

My name is Dave Beske, and I'm a farmer from the Markesan, WI area. I farm approximately 800 acres, producing a diverse crop of corn, soybeans, vegetables for processing and other crops, along with my brother. Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments today on the Farm Bill. Because of the short time frame, I will concentrate on questions #1 & #3 relating to farm program benefits and the changes needed to correct the unintended consequences from the last Farm Bill, as the prohibition on growing fruits and vegetables on program acres has had significant consequences for my operation and other in Wisconsin. The Farming Flexibility Act of 2005, cosponsored by most of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, would correct the situation immediately, but if it does not pass right away, it needs to be included in the next Farm Bill.

The prohibition on growing fruits and vegetables particularly hits Midwest growers like myself. I grow vegetables for processing for Del Monte and other vegetable processors and I rent a large portion of my land. Landlords are reluctant to rent to processed vegetable growers because it will hurt their base calculations in the future. Because of our wonderful climate, we cannot double crop on a consistent basis to eliminate the vegetable growing prohibition. Also, I cannot pass my personal vegetable growing history to my family. Wisconsin is a leader in processed vegetable production and this provision in the Farm Bill does not help growers like me. We need to have a provision which will allow fruits and vegetables **FOR PROCESSING** to be grown on program acres as long as there is an acre for acre reduction in payment. Additionally, future recalculation of base acreage should treat vegetables grown for processing on base acreage to be the same as production of a program crop.

These provisions would not have an impact on the fresh market vegetable producers because the varieties we grow are different, processed vegetables don't make their way into the fresh market, and certifying program acreage as growing vegetables for processing would make for large penalties if they went to the fresh market. It will also reassure producers like me and my landlords that vegetable production is not something to be avoided in hopes of maintaining base acreage. And by the way, it will save federal money - not bad in these times.

Thanks for listening to my comments today and I hope that the unintended consequences can be remedied with the next Farm Bill, if not sooner. Thanks for your help.