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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 08/09/2005 01:21 PM CDT
Date Sent: 08/09/2005 01:21:51 CDT
Date Received: 08/09/2005 01:23:33 CDT

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Question1:

Question2:

Question3: The policy should best support family farms - not huge or corporately owned, non-family farms.

If you really want to help smaller farms, offer assistance on health care expenses. For instance, a cost-share for insurance. Also, activate recovery counselors, like the FEMA outreach counselors, when there is a crop disaster so stressed farmers can receive peer counseling and referrals to resources that can help them recover. You could use money saved from price supports to big farmers to fund this type of service

Question4:

Question5: Support the state rural development councils. Get the Coordinating Council active so funding for these councils can take place.

Provide grants that encourage regional market development that holistically involves community and encourages entrepreneurial development. These grants should be applicable to agricultural development or community development of other kinds. In addition, more resources should be available to beginning farmers to help offset the high cost of start-up. And senior farmers need incentives to transfer the farms to beginning farmers. Perhaps there could be a tax offset for farmers who sell their farms to bona fide beginning farmers.

Question6: