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Question1: Government payments are directly linked to land prices and cash rent. The payments are supposed to help the producer, but that is a joke as soon as the land owner figures out how much the payments are on their land they then raise the rent by an equal amount. And if you won't pay it there are large farmers waiting in line to farm your land. The main reason many people want to rent more land is a lack of limits on what you can draw in government payments. Farmers in my area are farming 10,000 acres, drawing over 1,000,000 dollars in payments, putting their neighbors out of business and using government money to do it. We need some payment limits and someone to enforce them. A farmer should limit out at about 1,000 acres if you ask me.

Question2: We first need an equal playing field. People in other countries don't have to maintain the kind of quality and safety as American farmers. They also don't honor US patents on chemicals and technology therefore American farmers pay for the research and development of new chemicals and seed while other countries reap the benefits. We need to keep an eye on our quality standards for products like cotton for example. We could put more of a premium into LDPs for better quality on our crops. This would keep farmers trying to produce a better quality crop for higher prices. Also labeling food products with country of origin labeling should help US farmers.

Question3: The distribution of assistance to producers equally can not be accomplished without limitations that keep farms small and give leverage to the farmers who are taking the risk of actual production. A new definition to the word producer in the USDA vocabulary should be found. What I mean is people are drawing payments who don't really farm the land. How can you be a producer if you don't own or rent equipment? How can you be a producer if you don't buy seed, chemicals, and fuel? If you do buy equipment, seed, fuel, and chemicals shouldn't you have to do so without a larger farmer or another family member's name on the crop loan or check? What I'm getting at is if your name or social security number is on a farm number or a U.C.C tied to that farm number it should be assumed program payments are benefiting you directly and count toward your limitations. Also if you have a large amount of money on your tax return why should you get government assistance? If a lot of your income is derived from off farm sources why should you receive government payments? Most of the payments should be directed at small and young farmers making most of their income from the land they work. The USDA would pay out less money to more farmers if there were really some kind of limits on what you can draw.

Question4: Providing incentives to farmers for no-till and reduced tillage systems is one of the best ways I can see to help the environment and conserve fuel. These incentives should have payment limits.

Question5: I'm not sure how rural economic growth is possible without putting more farmers in business. Lower limits means more farmers or more people being tied to crop production from the land. If land keeps being

taken out of production for development there isn't going to be a rural america in about 50 years. I think we need more funding for ag reaserch in our universites insted of high speed internet and phone lines out in the country. Reaserch from our universites keeps us one step ahead of new weeds and pest. It gives us some of the best seed varites to help with yeild and other factors.

Question6: Research could use more funding. I'm not sure how marketing could be improved by USDA because we live in a a supply and demand economy. Mabe set up a large website for people looking to buy and sell farm products.