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Question1: The US farm policy needs to increase incentives for conservation and environmental stewardship and tie these into subsidy payments. Other countries of the world are less concerned about protecting the environment and have lower costs of inputs and a lower cost of living.

Question2: Link subsidy payments to environmental stewardship initiatives. Possibly expanding and enhancing CREP.

Question3: Younger producers need the safety net provided by LDP's and MILC. These programs should continue. We really need to entice and keep younger producers in agriculture as a lot of producers are nearing retirement age. Individual grants and low or zero interest loans for younger producers can provide lower mortgage payments on farms and allowing younger and smaller producers to compete for land.

Question4: Attaching a tier system to government payments to either dictate the level of payment according to environmental compliance or the maximum payment level based on environmental compliance and Best Management Practices (CREP)

Question5: USDA has had a role in assisting smaller communities with sewer projects and that should continue and increase. New technologies should be fueled by demand.

Question6: USDA should provide assistance to producers to add value to their commodities. There are fewer and fewer companies that control all of the food processing (ex. Cargill, Dean's, Tyson) these companies are operating in a near monopoly market buying commodities from farmers and processing them and selling them to consumers. Along the way they are setting their own prices on both ends and they have very little competition. We need grants for producers to provide value added products for the consumer.

Organic is primarily a fad that in 15-20 years will disappear.