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## Hot off the press!

### **Rural American fast becoming the new "inner city"?**

Beth Ford, the CEO of Land O'Lakes observed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis 2020 Regional Economic conference that the agriculture economy needs significant investment due to a variety of challenges it continues to face. Government subsidies are not a political issue, Ford stated. "This is a security issue for the nation, I believe. Investing in agriculture, our own food supply, probably a good idea!"

"We need a 1930's rural electric initiative going across this country," she said. Underscoring the high priority of this investment, Ford pointed to the lack of investment causing a lack of focus.

Investment of the right nature will give people hope, will motivate enterprises and communities helping ensure that rural America thrives and survives. This will help bring in healthy new energy and strength going forward - keeping family-owned farms in America in place.

Investment will facilitate renewal:

- Buying tools to be used to farm smarter (milk analyzers, equipment, etc.)
- Off-loading 'dead-horse' debt and refinancing worthwhile projects for the future
- Getting younger people back on the farms, where they can see hope and new pursuits, new opportunities and a real future

See the following link for more information:

<http://m.startribune.com/10-points-about-the-farm-economy-from-land-o-lakes-ceo/566845922/>

