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Subject: My public comment on the six questions for the Farm Bill Forum
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1. How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

It seems clear to me that the world market, particularly Great Britain and Europe, desire organic and purer foods. We need to change tariffs to be open to exchange with these countries and offer what they want.

2. How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

The government should take a stance to support small organic farmers and should use existing anti-monopoly laws (like the ones used to break up the Bell Telephone system back in the early 1980's) to keep the small farmers from being strangled by agribusiness monopolies.

3. How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

Small independent growers should have priority. Those who follow organic and sustainable practices should be rewarded.

4. How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Same as all of the other answers, above. The government should support sustainable practices and withdraw support, even add penalties, to farm businesses that erode land and pollute air, land, and water.

5. How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Have satellite offices in rural areas. Be where the small farmers need help.

6. How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

Products should be evaluated based on sustainability and purity. I would like to see compassion built into the picture, in the case of farm animals.

Truth in marketing should be enforced. The dairy and cattle industries, especially, should be reigned in from making false advertising claims. (I can supply plenty of background, if needed, about how milk does NOT do the body good and does NOT build bones.) Non-dairy creamer should not have dairy ingredients.

Research should be evaluated by people who do not have an agenda as to the outcome. It has too long that certain industries have had a stranglehold on relevant government agencies like the USDA and FDA.

I would especially like to see a much more balanced panel evaluating the next issuance of food guidelines.

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