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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4:

Question5:

Question6: Realize that US agriculture has really two main goals re: the country - to feed the world at a reasonable cost to the global consumer, and to make sure that quality food is also available to the American citizen. From what I can see, USDA spends a lot of time working on the global issue, which considering the scale of midwest/western agriculture, is necessary. But there is also a need for a strong local ag sector, especially in areas of dense urban populations, such as the Northeast. Making regulations based upon scale of operation is necessary. Currently regs are "one size fits all." I raise miniature dairy goats, which fill a niche for many looking for their own milk supply, but also are creating a micromarket for high quality artisan cheeses. Regulations for dairying are based upon large size dairy cow herds. Goat operations are not run the same way, and I can make a good income off my cheeses and yogurts, with less than a dozen goats, but I can't afford the equipment USDA says is necessary. This gets in the way of value added opportunities, and American ingenuity.

Please continue to support the mega-farms, but not at the expense of the family farms/microdairies that are growing up across the country.