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Question1: Subsidies to any sector of our economy will always encourage abuse. The 'spirit' of the law is always ignored in favor of the 'most we can get out of it.' The best I can figure is that we encourage environmental stewardship with our subsidies, which translates into riparian buffers for our streams, less nitrate use and lower pesticide use. When it comes to subsidies for products, I don't believe we should hold prices up artificially. That usually just seems to contribute to waste.

Question2: One thing is for sure, and should apply to all industries and standards. Do not accept inferior quality from another country that would not be acceptable here. And do not encourage that type of thing to take place in that country, either. What's good for us is good for all people.

Question3: I just wish agribusiness were more responsive to the consumer. They have a bad reputation for polluting, raising tainted animals and taking over small farms. None of this is good. What kind of policy change can aim us in a better direction? Ask small farmers who do not expect to receive a handout. There are still some.

Question4: I'm sure small farmers (and maybe no farmers) can afford to put extra money into environmental projects when they are concerned with raising crops or with animal husbandry. They need encouragement that usually only comes with grants or with policy that rewards efforts made toward improvements in the ecosystem. Nonetheless, we need to decrease runoff of dangerous chemicals and minerals from farm land. We need to protect stream banks from erosion and pollution by animals. We need to replant riparian buffer zones...etc. PA has some kind of project of this sort in its Growing Greener program. Check with the PaDEP.

Question5: I have watched rural land become housing subdivisions. I have watched the city empty out (where there had been steel industry) and come to live where the modern port (air-port) is. Major housing and highway construction is going on here, and dying of neighborhoods is going on elsewhere. Yet, I have seen no public effort to preserve land from such use in order to provide recreation to those of us who hike, bike or observe nature for relaxation. I don't know any way to effect change toward the direction we prefer, except to use money. On the whole, people don't seem to react, as strongly, to anything else. So, somehow, we have to make it appealing, moneywise, to get developers to leave aside goodly tracts of undeveloped land as attractions to their customers. Sounds like tax-incentive time, to me. Yet, I see tax incentives being given to developers in order to develop rather than preserve. Change this.

Question6: I think food should be grown in the least-polluted and polluting way possible. I think the health of people should be a major concern. Products that are checked for quality, that use little, if any, antibiotics or hormones, that are wholesome should be the goal. And we've got to figure out a better method for raising animals than using factory-farming methods. These have been shown to be unhealthy

for the animals, and then too, for the consumer of them.