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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - En Espanol
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question1: Since the English language site would not work, I'm trying with the Spanish language site.

According to the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service published by the US Department of Agriculture, July 16, 2005, the U.S. parity price for wheat is \$10.40. Friday the price for soft white wheat in Wilbur, Washington was \$2.95--less than 30% of parity prices. All other commodities listed in the same publication are also far below parity prices. If the price of a bushel of wheat were to increase by only \$.50 to \$1., the whole rural economy in this area would improve as farmers would be able to purchase new equipment and complete needed repairs and maintainance. I have heard that for each dollar received for agricultural products, 7 dollars are spread throughout local economies. It is truly a sad statement that prices for essential commodities are so low. Many other countries accuse the US of setting abnormally low prices. If the loan rate for wheat were set at \$5. instead of \$2.69, the price for wheat, not just in the US, but throughout the world would also be at !

that \$5. level. Loan rates could be set for all commodities, too, not just wheat. Parity-based support prices exist under permanent provisions of farm legislation (would apply in the absence of current farm acts that have that provision) prices of some commodities would be supported at 50-90% of parity throughought government purchases or non-recourse loans. I am not asking for 100% parity prices, but it would make farming more economically viable if prices were at least 50-60% of parity. How many legislators, government officials, cabinet officials, or even the president would be willing to roll back salaries to a level of 28.5% of parity? In the "20 years ago today" column of our local paper, the price of wheat was higher than the current market quote on the front page. We used to talk about a bushel of wheat for a barrel of oil, now we are not even able to buy a gallon of diesel for the price of a bushel of wheat--\$3.04 for road diesel and \$2.95 for wheat. Yes, farmer!

s use diesel, both to transport crops using either road diesel!
or gaso

line, and using diesel in farm equipment. Last year we, were shocked when non-road diesiel hit \$1.35, but the last non-road diesel we purchased was over \$2. I have read where comments have been made that its okay if the US farm economy fails as we can always purchase food from other countries. I don't think the US should be dependent on other countries for food, as we are for oil.

One of the most positive aspects of the 2002 Farm Bill has been the conservation program. This program needs to be continued, enlarged, and benefit caps raised.
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