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Question1: Appoint a task force of stakeholders to analyze the issue and give recommendation. Include small farmers of many different goods - not just commodity crops. Also include organic producers, grazers, academics, biologists, etc.

Question2: The USDA and Congress need to look at the issue from a global context and be aware of what cheap American grain does to producers in other countries who are raising crops by hand on small plots. The goal should not be to be competitive globally, but to provide the goods needed by the rest of the world.

Question3: Large producers should not be eligible for the same farm programs as smaller producers. Farmers raising minor or innovative crops should be encouraged and rewarded with farm programs specifically for them. Encourage diversification in crops and growing practices.

Question4: Carefully review farm and conservation programs to ensure that they are doing what they intended and that unintended consequences are resolved. For example, Federal requirements for CRP do not allow mowing during a certain period in spring and early summer. This has resulted in the extensive spread of certain invasive species (eg, wild parsnip), that must be mowed at that time to control them. The conservation programs must provide funds for landowners to prevent the spread and stop infestations of invasive species - plants, insects, diseases, etc. Eliminate program requirements that cause landowners to cut forests, plow prairies and drain wetlands to become eligible for farm programs.

Question5: Limit subsidies and programs to large industrial farms.

Provide economic and technical assistance to smaller family farms

Question6: There should be a major focus on encouraging the expanded markets and activities. One of the areas that should be explored is the use of vegetation biomass for biofuel (eg, prairie grasses, brush and trees cut for restoration or urban forestry projects). USDA should also support the development of local coops that produce and distribute biodiesel fuel from used vegetable oil.