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Subject: concerns about the poultry industry
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Mr. Johanns, we appreciate all the meetings that you are having about the next farm bill and my comment may or may not be a part of the next bill but it impacts many farmers directly. We raise contract broilers for a major poultry company. As you may know, many farmers use the litter from the broiler houses as land applied fertilizer. In recent years there has been much controversy over the Phosphorous content of the litter and the build-up in the ground over several years of use. I have been told that there are things that the poultry companies can do to reduce the amount of phosphorous in the feed that the broilers eat without any loss of production. This would allow farmers to use the litter for many years without a build-up of extra nutrients that could leach into ground and surface water. The poultry companies don't want to make any changes but with some negotiations from USDA, maybe they could change some of their practices to help us be more profitable for years to come.

I would also like to ask for your continued support of ethanol and biodiesel. In our area, south central Kentucky, we don't have many choices for diesel except petro-diesel. Not many even know about biodiesel and others aren't willing to change over. I would like to ask for your help to bring in support for farm grown fuels and maybe get some suppliers in Monroe county to carry biodiesel and ethanol. I believe it is a worth while cause that will only make life better for the American farmer. Thank you for your time and I hope that you continue to fight for the American farmer.
Nick Burnett