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**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 08/08/2005 09:59 AM CDT  
**Date Sent:** 08/08/2005 09:59:45 CDT  
**Date Received:** 08/08/2005 10:00:38 CDT

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Question1: First -farm policy should seek to change the tax laws that allow exchanges from real estate sales that must be re-invested in order to avoid taxes. This is not resulting in land that is priced according to its productivity.

I see no solution to the land owner not benefiting from more Gov't support of farmers other than paying farmers a salary. I personally would not encourage a young person to attempt grain farming -unless they were born into a large acreage operation-. But they still might have to exist much like a peasant.

Question2: If we farmers have benefited from global markets it appears to me that it has been from some cheaper inputs. I do not relish the idea of driving my fellow farmers out of business in Mexico or China. If you really want us to compete against third world countries rescind all of the unproductive laws, health and safety standards and excessive taxes. We already use farm children and 70-80 plus, year olds to help us produce that \$2 corn that industry loves.

Question3: I have heard it declared by farm groups and ag universities that large farms are so much more efficient than med. to small farms. If so then why do they need any subsidy? 100's of thousand dollars (or millions) going to non-farmers as well as farmer's does not bode well with an increasingly urban population with it's own problems. As a grain farmer the best solution is to mandate a renewable fuel policy that controls the inventory of our grains using the excess to produce fuel (look to Brazil). I'm sick of having to "farm" the government to survive and watch other farmers constructing elaborate schemes to take advantage of loopholes in government programs. It corrupts us. The world is awash in cheap grains, energy is what fuels this world and its wars for over 100 years. The rural economy can provide cheap energy if you help us -look at all the fat people out there if you don't think we can. This is vitally important to our crumbling rural economies and benefits all of America.

Question4: I see the CRP as an acceptable way to funnel some money into rural america as well as distant land owners. It's nice to see the increase of wildlife. Too many farmers don't leave anything for our wildlife -a sad comment about being a steward of the soil. Some of the CRP ground is costing farmers their livelihood. I know this program is more acceptable to urban politicians, but it seems to expensive. Part of this ground could still be used productively and support increased wild life. Min- or no till, and or different types of crops being grown could reduce government payments and still encourage wildlife. --Such as certain types of energy producing crops for fuel production. I think that CRP can spend all the money you give them, just like most any church or Gov't organizations. Getting the most for your money is what's important for the wild life and the taxpayers.

Question5: I have watched our local communities in decline for most of my life. I must salute those that carry on the struggle to maintain the

small town-rural lifestyle which has molded so many great Americans. I have spent a lot of time thinking about what could reverse this trend. Of course the problem is economic. Seeing agriculture only as a food producer (excepting you cotton growers) leaves us at a disadvantage. When non-farm workers can't make a decent living they do something else--when farmers can't make a decent living they try to grow more. What's wrong with this picture? Why can't USDA help us and the country become energy producers? You have the labs and the people and the universities ears to help promote and fine tune renewable energy production. Why isn't America's great resource- its land being used for more than just cheap food? Do we have to be a slave to imported oil sending billions overseas every year that could be used to employ Americans? If there are no jobs --short of being able to commute to an urban area there is no rural structure needed. Using the government to encourage a market to form is far better than pouring money here and there in what usually ends up being pork for politicians

Question6: A brief story I heard from a friend of a farmer in Southern IL. He had a Chinese fellow looking at his farm. He became very excited when he saw the fine quality of corn in one of his grain bins. Saying why can't we buy this kind of corn! Grain companies blend bad corn in with good. Tighten grain grading?