

From: "ffa@erinet.com%inter2" <ffa@erinet.com>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 08/08/2005 08:56 AM CDT
Date Sent: 08/08/2005 08:56:55 CDT
Date Received: 08/08/2005 08:58:07 CDT

Email: ffa@erinet.com
FirstName: Ed
LastName: Winkle
Address1: 3308 Martinsville Road
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City: Martinsville
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Question1: Dear Sirs,

The challenges facing new farmers is nearly impossible to overcome. I taught agriculture and served as an extension agent for 31 years before I saved enough to save a down payment on my first real farm.

My boys are hard working but face the same challenges I faced in 1971. My oldest boy and wife want a farm to raise their kids on so badly but land is \$3000 per acre for junk, on up and a teachers salary and both spouses working won't buy much.

My dad was a tenant farmer until he was able to buy the farm he rented for 50 plus years when he was 70 years old.

This country has larger problems. When I pay \$2.50 for gas and get \$1.70 per bu of corn I get so mad I can hardly think straight. The American farmer is really getting screwed.

I probably guided more young people away from agriculture and teaching than I did toward it. That is a sad state of affairs but one makes more money working a computer than he does working on a farm.

Without the past farm bill, more farms would have been lost. I trust the new farm bill will help level the playing field.

Barrier to entry, you bet! How are we going to "fix it?"

Too many people die with lots of land and no one to farm it. We need to consider a national hand down the farm program to help these young people. The FFA is full of good kids just chomping at the bit of opportunity. "Somebody farmed this ground before me and somebody will when I am gone" has become my 401K is the future development of this land.

Extension is outdated and should not be funded, I know, I worked for them.

Agricultural Education and FFA is one of the brightest spots left in our country, let's invest there.

Please don't fund anymore bandaid programs or low interest loans, money is cheap enough as it is.

Come up with something innovative that will allow my kids to reach their dream of farming. Took me 34 years, oldest boy will be 28, his brother just turned 25. We all laugh about it but "it ain't funny."

Will America be the bedroom community of the world while the work and pollution is done elsewhere?

Will we have a few beautiful farms left and say this is what made our country great?

Will most of our food come from South America and other continents? It looks like that will happen more every day.

Can you find a way to not discourage new farmers and keep the Winkles on the farm?

I sure hope so!

Sincerely,

Ed Winkle
HyMark Consulting LLC
Martinsville, Ohio

Question2:

Question3:

Question4:

Question5:

Question6: