

From: "northoutback@netscape.net%inter2" <northoutback@netscape.net>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 07/22/2005 07:32 PM CDT
Date Sent: 07/22/2005 07:32:13 CDT
Date Received: 07/22/2005 08:08:14 CDT

Email: northoutback@netscape.net

FirstName: Janet

LastName: Jacobson

Address1: 9173 95th St. NE

Address2:

City: Wales

State: North Dakota

zipcode: 58281

Question1:

Question2:

Question3: Secretary Johanns:

It has been said that change occurs when remaining where you are becomes more uncomfortable than making a change. Now the discomfort that comes from a deficit federal budget and troubled rural economies make staying where we are not an option. It is time that farm policies pay more than lip service to maintaining family farm agriculture. We need taxpayer support for agriculture and food to be directed in ways that truly aid family farms, provide benefits to rural communities, and ensure food security for our nation.

It is no secret that the vast majority of agricultural subsidies, under the current payment system, are harvested by a minority of producers. In North Dakota, the top 10 percent of recipients receive 60 percent of the dollars paid by the USDA's various payment programs. Additionally, the payment system, because it is based on production and focused on a relatively small number of crops, penalizes farmers operate on a smaller scale and who use more sustainable practices such as diverse crop rotations, green manure fallow and forage crops.

Changes must be made in a way which does not pit family farmers against the most vulnerable of our society, rural development efforts, or conservation of our resources for future generations. Before we put the ax to conservation or nutrition programs, we must enact payment limitations. Since 2002, resource protecting initiatives like the Conservation Security Program and other conservation and rural development programs have suffered budget cuts. We also must continue to protect the vulnerable in our society with programs like the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) and food stamps.

Not only should the 2007 farm bill contain a \$250,000 payment limit, loopholes which allow for much larger payments must be eliminated. Such a limit would not affect family farmers and will allow for funds to be more equitably allocated to programs which encourage conservation, rural development and provide nutrition to those in need.

We ask that changes be made in our agricultural support system which will do more than use family farmers as the poster children for ag spending. Put a cap on subsidies and close the loopholes which allow an unfair advantage to a few.

Sincerely,
Janet Jacobson

Question4:

Question5:

Question6: