

**From:** "holmesjl@charter.net%inter2" <holmesjl@charter.net>  
**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 08/25/2005 01:25 PM CDT  
**Date Sent:** 08/25/2005 01:25:50 CDT  
**Date Received:** 08/25/2005 01:26:39 CDT

---

Email: holmesjl@charter.net

FirstName: John

LastName: Holmes

Address1: 1847 School Ave.

Address2:

City: Walla Walla

State: Washington

zipcode: 99362

Question1: Land prices relative to the cost of production and the price for products. The inputs are increasing in cost while the price for commodities, wheat in particular, is declining. The target price and counter cyclical payments aren't effective for our product, white wheat. We need this to be changed.

Question2: We need to find an answer to the marketing policies of the EU, Canada, and Australia. While they dump commodities on the market the US farmer must suffer the loss of price. The effects of the past commodity boycotts has had lasting and irreparable damage to our foreign trade, eg Iran, Iraq, Russia, China... Either we need further assistance or some significant reparations. The other problem is that while we compete with the rest of the world with underpriced products and overpriced inputs, other countries don't have the same expenses due to environmental policies. We can farm any way people want us to, but we need to be compensated for it.

Question3: IF WE HAVE A PROGRESSIVE TAX SYSTEM, I SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH A SLIDING SCALE TO PROTECT EFFICIENT SMALLER FARMS. OVERPRODUCTION IS RELATIVE TO THE ABILITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO RESPONSIBLY RESTORE LOST MARKETS OR COMPENSATE FARMERS WHO HAVE LOST MONEY DUE TO THESE POLICIES. ALSO, WTO POLICIES DO NOT ADDRESS THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT MARKETING AND PRIVATE COMPANY MARKETING. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE A CLEAR COMMITMENT FOR GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN TO PEOPLE WHY THE TAXPAYER IS PAYING FOR THESE PROGRAMS RATHER THAN THE PRESENT ATTITUDE WHICH IMPLIES THAT THE FARMER IS ANOTHER ENTITLEMENT, OR IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS PLIGHT. FARM PROGRAMS ARE EXPENSIVE, BUT ARE FAIR WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE BURDEN OF BOYCOTTS, WTO ISSUES, AND THE DECEITFUL POLICIES MENTIONED ABOVE. I ONCE HAD A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE, BUT BECAUSE OF DECLINING SUBSIDIES AND LACK OF PRICE FOR WHEAT, I AM NOW FARMING ALONE. I HAVE HAD TO CAPITALIZE MORE MACHINERY TO COMPENSATE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CARRYOVER DEBT FROM BAD YEARS IN THE PAST. MY CASE IS NOT UNIQUE. WHY WOULD I ENCOURAGE MY CHILDREN OR ANYONE FOR THAT MATTER, TO TRY TO FARM? IT SEEMS THAT THE FARMER IS EXPECTED TO DO MORE AND MORE FOR LESS AND LESS.

Question4: THESE PROGRAMS ARE WELL INTENDED BUT ONCE AGAIN AREN'T COST EFFECTIVE.

Question5: NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE FINE, BUT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO SPEND THE TAX DOLLAR FOR THE SUPPORT OF PRICE. FARMERS THEN WILL SPEND THAT MONEY ON EQUIPMENT ETC.

Question6: