

USDA Farm Forums

Minot, ND, July 26

My name is Terry Cayko and I am a family farmer from the Western side of the state. My address is Fairview, MT. but I am a North Dakota resident living on the North Dakota Montana border. I raise sugar beets, alfalfa hay, and wheat, (spring and durum), along with my son. We raise 650 acres of sugar beets for Sidney Sugars Inc. which is a subsidiary of American Crystal Sugar Company. This company located in Sidney raises about 40,000 acres of sugar beets along the Yellowstone River from Miles City, MT to Williston, ND. There are also sugar beets to the west and north along the Missouri River.

The sugar industry in our area has an economic impact of \$500 million. Over 2,000 jobs are impacted by sugar beet production. For our area communities there actual survival is dependent on the sugar industry.

I agree with all the points that Mr. Theede and Mr. Hejl have presented. We need to find ways to encourage our young farmers to stay on the farm and

preserve our way of life. We need to be able to produce crops that can make a profit. The sugar beet industry in our areas can do this if the current program is run like it was intended to in the 2002 Farm Bill. We would like to see the 2007 Farm Bill to be very similar to the 2002 Farm Bill. We would like to see Bio-Fuels from all commodities brought into an Energy Bill. We don't need to have a market assessment tax on sugar and we can not have cuts in our other farm commodities. Yes I know that we have a large federal deficit hanging over the country but AGRICULTURE is not the place to be making cuts. **The country may be dependent on foreign oil but the last thing we can not afford to be dependent on is foreign food. It is time for Washington D.C. to wake up to what is happening in the grass roots of this country.**

Thank you Mr. Secretary for your time and hopefully we can work together to come up with a Farm Bill and Energy Bill that serves its family farmers.

Terry Cayko

President of the Montana-Dakota Sugarbeet Growers

3592 159th Ave NW

Fairview, MT 59221