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Question1:

Question2:

Question3: Farm policy should, among other things, support the existence of holistic farms which follow the natural process from pasture to consumer. As a consumer I want to encourage "real" and healthy animal care, and have the choice to buy from identifiable farmers (of whatever size), not only from conglomerates which feel more like factories than farms. Specifically, I am absolutely against rules that would require farmers to join cooperatives and put their output unidentifiably into a common pot. US consumers more and more want "real" rather than factory-style food; the USDA should be encouraging, not discouraging effective standalone farms, and should only be monitoring them for safety.

Question4: Stewardship is essential. The welfare of animals we eat during their lifetimes and of the earth as we use and re-use it are essential for the health of the planet and its inhabitants. We should support WTO goals, perhaps through forums in which the exchange of conservation ideas can be useful, and also by educating the general public about the essential costs of eating as we do, what the agricultural industry needs to do, and what individuals can do to make a difference. We need to DEFINE our conservation and environmental goals, and believe in them.

Question5: First, see my answer to Question 3 for a philosophy. Second, as a consumer not in the industry, it's not clear to me that government investment in technology is necessary or even good. If you mean equipment and such, the market ought to take care of it; if you mean engineered foods, I'm with the Europeans -- we could be opening several Pandora's boxes, and there are a lot of people who are far too eager to open them without any idea of or concern about what they might contain.

Question6: If it's true that ethanol costs more energy to produce than it provides, let's find other uses for corn or other uses for that land. Let's stop pushing sugar and refined flour and other unhealthy foods, and find more wholesome ways to use our lands. We are growing and feeding addictions rather than teaching our children and our untaught adults healthy living. We have a wonderful country in which to grow wonderful foods. That's what we should be doing -- bring back pride and conscience, and let the "bottom line" take second place to health and husbandry.