Project 1995 because we felt a strong need to be able to plan for change; to manage change as it occurs. We're obligated to our memberborrowers to be ready to meet their future needs when they occur. To do that we have to anticipate those needs.

"The projection for the future of agriculture really represents only and agriculturally related the first step, the easy part," Farr degrees," Fredrickson said. "In noted. "The real work lies in

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MARSHFIELD, Wisc. - A new, auger-type manure conveyor, now being offered by Berg Equipment Company, Marshfield, Wisc., is especially designed to help dairymen handle very sloppy gutter manure. The powerful and continuous, spiralling conveying action of the auger minimizes rollback and keeps wet manure moving steadily and swiftly from barn to spreader.

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