Role of Government in Agriculture Challenge

Government today may influence what a farmer produces, where a farm is located, how products are transported and processed, how a commodity is traded, the price the farmer might receive, and more. At the national, state, and local level, government influence on agriculture is often the center of debate. Government policies must balance the costs and benefits to farmers, consumers, the environment, government budgets, and other competing interests.

Your challenge is to identify an agriculture-related business and examine how it is influenced by government policies. Follow the process below as you consider the impact.

1. Choose an Agriculture Business
Select an agricultural-related business that you would like to pursue as a career. This business might be in production agriculture, transportation, retail, agricultural processing, or another related field. Describe your choice. Include the type of business, what it does, where it is located, and other details you think are important.

2. Identify Connections
How are government policies, laws or programs connected to your business? Select at least three policies that you believe are connected to the business you chose. Here are a few examples:

- International trade regulation
- Crop subsidies
- Renewable energy subsidies
- Environmental protection
- Wage and hour laws including minimum wage mandates
- Immigration policy
- Government-supported scientific research

3. Consider the Impact
How might the policies you have identified affect the business positively or negatively? Why? Provide detailed examples of how you think each policy might affect your business.

4. Analyze a Policy
Consider one single governmental policy that you identified and conduct additional research. Learn more details about the policy and how it came to be. Summarize your findings in a report addressing the following questions:

1. What is the history of this policy? Which individual or agency makes the policy? What is the reason the policy was created?
2. What are other stakeholders of this policy? What is the impact of the policy on these stakeholders?
3. Imagine if the government policy you selected was not in place. What impact might that have on your business?
4. Evaluate the policy. Do you think it is effective and does it solve a problem? Do you think there is a better solution? Explain your answer, and back up your opinion with evidence.