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Question1: Stop allowing agribusinesses like Monsanto and Cargill to control the agriculture market. Vast numbers of farm families are put out of business every year by predatory business practices. See my comments below, as they apply to this issue as well. Agriculture should be directed by farm families, not billion dollar industries that destroy everyone and everything in their pursuit of ever greater profits.

Question2: Instead of being ruled only by agribusiness and its desire to patent absolutely everything, we need to look toward the future, and the future IS NOT GMOs, it's organics. The organic market is blossoming both here and abroad. Europe and Asia (and North America) want organic products, not GMO products, so the focus should be placed there before the US can no longer compete economically.

Question3: Remember the old saying, don't put all your eggs in one basket? That's exactly what's happening in American agriculture today. Almost no family farmers are left, because only agribusiness has been economically encouraged to flourish, and this is a recipe for disaster. Stop subsidizing billion dollar industries and start providing the assistance to those who truly need it...the family farmers.

Question4: The USDA needs to assist farmers in making the transition to organic, to encourage farmers to act as environmental stewards, and to establish programs reducing the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. It's been proven that organic farming alone not only improves the health of the environment, it also yields more crops per acre than conventional farming. Every conventional farm can be slowly converted over to an organic farm, and the benefits to the environment, the savings on chemicals, etc., that are no longer needed, the increase in yields and the increase in market share would provide substantial benefits for all involved.

Question5: See my comments above. Rural farmers don't need new technologies that send them further and further into debt. They need to be supported and encouraged in organic farming, because that is the future of agriculture.

Question6: If you want to continue agriculture, you have to ensure you have a planet healthy enough to support it. Investment needs to be made in the fields of organics, solar, wind, biodiesel, etc. All of these markets are growing, and if we do not make a concerted effort to become heavily involved in them now, we will fall behind the rest of the world.