



Agricultural policy is tech policy

- The American food system is in the midst of a technological revolution — and a significant crisis.
- Failing to attend to the full impacts of technology on agriculture threatens the American food system and the people who rely upon it.



The concern

- “Precision agriculture” leverages data and automation to increase food production and system efficiency, but at a cost to resilience.
- The effects are evident in the food shortages seen during the pandemic and predicted to become more severe as climate change progresses.
- We are ignoring technical threats to resilience while missing opportunities to identify and support other priorities through technological innovation.



Our recommendations

- Policymakers must work to protect farmers from digital disruptions that threaten harvest, storage and transportation and provide farmers with the legal and technical means to repair critical equipment.
- Research dollars should flow into the development of technologies to tackle pressing issues such as soil degradation and dependencies upon hydrocarbons.
- Allocate resources to “civic” agricultural approaches that transition away from a reliance on hydrocarbons and foreground goals such as soil restoration, regional supply-chain resiliency and local economies.