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Question1: The govt should end all subsidies to farmers and allow the free markets to determine supply, demand, prices, and profit. Govt subsidies create dysfunction and will always result in unintended consequences.

Question2: Competitiveness can be strengthened only by providing consumers with products they want at a fair price. Govt subsidies create artificial prices, and encourage overproduction and inefficiency,. We must allow the free markets to operate-this is the only system that will create a supply/demand balance, allow for market prices to operate (ie, fair prices), optimize efficiency, and reduce waste.

US trade officials must also aggressively encourage other nations to operate the same way - allowing free markets to operate and eliminating govt subsidies. This is the only way to ensure fairness for farmers, consumers, and taxpayers. Nations that do not follow this model should be penalized through tariffs.

Question3: These programs are one of the most egregious and wasteful uses of taxpayer dollars. Farmers must take responsibility for their own livelihood, the way most other Americans do. They should purchase their own private insurance, put aside money for bad crop years, and produce only what they can sell.

Question4: If we get govt out of the agriculture industry and give the power and responsibility back to farmers, then conservation and environmental stewardship will naturally follow. If farmers were solely responsible for their livelihood, without any govt subsidies, then clean water and air, crop rotation, and other environmentally responsible business activities would naturally take hold. People are going to take care of what belongs to them and provides them with their livelihoods.

Question5: This is something the farming community should be investing in, not the taxpayers. Those who will be using the technology and infrastructure should be paying for it. If this means slightly higher prices for fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy, then so be it.

Question6: While many of these activities are beneficial, we must let the markets, not govt, decide which activities to encourage. For example, govt has never encouraged organic farming, but because consumer demand has skyrocketed over the last several years, this has become very profitable for many farmers, esp. small farmers. We must allow consumer demand and consumer choice guide what products to produce, how they will be produced, what technologies to use, etc.