

From: "dconine@dotnet.com%inter2" <dconine@dotnet.com>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 09/29/2005 12:41 PM CDT
Date Sent: 09/29/2005 12:41:05 CDT
Date Received: 09/29/2005 12:42:34 CDT

Email: dconine@dotnet.com

FirstName: Daniel

LastName: Conine

Address1: 2684 Cth D

Address2:

City: Belgium

State: Wisconsin

zipcode: 53004

Question1: Stop the madness of subsidies to any farm larger than 320 acres or with more than 300 animal units. Instead of giving away money, start taking it from farms that are sold to development. Any house built on agricultural land should perpetually pay the displaced farm gross income to the local community over and above local taxes on the value of the home placed there. Change regulations to exempt small producers from all food 'safety' regulations, especially for direct sales, such as farmers' markets or onfarm sales of anything grown or produced on the farm.

Question2: Farm policy should be designed so that food which is sold within 500 miles of its production point (processing not considered), and is not processed, is guaranteed parity pricing to the farmer. Exported agricultural products should be discouraged in favor of domestic markets so that petroleum use is minimized. Trade barriers by other countries are there for a reason: to protect their small, local farms. Ours should do the same. Imported foods should be taxed highly to discourage excessive fuel use. Program employees of the USDA should be working to teach preservation and storage of locally harvested foods, not working for farmers who want to compete for the bottom of the price barrel with fossil fuels and mega-sized farms that are dependent oil and are a concentrated security risk for disease and attack.

Question3: Farm incomes should be left alone as a general rule. Current programs only encourage monocropping and monoculture of animals. Farmers need to learn their land, their area, and they need to diversify among smaller landholders who can take better care of their properties, including knowing the changes coming, and what the local communities need to eat. Farmers and farming should not be treated like the welfare program that the processing and corporate chemical companies want it to stay.

Question4: See my answer to questions 1, 2, and 3. Local people, small farms, local food distribution, and less corporate influence will be better for the environment than any government action will ever achieve on any grand scale. Environmental problems start with the individuals who live on the land, and we need more people living in more places, not just a few large corporations operating farms via remote controls and statistical data. Nature doesn't work by statistics: neither should we.

Question5: Rural economics don't need to grow. Rural economic policy is something to be decided by the local community of landowners who are producing food. If we consider every 5 acre McMansion to be a viable voting block, then all rural economics will become just urban economics spread out over more wasted land. Rural areas don't need 'assistance'; they need to take responsibility for their ruralness and stop thinking that it is o.k. to build houses everywhere. Suburban sprawl isn't a cliché, it is wasteful living, and each person who wastes farmland needs to be held accountable to our grandchildren who will need rural food and land when the oil is too expensive for our cars.

Question6: YOU have spent the last 100 years replacing farm work and

intelligent innovation with oil-based products and fertilizers and giant machines and dying cattle. YOU have made it basically ILLEGAL for a farmer to produce a value-added product on the farm. Compare this to the SBA or other agencies which ENCOURAGE inventors to sell and produce their ideas. Food safety begins with the producer who consumes his own food, not the processing plant full of imported, culturally displaced labor. Housewives and chefs have been 'innovating' since humans cooked food. We don't need any government agency to 'develop' markets or 'food products' which inevitably include High Fructose Corn Syrup. The only people who can afford 'certified' organic foods are the lawyers who created the USDA organics program. What a cultish CROCK that is!! IF you want to truly help farmers, stop trying and stop taxing people's incomes. Most of all, MOVE OUT OF WASHINGTON D.C. to someplace with an actual FARM nearby!! I suggest Canada, because American farms are now just corporations, where the owner is now a CEO with thousands of bovine employees that get no benefits.