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Question1:

Question2: We should reduce subsidies for production so we can demand reductions from Europeans. We should be world leaders in conservation so we can demand similar standards from Latin America, China and Russia.

Question3: I don't know, but the current system is a mess. It creates over production; degrades the land and hurts new farmers by artificially inflating land prices. It also leaves the Cargills etc untouched.

Question4: We should make this an absolute top priority. Clean air, clean water, the health of farm families, the protection of topsoil, the reduction of floods and the protection of wildlife, in particular waterfowl and upland birds, are all important goals. Achieving these would have a tremendous economic impact and again would give us credibility in world negotiations. Conservation is both the right thing to do and tactically wise. The current CRP, CREP and similar programs are small steps that have had a major positive impact. We can produce massive amounts of crops and still have a fabulous conservation performance. This is not a Republican versus Democrat issue; this is basic common sense and we should stop wasting time and do the right thing.

Question5: The current system, designed to help rural areas, actually hurts them. It rewards those who own land and by inflating land prices, creates tremendous barriers to access for new farmers. I grew up in a small town. small towns and farms today are worse off than they were many years ago. There would need to be a thoughtful transition from our existing policy, but we need to change.

Question6: A good role for government is research and technical assistance. We should emphasize organice and other value added approaches.