

**From:** "GMcinSJ@webtv.net%inter2" <GMcinSJ@webtv.net>  
**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 07/18/2005 11:50 AM CDT  
**Date Sent:** 07/18/2005 11:50:06 CDT  
**Date Received:** 07/18/2005 11:51:19 CDT

---

Email: GMcinSJ@webtv.net

FirstName: Gloria

LastName: McClain

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

zipcode:

Question1: I live in the Santa Clara Valley in California. Only 40 or so years ago it was the major fruit producing area in the country, and was known as the "Valley of the Heart's Delight". Cherries, apricots, plums, prunes, pears, peaches, walnuts as well as strawberries, lettuce, onions, potatoes, just to name a few, covered the valley floor.

Today this area is known as "Silicon Valley". The rich soil that was so productive is now covered by cement and asphalt. Many people have become rich, but at what cost? Even farmers who wanted to stay have been forced out. Land has been taken through Eminent Domaine laws. Other farmers have been forced to sell because of the increased taxes on their land. This should not be allowed to continue. It should not be possible to force farmers off their land in these legal but immoral ways. It must stop!

Question2: The emphasis should be on locally grown food. Have you factored in the cost of diseases that are transported? The waste of fuel to transport food? Certainly in a disaster food must be transported to the affected area. But what must be encouraged are small, nearby organic farms --- not the further development of "agribusiness" with its overuse of chemical fertilizers, antibiotics, insecticides and herbicides! Evaluating everything only in terms of dollars is destroying us!

Question3:

Question4: Work with the environmental organizations! If you must only look at profit, then factor in the true cost of pollution!

Question5: Recently I was talking with a farm person who was interested in converting to organic farming, but financially could not see how it could work. There is a required amount of time for the soil to rid itself of the pesticides and herbicides. How does the farmer survive financially while they are switching? Help is needed here!

Question6: The most important product development to me is organically grown, non genetically modified food. I shop at Whole Foods Markets and it is always crowded, while the standard supermarkets are empty! The demand is there.