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Question1: Eliminate or sharply reduce commodity payments. That will reduce artificial pressure on land rents and land prices, especially from the largest farms.

Question2: Stop supporting specific commodities. Current commodity supports lock producers to a limited range of commodities, and make them vulnerable to WTO sanctions.

Question3: Remove commodity supports. They distort commodity, land, and input markets. Provide income supports through conservation performance.

Question4: 1. Provide income supports through conservation programs, especially a vastly simplified CSP. The current edition of CSP is way too cumbersome to administer for large numbers of farmers.

2. If the ill-advised commodity programs continue, require a higher level of conservation performance for participation (nutrient management and erosion management on all supported acres).

3. Reinstate conservation practice education in the Conservation Title (e.g. EQIP Education in the 1996 Farm Bill). Farmers and professionals need to know how to carry out conservation management practices, not just have the incentive payments. Your Extension Service is there and ready to help, just as they did in Minnesota for 5 years under the 1996 bill.

Question5: In the Iowa Ag Policy Summit (July 6-7 at ISU) farm leaders, including Farm Bureau, stated that rural economic development is their first priority. Job opportunities (ag or non-ag) in rural communities is the only way to maintain those communities. They recognize that a very high proportion of farmers and farm families, as well as small town residents, need those jobs in order to stay in rural areas.

Question6: Declining real-dollar support for ag-related research and extension is depleting the ranks of Land Grant research and extension staff. The staff resources for research and extension on new products, processes, and markets has to be funded for it to happen.