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Question1: If you limit or cap farm subsidies it will result in more land being available to small and new farmers. It will also have an effect on land prices either lowering or at least stopping some upward movement. Having said that really the government should not have as a prime target the perpetuation of the family farm.

Question2: The American Farmer can remain competitive in a truly free world market. Presently many countries have subsidies far in excess of those here in the US. Our trade negotiators in the past havent really done a heads up job.

Question3: First assistance programs should be very limited and be set up so that there is a reasonable cap on what any one farm entity can receive. The present situation of 10 percent of farmers receiving almost 70 percent of assistance should be changed. Not only will this level out the playing field for the small, new and large farmers but it certainly needs to be done under the present budget constraints.

Question4: If you travel around after any heavy rain you certainly realize that many farmers are not practicing good stewardship. Conservation should be one area that should receive primary consideration and first funding. Large farming operations are not normally interested in conserving soil by rotating with small grain and hay crops nor are they normally interested in farming your farm on contour. This is an area where small and new farmers can excel and is an area that should be encouraged.

Question5:
The rural communities I am acquainted with in my area that are not close to a large city have pretty well died. I don't think there are enough Federal dollars to resurect them.

Question6: Research for new uses is an important area and should be addressed and properly funded. Also renewable energy should be addressed as well as research for new bioproducts.