

## **Chapter IV — Future Agricultural Transportation Challenges**

Previous chapters in this report have described the importance of transportation to U.S. agriculture and provided background information on the economic and service characteristics of the different transportation modes. In this chapter, some major long-term agricultural transportation challenges facing U.S. agriculture are discussed. This discussion is preliminary: As the USDA continues to work with its constituents, our understanding of these issues will increase — as will our appreciation of other issues not discussed here. At a minimum, chapter IV is designed to prompt discussion on the long-term needs of U.S. agriculture for transportation services and the long-term trends in the transportation industries that will affect how those needs are met. It is essential that agricultural and transportation interests discuss and debate these issues, which will shape the future of agricultural transportation in this country.

The material in this chapter is presented in briefing-paper format. We summarize the issue, present more detailed “background” information, and discuss its implications. To ensure that this information prompts additional discussion and followup, staff contacts at the USDA and references for additional readings are also provided.