

**From:** "Cotterman06@yahoo.com%inter2" <Cotterman06@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 09/05/2005 06:00 PM CDT  
**Date Sent:** 09/05/2005 06:00:15 CDT  
**Date Received:** 09/05/2005 06:01:34 CDT

---

Email: Cotterman06@yahoo.com

FirstName: Tyler

LastName: Cotterman

Address1: 5368 S. 450 E.

Address2:

City: Monticello

State: Indiana

zipcode: 47960

Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: (Comments shared at the USDA Forum at the 2005 Indiana State Fair by Tyler Cotterman with Indiana 4-H)

How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

Hello! I am Tyler Cotterman from Monticello, Indiana and I have been an active member of the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program for 9 years. I appreciate the inclusion of a youth voice in these forums and feel honored to be asked to represent my peers. 4-H has a rich and proud tradition of preparing students for career success and engaging youth in activities and projects that excite them about leadership opportunities and the future of agriculture. In 4-H, we work hard to introduce agricultural science concepts to non-farm youth through activities such as Ag Days in local communities and events at Purdue University like 4-H Roundup which focuses on career awareness opportunities. We also offer a series of Science Workshops which target high school age youth with topics that range from plant and animal science to food science, engineering and aerospace.

Both farm and non-farm families living in rural areas are dependent upon strong, vibrant, rural communities which are critical to providing economic as well as family and social supports. The future of agriculture in this country is dependent upon the health of rural communities.

Leadership opportunities that enhance civic engagement in local communities are keys to attract and maintain young families, and to encourage young people to return home following post-high school education. I have been fortunate to have many such leadership experiences through 4-H.

When I consider unintended consequences of the Farm Bill on the next generation, I believe that flexibility is paramount. Just as young people are not cookie cutter cut-outs of one another, a one size fits all policy likely does not serve the agricultural industry in Indiana as it would in California, Florida, or even North Dakota. State and local government should be provided the flexibility to apply and adapt policy to the needs of a specific region.

An investment in youth programs like 4-H are critical to the future of rural communities in Indiana and our nation. Thank you for continuing to support the future!!!!

Question5:  
Question6: