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Question1: Financial incentives for farmland and ranchland preservation are needed to encourage farmers to hold onto to their lands and eventually pass it on to their children or sell to future young farmers. With development expanding into historically rural areas all over the nation, it is tough for farmers to hold on to their lands when developers will pay them a much higher price/acre than corn or beans can justify.

Question2: There should be an initiative to promote USA grown agricultural products to keep American growers in business.

Question3: Assistance should be equally awarded to all producers regardless of acreage, type, or geographical area. Smaller family farms get little to no assistance, those very folks who need it the greatest.

Question4: Farms programs such as CREP, WHIP, EQIP, and others should be targeted toward marginal croplands and sensitive areas for permanent easements. These permanent easements could provide farmers much needed cash to pay down debt and run more efficient operations. In addition, significantly more permanent farmland/ranchland preservation funding is needed to keep incompatible development from encroaching on historic farm and/or ranch economies.

Question5: The USDA can work with farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers to diversify and streamline operations, increase marketing options, and look into alternate, innovate products.

Question6: Biodiesel and ethanol should both be promoted as actively as possible to help farmers, the environment, and the American consumer.