

From: "toddenders@hotmail.com%inter2" <toddenders@hotmail.com>
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Email: toddenders@hotmail.com

FirstName: Todd

LastName: Enders

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State: California

zipcode:

Question1: Price increases result not just from capitalization of program benefits, but from development pressure. Farm policy should accelerate funding for conservation easements and agricultural zoning.

In addition, costs are only half of the equation for aspiring farmers. Monopoly conditions in the agribusiness industry keep prices low and reduce the portion of the food dollar flowing to farmers. Improvement of anti-trust law and improved enforcement of existing law (Stockyards Act, etc) is a pre-requisite to a viable farming community.

Question2: The existing food distribution and marketing monopolies are the top obstacle to a competitive agricultural industry. You would think that an MBA president would understand the value of anti-trust law for innovation, but with 3-5 fat cat mega-corporations connecting farmers to consumers, the only innovation is that which is legislated -- a lousy kind.

The second prong in improving the competitiveness of US farmers, investments need to be made in diversifying the supply of and distribution & marketing of locally-grown agriculture. US consumers have proven they will pay a premium and overwhelmingly prefer American food over foreign food. Country of Origin Labeling is a start to improved competitiveness, but Region of Origin labeling would do even better.

Question3: Program benefits should be capped at the corporate entity level, including consideration for holding corporations and other dirty tricks.

Diversity of producers and products increases our National Security. Mega-corporations and their petroleum-based monoculture machine-farming is a huge risk to America.

Question4: By requiring organic and sustainable farming practices (crop-rotation, fallowing, integrated pest management, hedgerow investment, non-methane-based fertilizers, soil compaction mitigation).

Question5: Investing in low-cost distribution mechanisms (e.g. rail) to enable rural communities to market their goods direct-to-consumer despite their distance. In addition, boosting farm to cafeteria programs such that local farms are preferred providers to schools and other publically funded facilities, rather than a surplus freezer somewhere across the country.

Question6: Product Development: Development of organic friendly varieties that allow local organic agricultural systems to provide more of the required local food mix

Marketing: Funding preference for local direct-to-consumer producers and regional distribution networks (Farmers' Markets, etc.)

Research-related: Focusing on science that might uncover nutritional, community, quality-of-life, and food-security benefits from buying

locally and/or domestically grown food.