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Question1:

Question2: Many other industrialized countries are concerned about the U.S. position on genetically modified food as are millions of Americans who would like to see this sort of farming restricted and who shop at health food stores like Whole Foods to make sure that their products are not genetically engineered. In order for us to be competitive in an international market that is becoming more concerned about genetically modified food, we should reconsider our policies on allowing this sort of farming and in terms of labeling these products. We also need to reconsider the use of hormones and antibiotics in the meat industry as well due to growing international concern over these, especially in Europe. Finally, we should encourage more organic farming to meet the growing international demand for safer, healthier food.

Question3: We need to do more to help small farmers, especially those who are dedicated to sustainable farming. Organic farmers have the additional burden of having to meet expensive certification.

Furthermore, there has been recent criticism spotlighting the connection between government subsidizing of big farms and big crops like corn and the ubiquitous presence of certain unhealthy corn related products like corn syrup in many of the fast foods implicated in our current obesity epidemic. Instead, we should be subsidizing organic farmers, natural ranchers raising grass-fed meats and farmers trying to transition to these healthier practices that produce healthier foods for American families as well as protect the environment

Question4: I live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, which has gone from having one Whole Foods Markets to six Whole Food Markets as well as two Central Markets that all cater to customers who are seeking more organic and natural foods that are purchased from suppliers who are practicing conservation and protecting the environment. Given this growing demand, we have a responsibility to help more farmers transition to sustainable farming and ranching that will lead to cleaner air and water. Pesticides used in conventional farming lead to pesticide run off in our nations water ways, which has been implicated in disturbing effects on wildlife and human life. Non sustainable animal ranching has also lead to pollution as well, particularly pig farming.

Question5: By supporting smaller farmers and those transitioning to sustainable farming, we will also be supporting a resurgence in rural farming. We will be providing the small, rural farmer with tools to compete against the large mechanized farms. They will be producing a product for which there is a growing demand and a higher price.

Question6: We should encourage the development of more natural pest control products and fertilizers and provide more education in biodynamic farming that integrates both sustainable farming and natural animal ranching in a way that requires less use of even the natural pesticides. Biodynamic farmers have found that planting crops in certain ways and in certain locations can require less pesticide use as can raising certain sorts of animals in proximity to their crops.

