

**Subject:** Farming Has a Future

**Story Summary:** Futurists at a meeting of the World Future Society in Minneapolis are optimistic about food and farms.

**TRT:** 2:06

**Suggested Lead:** Two leading futurists don't see an end to farming or our need for food. After all, even human clones would have to eat. Stewart Truelsen reports from Minneapolis.

**Suggested Supers:** Joseph Coates  
Futurist  
@ :15

Graham T. T. Molitor  
Futurist  
@ :36

Stewart Truelsen  
Reporting  
@ 1:36

**Farming Has a Future**  
**Stewart Truelsen Reporting**  
**August 23, 2001**

<p>Young Indiana family  Close-ups  Tractor shots</p>	<p>VO/  ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN FARM BUREAU SURVEY, 93 PERCENT OF YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS PLAN TO MAKE FARMING A LIFELONG CAREER. BUT, WILL WE STILL NEED THEM IN ANOTHER 25 YEARS?</p>
<p><b>Joseph Coates</b>  <b>Futurist</b></p>	<p>SOT/  I THINK THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF FARMS AND FARMING IS INDISPENSIBLE. WE HAVE TO EAT AND FARMS ARE STILL THE BEST PLACE FOR FOOD TO COME FROM EVEN IN THAT REMOTE 25 YEAR FUTURE.</p>
<p>Futurist conference /  biotech lab/  close-up of farmer checking orange/</p>	<p>VO/  NO ONE AT THIS MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION OF THE WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY IS TOUTING ARTIFICIAL FOOD, BUT THEY DO SEE ADVANCES DUE TO BIOTECHNOLOGY--LIKE GROWING JUST THE PART OF AN ORANGE THAT WE WANT.</p>
<p><b>Graham T. T. Molitor</b>  <b>Futurist</b></p>	<p>SOT/  NO ROOTS, NO TRUNK, NO LIMBS, NO LEAVES, NO RIND, NO SEEDS, JUST THE JUICE SAC. I THINK WE COULD DO THAT.</p>
<p>Young farmer working on top of bin/  Joe Coates in front of audience/</p>	<p>VO/  YOUNG FARMERS SAY THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR THEM IS PROFITABILITY, BUT COATES PREDICTS GOOD PROSPECTS FOR U.S. FARM EXPORTS.</p>
<p>Coates soundbite/  Nebraska farmer checking hogs/  Unloading corn from combine/</p>	<p>SOT/  AS MORE MEAT IS CONSUMED AROUND THE WORLD IT'S GOING TO BE BOOM TIME FOR EXPORTS OF GRAIN AND EXPORTS OF MEAT TO MEET THAT GLOBAL DEMAND. IN FACT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE</p>

	WITH SOME PLAUSIBLE ARGUMENT ANTICIPATE A VERY REAL CRISIS AS THAT GLOBAL DEMAND FOR MEAT AND THAT GLOBAL DEMAND FOR GRAIN REALLY EXPLODES.
Molitor in conference session/ Audience/	VO/ IF MOLITOR IS RIGHT ABOUT THE DISTANT FUTURE, WE'LL NEED BIG ADVANCES IN FOOD PRODUCTION.
Molitor soundbite	SOT/ AND IN A THOUSAND YEARS I SEE EASILY, THE GLOBE WE LIVE ON THIS PLANET EARTH OF OURS, THIS WONDERFUL BLUE MARBLE, I THINK EARTH CAN EASILY TAKE CARE OF 30 TO 60 BILLION PEOPLE. TEN TIMES WHAT IT IS TODAY, MAX.
Coates lecturing/ Audience cutaway/	VO/ COATES THINKS FARMS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE THAT CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT THEM.
Farmer talking to kids on apple farm/ Kids going into orchard/ Kid picking apple/  Soundbite/	SOT/ BUT WOULDN'T IT BE INTERESTING IF WE COULD SEE THAT OVER ANY FIXED DECADE, 10 PERCENT OF URBAN CHILDREN HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TWO WEEKS ON A FARM, ON A WORKING FARM, AND LEARN WHAT IT'S ABOUT.
Book fair at conference/ Books about world food supply/ Meeting shot/	VO/ FUTURISTS AT THIS MEETING TENDED TO BE POSITIVE IN THEIR OUTLOOK. FARMERS HOPE THEY ARE RIGHT. IN MINNEAPOLIS, I'M STEWART TRUELSEN.