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Question1: Farm policy needs to be evaluated in concern to the U.S.'s competitive in the global marketplace by taking into consideration the inputs that American Agriculture must put into our products versus some developing nations that have lower inputs. What needs to be evaluated in the realm of global agriculture trade is a tier system that would allow higher quality products to be tariffed and taxed differently than lower quality products. Why should we have to jump through hurdles that countries without our superior food inspection system must jump through as well.

Question2: New farmers are not discouraged by higher land prices due to government programs, they are discouraged by high land prices related to urban development, high input prices, and low prices on the product side as well. Why should grain, livestock prices still be where they were 10 years ago when input prices have risen so dramatically. New farmers need help with start up costs, and price support. In the end will American agriculture be competitive with global agriculture.... not unless the "Farm Bill" becomes less of a program bill, and more of a monetary support bill. An example is the European Agriculture system, heavily subsidized but globally recognized.

Question3: Farm policy cannot punish large farms from taking advantage of government programs, but the government programs can reconfigure to be pro-rated to help diminish the receipts to large corporate farms.

Question4: Maintaining our environment is truly an important aspect of being a steward to the land, and a duty of every farmer. To be competitive in the "global" marketplace we must compete with nations that have no concern for the environment. Therefore, I would encourage the future farm policies to offer conservation and environmental programs, but to be very careful in centering monetary allocation around those entities. The "normal" farmer will not receive the cost/benefit intended for such programs, and the "gentleman" farmer is indeed the person that reaps the rewards of such environmental programs.

Question5: Farm programs can assist in keeping rural land, RURAL. This means more programs for land easements, and selling development rights, and new farmer programs which will allow new farmers to purchase old farms, and keep developers and urbanization of our rural America at the minimum possible.

Question6: Programs need to be developed looking at market development, and funding made available for expansion into products that can be utilized for our changing population.