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Question1: Not sure. I would think reserving the best land, highest quality soils for farmland and keeping urban and suburban development contained in existing urban areas, such as we do in Oregon with Urban Growth Boundaries, would help control land prices by keeping farmland farmland for farmers.

Question2: I want to make it clear that for the average consumer, like me, the most important thing is safe, quality food that is reasonably priced. Trade policies that compromise these values, by requiring the lowest common denominator, do a disservice to consumers. I don't think that our economy should benefit off of health risks handed to consumers through pesticide-laden foods or genetically engineered foods. I think the U.S. can build a reputation world-wide as producers of high quality, clean, safe, organic, GMO-free foods. I believe that is where the market growth will be (already is growing dramatically as the non-organic market is more stagnant) as consumers increasingly demand safety and quality in the food we eat. Many farmers will need assistance to make the transition to organic and I think the USDA should prioritize this and create incentives.

I also think USDA should establish programs for reducing the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture.

Question3: I don't know how to recommend a particular design, but I do want to make my support for small, family farms clear. I love to shop at my local farmer's market and I know that family farms are quickly disappearing, but that is where good quality food is born, and where a real farm livelihood is made.

Question4: I think USDA should be lobbying for increased funding for voluntary conservation (e.g. setting aside conservation land and receiving benefits for doing so) and helping encourage farmers to act as environmental stewards. USDA should reward farmers who conserve water and soil, create incentives for the transition to organic, and encourage sustainable practices like cover crops, crop rotation, beneficial crop planting, and more. I would even support going beyond rewards, and enacting penalties for farmers who waste water, or fail to protect waterways from pesticide run-off or animal waste. I support both a carrot and stick approach and think the combination is most effective.

Question5: I don't really know how to do this, but know that farmers need to have efficient systems too and that likely means investing in reasonably high speed internet access in rural areas in order to connect farmers to the online marketplace and streamline their business practices. These areas will likely need extra technical support as well.

Question6: I am a big supporter of USDA supporting efforts to move farm policy toward a focus on improved product quality, support for family farms, incentives for transitions to organic, and research into sustainable farming practices and water conservation strategies. And hooray for biofuels programs! This is the future and the US, especially

Oregon, is well-positioned to become a leader in production of these products which is good for the country's energy needs, good for global warming, and good for our economy.