

Mr. Secretary; thank you for coming today. I appreciate that you wish to speak with farmers and producers across this nation about the upcoming Farm Bill. I am a livestock producer from East Central Kansas.

My concern is the delivery of the new program. A close partner in my farming operation is my local Farm Service Agency and the people who work there. They truly understand my operation and how I operate. Throughout the years my relationship with the employees at the FSA office has grown into one of trust.

The last farm bill was very difficult to decipher but the Farm Service Agency Staff was well prepared and did an excellent job in explaining the options to me. Without the face to face contact with the staff at the FSA office and the time they spent with me it would have been very difficult to make my signup elections. I hope that you will consider not changing anything in the program delivery and keep it with the Farm Service Agency.

I would also like to comment on the unintended consequences of farm bills. There is a deeper rooted problem than the amount of tax dollars allocated under a farm program. This is one of communication and education. I'm referring to the non farm consumer, the taxpayers who foot the lion's share of the program dollars. I challenge your department and all the commodity groups to address this concern. The non farm consumer/taxpayer needs to be educated in what a farm program means to them. It provides to them the most abundant, safest, and cheapest supply of food and fiber in the world. That's what they received for the very small share of their tax dollar that goes into a farm bill. Your office, Congress, and the commodity groups have failed in this area.

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Comments from

Tom Bill Jarman

KANSAS

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