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Question1: There is no way possible for a truly beginning farmer to get into farming. Only those that own land and agriculture assets already will continue to dominate the growth of agricultural land ownership into a smaller portion of the population. why not set up a true beginning farmer program, with some grant and low income funding, but very strict requirements on who can qualify for the assistance.

Question2: Research and improving technology will be the key to market competitiveness in the future. That is where we need to spend more, and do more though federal government programs.

Question3: Program incentives absolutely contribute to increased production and lower market prices. We need to move away from price supports and go to a total free market economy for crop production. Livestock producers have never relied on the government for price supports, and the production of livestock has not suffered. In disasters, let the government step in to help. otherwise, let the market control prices.

Question4: Farm production and prudent environmental practices conflict on many levels. Farmers have historically utilized tremendous volumes of chemicals for crop production, with little regard for runoff and the impacts of that runoff on the environment. This should be recognized. farmers can no longer afford to operate under the myth that they are "good stewards of the land" just because they earn a living farming. more needs to be done by the federal government to control chemical runoff, and reward sound environmental consciousness by agriculture producers.

Question5: There is a myth that has been fed for many years that many of the housing, and other programs funded through the USDA actually have something to do with agriculture. We need to get into the real world by redefining what are truly rural areas and focusing USDA infrastructure assistance to those areas. We also need better direction and policies that do not continue to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in rural towns that are dying. There is no golden goose in every rural town, just waiting to be discovered and turn the decline of the community around. That was a Clinton era falicy that somehow has carried over into this administration. We need fewer political appointees and more experienced career people directing rural area infrastructure development, so that common sense and good management, rather than politics, drives decisionmaking.

Question6: More funding is needed for small individual operations to take advantage of innovative methods of production, renewable energy production, etc. Value added product research should be further expanded, but once again, not with the erroneous concept that this is a magic cure for the decline of every small town in America.