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Question1: Farming in the US was begun by men and women who were willing to give their lives and futures to entering untamed lands and develop an agricultural economy. Except in remote areas, like Alaska, this situation no longer exists. Because of the effort put in by our ancestors over the last 200 years, and economic forces, these lands are very valuable. The cost of good equipment is also a daunting barrier to new farmers, and many of them are forced into settling for older, less efficient equipment that immediately puts them into an unfair disadvantage when competing with more financially stable farmers. USDA programs need to focus more on agricultural production talent and less on available resources when deciding to help new farmers get started. For example, there may be a fresh graduate from one of many agricultural colleges around the country that has excellent potential as an agricultural producer. However, chances are the graduate has Zero resources. Perhaps USDA could consider a pilot program to reward such candidates based on knowledge and experience, instead of how many dollars the kid has to get started. This would require a significant investment in public funds of a private enterprise; however, the reward to the public would be in a continuation of an abundant source of cheap food.

Question2: Reward farmers for quality. We can compete worldwide, even though our prices may be higher, because the quality of our product is much higher! Poor quality may sell for a day, but after a week, the consumer is looking for quality and will be willing to pay for it!

Question3: We do not overproduce. The worldwide need is out there! The problem is distribution. Our government needs to work on securing distribution systems, especially to "3rd world" nations. We can do this, using our food as a way to bring other countries into our camp of freedom and thus eliminate much of the cause of war and poverty.

Question4: With a few exceptions, I believe farmers are the ultimate environmentalists. We can improve the environment while at the same time preserve and conserve our natural resources.

Question5: There is no political power in the rural communities. It is concentrated in urban areas, and I am afraid urbanites do not understand rural community needs, ESPECIALLY as they relate to our food supply!! Education and promotion is very important so that kids and adults in the city know where their food comes from. In this way, political support of policies that promote economic development in rural areas will not be stymied by economic ignorance in urban areas.

Question6: Support it with subsidies. Especially bio fuels. We have the capacity to greatly reduce our dependence on foreign oil through our agricultural production. Let's use it.