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Question1: I think the USDA should allow competitive markets instead of corporate take overs of farm operations. This alone would reduce farm land prices. I entered farming for the first time in 1996. There was no help. Loan programs associated with the government seemed very predatory (more collateral than was necessary) which appears to set new and existing farmers up for failure so farm land can be bought cheaply at auctions by corporations. This happens in Oklahoma often and is common knowledge/practice. Family farms and farmers should be supported not helped out of business and their lands by government and corporate policies and practices. If there are fair loans, supports for family farms, and real competitive markets it will help retain fairer land values and revitalize rural areas by having thriving family farms and markets.

Question2: I think we should focus more on family farms and local markets for many reasons including economic vitality in the US, biosecurity, and more nutritious foods. Our focus on corporations and mega agriculture seems detrimental to our local economies, families and food safety. I can't even buy any US produced fruits to buy. They all come from foreign countries. I think we should refocus to local (US) markets with the global markets and large corporations being secondary. We seem to be in favor of quantity over quality. Our national health score reflects these trends (corporate food production and products)with the poorer quality of our food supply including overly processed, unhealthy and cheaply food products resulting in poor health, high medical costs, and high corporate profits. This is not a good national focus; money over quality, nutrition, and health.

Question3: There should be a shift to fund and recognize family farms as a value to our economy, culture, and traditions. Our current focus destroys family farms and does fund the large corporations versus smaller farms that assist local economies with their operations. Crop insurance is too expensive and a joke in many respects. If you utilize good land stewardship you won't get paid in a drought when you don't plant. Instead, you must plant and fail even if planting means your top soil blows away. Our current farm programs are terrible for small farmers. The programs put small producers out of business by design and practice with the corporations buying up their lands at reduced prices. Corporations are not generally as concerned with good conservation practices either. Instead they focus on profit over quality.

Farm policy should be refocused to distribute funds to family farms over large corporate interests with reasonable costs for insurance. The new policy should allow for free and competitive markets versus government controls over prices/commodities and their suppliers that benefit corporate profits and land acquisitions more than true farmers, local economies, etc. The current policy and practices detract from healthy and/or safe food production and supplies. If policies are structured to benefit family farmers the food supply will be safer and more nutritious

and local economies will prosper.

Question4: Reward family farmers who focus on using wastes as resources (composting) to return to the soil versus consolidating them and creating pollution in the water, air and soil. Encourage and pay organic farmers who respect and safe guard our natural resources as part of their operations. Discourage consolidated mega operations and require composting where they exist for starters. Promote composting by educating farmers and creating effective legislation, rewards, and policies to foster composting. Compost can also restore polluted sites, wetlands, water quality, soil quality, stop erosion, etc. This would be a win/win policy for environmental goals and farmers.

Question5: Recognize that corporate agriculture has destroyed rural communities by putting family farms out of business. Fund and encourage family farmers and organic growers again. Don't allow consolidated cattle supplies, etc. Let the markets control the prices versus the government and corporations ( foster competitive markets. If these adjustments are made, rural areas will flourish once more and help themselves with little or no Federal assistance.

Question6: See above responses first. I am concerned that biomass and other commodity and corporate controlled enterprises will continue to erode rural areas and pollute them as well. Contracted acres for biomass productions using chemicals destroys soil micoroganisms regardless of no till practices or carbon credits. chemicals also destory food, air, and water quality for profit over quality. There are alternative methods to accomplish the same results without destroying family farms, food, soil, water and air quality through emulating nature or natural processes. Focus on composting, recycling and biofuel blends.