

From: "julie.mcdonald@ms.nacdnet.net%inter2" <julie.mcdonald@ms.nacdnet.net>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 07/26/2005 10:12 AM CDT
Date Sent: 07/26/2005 10:12:46 CDT
Date Received: 07/26/2005 10:15:36 CDT

Email: julie.mcdonald@ms.nacdnet.net

FirstName: Julie

LastName: McDonald

Address1: P. O. Box 135

Address2:

City: New Augusta

State: Mississippi

zipcode: 39462

Question1: Training and information for new farmers is lacking and/or difficult to come by. Farm Service Agents and Agencies are unable or unwilling to help new farmers and especially new farmers wanting to pursue alternative enterprises with value added products that could offset the higher land and operating costs.

Question2: Study the global market trends and get the resulting information to the farmer. Traditional methods and crops need to give way to the new global market.

Question3: Any time you have a system, there are people who will play that system to their advantage. Small scale and beginning farmer incentives will help get the small family farm back into operation, making people more self reliant and discouraging large operations from "taking over" the family farm.

Question4: Clear guidelines and education are the key to teaching the landowners how and WHY to help conserve natural resources.

Question5: New technologies should not only be invested in but studied "on the ground". Incentives for growing or utilizing alternative energy sources are one way of moving forward. Whereas a rural town may be unwilling to allow a traditional farm to operate, perhaps if they were reaping the benefits of a biogas operation they would be more likely to cooperate.

Question6: Product quality and new attributes; organic and specialty crops; value-added products, including renewable energy and bioproducts and new uses for farm products generally; are necessary and useful examples. Education of the farmer and communities on these up and coming ideas are essential also.