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Question1: NAWG members strongly believe that in order for America to continue producing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world, new generations need to be encouraged to enter farming. NAWG therefore supports financing programs for beginning farmers and ranchers.

However, NAWG members also believe that if farming were profitable, young farmers would enter the field without needing extra encouragement. Therefore U.S. wheat producers believe that there needs to be a focus on making farming profitable, rather than encouraging the next generation to enter an unprofitable business.

Question2: U.S. wheat producers want to be able to compete on a level playing field in the global marketplace. However, producers in many other nations have much lower production costs due to lower labor rates, less environmental regulations, and other factors, putting American producers at a disadvantage.

Therefore, NAWG members support the full preservation of domestic support within the commodity title at no less than the amount authorized in the 2002 Farm bill, but recognize the importance of all countries moving toward less trade-distorting policies.

U.S. wheat producers also need access to new markets. Currently, the U.S. exports nearly half of the wheat crop annually, and export programs such as the Market Assistance Program and Foreign Market Development Corporations also play an important role in the industry's ability to enter new markets. NAWG supports the continuation and expansion of these market access programs, and the development of new and creative export programs, such as tax credits (without the reduction of income support mechanisms) that provide a way for producers compete worldwide.

Question3: NAWG believes that farmers who are successful should be able to grow and expand their businesses as they like, without the fear of losing the safety net that they have relied on during times of drought and other hard times.

U.S. wheat producers, like most family farmers would like to expand their operations and plant and harvest more acres. While the amount of farm payments is currently limited by the 2002 Farm Bill, NAWG members continue to believe that maintaining the current payment limit structure of \$40,000 for a Direct Payments or further lowering it, punishes the producers that have made their operations a success.

NAWG also opposes any kinds of means testing for eligibility or to restrict participation in federal farm programs.

Question4: NAWG supports the current program structure if it is streamlined and simplified. For example greater data sharing between programs would allow a general sign-up be used to determine which program would be best suited to the conservation needs of a producer.

The biggest problem has been an underfunding of existing conservation title programs. The Conservation Security Program needs to be fully funded with mandatory funding as originally intended. The concept of "priority watersheds" should be abolished and all qualified producers should be eligible for participation.

The Conservation Reserve Program should be refocused on those most environmentally sensitive highly erodible lands. Acreage under expiring CRP contracts, not re-enrolled in CRP but placed back in production should have original program base acres restored.

Conservation program funding should not be used to offset or supplant existing commodity title program funding.

Question5: U.S. wheat producers know first hand that the success of rural America depends on the successes of those that live and work there, and that farm program payments pay a large role in helping finance and support rural America. The financial support farmers receive for their commodities goes into local communities ? directly to local businesses and through local and state taxes. By continuing to provide farm program payments, the U.S. government is making a strong investment in rural America.

NAWG believes that rural development programs are an important part of any farm bill, however, NAWG does not support decreasing income support mechanisms, such as the Direct Payment, in order to fund rural development initiatives.

Question6: In order to be able to compete in a world market, focus must always be kept on quality, and progress on quality starts with research. Wheat should have a stronger presence in the next research title with an equal emphasis on cereal disease research and on new and improved traits and quality. Research to complete the mapping of the wheat genome should be a high priority. Funding for research remains an annual struggle for an ever shrinking share of research dollars. Consideration should be given to identifying a dedicated revenue stream that could provide a stable ongoing base for research funding.

One of the most promising areas of value added market development is in the area of biofuels and biorefining. A recent USDA/DOE study concluded that there currently exists the sustainable capacity in the US to produce 1.3 billion tons of agriculture and forestland residue per year, enough biomass feedstock to produce biofuels to meet more than one third of our current petroleum transportation fuel needs.

Technology currently exists to begin refining agriculture and forestland residue into ethanol and other valuable bi-products. Financing remains a roadblock, and a program of loan guarantees and other incentives targeted toward the development of commercial biorefining facilities is needed to fully realize the potential value-added market this would create for agriculture producers while contributing to the national security goal of reducing our dependence on foreign imported petroleum.

A program of targeted research and development funding is also needed to achieve the scientific breakthroughs required for expanded development

of biobased fuels and products. A program similar to the Bioenergy/Bioproducts provisions recently adopted as part of the comprehensive energy legislation (S. 10) should have supplementary provisions in the next farm bill. This would include a program of R&D with increased emphasis on feedstock production and delivery, including technologies for harvest, handling and transport of crop residues. Also included should be a program of production incentives to deliver the first billion gallons of annual cellulosic biofuels production. The next farm bill should set a goal of establishing a viable commercial biorefining industry by the completion of the next farm bill authorization cycle (year 2013)