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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 06/25/2005 03:08 AM CDT
Date Sent: 06/25/2005 03:08:03 CDT
Date Received: 06/25/2005 03:08:52 CDT

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Question1: Many countries in Europe will not use GM crops so the production of such crops here in the US will reduce our market share of these type of crop products. Countries in Africa are also opposed to using seed from GM crops since they cannot then sell these products to the EU. I personally witnessed demonstrations against Monsanto GM seeds in Namibia last year. Hence the use of GM crops reduces our competitiveness in the world market. Price is NOT everything. Europe is way ahead of the US in environmental regulation.

Question2:

Question3: Small local farms should be encouraged to promote fresh and healthy fruit and vegetable products reaching the US market. Shorter shipping distances should reduce costs of getting a product to market.

Question4: Farm policy in this country, the wealthiest country in the world, should promote and encourage the reduction and elimination (where possible) of the use of pesticides, and chemical fertilizers. These products become concentrated in the surrounding water systems and bioaccumulate. This in turn contaminates water sources (creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, bays, groundwater) for humans and for wildlife and for subsequent human food sources such as fish and other aquatic organisms.

All "best practices" for agriculture should be encouraged such as enhancement of habitat for native pollinators, implementation of guidelines that would promote pollinator and other native wildlife (plant, animal, soil organisms) IPM practices, soil conservation, healthy soil maintenance. Crops should be grown in locales and climates that best suit their biological needs in order to reduce crop stress,

Promote zoning that would preserve agricultural land in current use for continued use if it still biologically viable for agriculture. Promote the use of land for agriculture that can support healthy crops rather than growing crops on marginal soil.

Organic farming should be encouraged and promoted.

Farming policy should reduce soil erosion and the practices that cause soil erosion and salination.

Crops should be labeled as to where they are grown, what pesticides were used, if they are certified organic, date shipped.

Farm animal policy should promote the highest level of hygiene, general animal health, and humane practices.

Farm policy should promote the elimination of the routine use of

antibiotics and hormone supplements. The use of these additives in farm animal food (chickens, cows, pigs, fish farms) contribute to antibiotic resistance and bioaccumulation of antibiotics and hormones in water sources, in wildlife and in humans.

The use of GM fish, antibiotics in fish farms overcrowding of fish farm populations causes serious health risks to marine and freshwater wildlife, natural fisheries and to human food sources, Farm policy should ban or strongly discourage the use of such practices.

Farm policy should promote the reduction of wasteful packaging practices (plastics). Recyclable packaging products should be promoted.

Question5:

Question6: Agricultural products should be labeled just like any food product to ensure freshness, to alert consumers to any allergens that might be present on or in the crops, whether they are GM products, whether they are organic or not, where the crops originate from.