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Question1: In many other countries, the input cost for crops is much less than here in the USA. However, these countries are always targeting us for our subsidies that they say unfairly distort trade. However, without the subsidies, our farmers can not compete with other countries, such as Brazil, because our cost per acre is a great deal more. I think that the US should offer incentives to other countries to purchase our goods. I also think that the feds should consider offering incentives to US based textile mills and industries that would use our own home grown goods. This would stimulate the economy with jobs as well as help the US farmers.

Question2: As young farmers, my husband and I see why others do not want to start farming. It comes down to retirement benefits and health insurance that are available to you if you have a "regular" job. Also, there is a huge risk involved in farming even with the federal subsidies. I work for FSA, and I see these farmers who have worked their whole lives end up with nothing in the end because of circumstances beyond their control. Most of the time, the subsidies they receive are input back into the farm, not into the farmers pockets. I think the way to attract young farmers is to offer a retirement plan for farmers to contribute to such as TSP like the federal sector. Also, if farmers had more access to affordable health care, I think that this would attract young farmers. What young farmers need is a steady job with benefits. Not a roller coaster ride, with penalties for expanding.

Question3: First of all, farming is a business. While our farming operation is considered small right now, why should we be penalized for growing. Isn't it the American way for businesses to grow? I think if farmers are penalized for getting too large, no one is going to farm. I am employee of USDA. If you look at the per acre cost to a large farmer compared to a small farmer, it is always going to be the same. It costs the same per acre to grow 10 acres as it does 10,000 acres. I think farmers should be encouraged not discouraged to grow larger. Have you priced what a new cotton picker costs these days? \$325,000. How can you afford this on a small acreage? If our government starts to cut subsidies and cap payment limits to large farmers, those large farmers are going to go out of business, end of story. The ripple effect is going to be equipment dealers, chemical companies, banks, etc. going out of business. Then there are definitely not going to be enough young farmers to take over. I think that the farm policy is fair now. Cotton and rice farmers do receive the bulk of the money, but they are also the ones spending the bulk of the money producing the crop. We are cotton and soybean farmers. It costs \$350/per acre before equipment costs for cotton and \$100/per acre for soybeans. That is a huge difference. Large farmers are often targets, but the fact is, these are the people who are the real backbone of the US.

Question4: I think that promoting conservation is an important part of the overall goal of USDA. Programs such as CRP and WRP have been very successful in promoting these goals. Making the paperwork simpler

would be one way to attract landowners.

Question5: I think that our government should offer incentives to companies who would put their factories and textile mills in the US possibly in rural communities. This would stimulate jobs as well as have a great impact on the economies of rural America. We have lost too much productivity to overseas mills. This has got to stop. By offering incentives, it would be a win-win situation.

Question6: Without adequate research, we will lag behind other countries in developing the technologies to enhance farming. These developments are very important to the future of American farmers.