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Question1: There is no way to keep those consequences from happening. However farm benefits through substitutes and conservation programs are being used to drive cash rents up since absentee landowners are able to collect those government payments or realize that a tenant got enrolled in government programs such as CSP. There is no way that I as a beginning farmer can jump in and pay the rent that is being asked or buy the land when developments are raising land prices so high that ag is no longer feasible.

One option is to zone lands as ag, commercial, or residential, then put a tax on the land that comes out of production ag into developments to try and curb the conversion of land. We have to get away from allowing absentee landowners to collect government payments and strive to keep the money in ag producers.

Question2: We have to promote our products world wide. We have the safest most consistent food supply in the world thanks to regulations from the government and producers who care about the world. The farm bill needs to use that to our advantage to sell more products at a premium. Why would anyone want wheat for \$3/bu when it is sprayed with harmful chemicals and produced in a former rain forest when we can sell them clean wheat for 3.25/bu. This could help get away from subsidies on those crops.

Question3: Get Out! The biggest farmers get the biggest checks because they farm more land. I don't have a problem with the distribution other than there are people who farm government programs and never care about increasing production because the government through LDP and insurance there is no incentive to improve. I don't know why the government pays people to plant a crop knowing good and well that planting soybeans the end of August will not work. My family has not ever accepted a government payment by our choice. We instead have focused on better crop selection and marketing to achieve a higher profit. If the government got entirely out of production ag (subsidy wise) the markets should take care of their selves. Wheat can only be low for so long before a demand comes. Producers would then be forced to learn better strategies in marketing and crop rotation.

Question4: This farm bill needs to address conservation without tying it directly to a conservation program. NRCS and extension have been forced to farm the programs themselves in that if a producer is not tied to one of their programs, you can't hardly get assistance. There is a huge amount of small tenant landowners who are interested in conservation, they don't need financial assistance, they just want someone to come out and teach them about solving their problems. The USDA staff is so tied up with programs they can't just come answer a few questions or host field days anymore. EQIP and CSP are great but by expanding education in conservation on the local level could be a way to promote conservation and not be out as much money through the financial support.

Question5: The next bill needs to promote rural areas for small businesses to set up in rural areas. So many companies have moved overseas and closed up shop in small towns, rural areas are shrivling up. When Wrangler moved to Mexico, there went 6 or more small towns that had them as a primary employer. Most of these areas have employable people in farm spouses or farmers looking for supplemental income.

The other item is to explore through research the options for value added products and energy exploration. By building a ethanol plant in an area, the price and demand for certain crops should be more.

Question6: The next bill needs to focus on marketing our product. We have a safe consistent food supply, the U.S. needs to use that to our advantage.

We also need to look at value added products and energy from ag commodities such as ethanol.

I think we need to also promote some education and developement of new technologies. This can be done in a variety of ways but we need to continue to have a good safe food supply.