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Question1: New farmers and ranchers should have FSA loan limits increased to allow for the purchase of farms or ranches to start into the business. They should also be allowed to report and build crop acreage bases for participation in price support programs.

Question2: If animal ID is implemented in a private/government partnership the government side of the program should be administered by the FSA. Currently FSA has a data base of nearly every livestock producer in the country. The agency could easily, effectively, and confidentially administer any this type of program with minimal expense to the producer or the government yet provide the data base for trace back on any required animal.

Question3: FSA payment limitation procedures need to be strengthened to get payments to family farms rather than large corporate farms. Large farms have found loop holes in current procedure to allow for larger payments and smaller family sized farms cannot compete with the large corporate farms.

Question4: All conservation programs including any EQIP type programs should be put back under the direction of local FSA County Committees giving the local grass roots direction and management to the programs rather than bureaucratic control and decision making as now constituted under the direction of NRCS. Even local soil conservation districts fall under the direction of the NRCS thus keeping bureaucratic control rather than local control. NRCS was never staffed nor equipped to handle administrative duties, whereas the local FSA offices and committees were staffed and equipped to handle the administrative duties associated with conservation programs.

Question5: Current FSA programs have provided stability and security to rural producers in the form of various programs including Direct and County Cyclical payments, Non-Insured Assistance Program, Commodity loans and Loan Deficiency payments. All FSA programs should be continued. Loan rates should be increased slightly to account for increased production costs. FSA programs are the main stay of rural economies.

Question6: