

From: "brad@starrfarms.com%inter2" <brad@starrfarms.com>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 08/18/2005 07:07 AM CDT
Date Sent: 08/18/2005 07:07:24 CDT
Date Received: 08/18/2005 07:08:23 CDT

Email: brad@starrfarms.com

FirstName: Mark B.

LastName: Starr

Address1: 2879W 400N

Address2:

City: Connersville

State: Indiana

zipcode: 47331

Question1: My solution would be to only allow Direct Payments to those farms where the landowner participates in production risk. If the farm is solely cash rented, it would not be eligible for DP. These payments are totally bid either into purchase or cash rents. This increases costs for small, large or new farmeres. Only owners capture the rewards.

Question2: With the use of counter cyclical and LDP's, our products can find their way to the market place. At the point another crop or product finds greater profitability, it will take the acres need for that production. Supply and demand works. Other products non ground related are a different investment decision.

Question3: Is our goal to keep small inefficient farms alive? Is US policy akin to the labor union mentality where we keep all producers regardless to how ineffective? Size is not the limiting factor, management is!

With increased size comes new employment of people, more purchasing and more community support. Is it policy to keep all people? I believe this is what happened to our major industries and why those jobs are now off shore. I live in a community where the union is doing what the current policy is trying to do and that is to pay high wages to all regardless of performance. The industry is leaving! Are we as well?

Question4: The goals need to be followed with realistic expectations. Stewardship is good as I follow all I can. We are 100% no till and participate in many soil saving programs. Currently, the program is penalizing us because it will now pay others to adopt what we have paid out of our pocket to already implement. Equitable?

Question5: Infrastructure should be just that. Not trying to shore up someone's income. Roads, bridges, locks are all paramount in our ability of function as a nation of producers. The absense of funds to continually maintain these is showing currently in the locks along our waterways. The past practice of passing the costs down the chain to state and local levels only purdens the local tax base most commonly. People in California benefit from a good food source from the midwest. Lets recognize our real cheap food policy and acknowledge it as a positive and move forwad in support. Infrastructure supports this. Devise a way to stop paying more than necessary to get these jobs completed by overcost bidding and change orders.

Question6: review how our check off dollars are doing. I believe investment we made years ago are now starting to deliver rewards for the investment. Our universities need to figure out how to get ahead of the curve rather than wanting to research what we are already practicing. They wnat the research GRANT monies to support what we are doing. We test every day in our fields.