

From: "rlcates@mhtc.net%inter2" <rlcates@mhtc.net>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 09/27/2005 07:59 AM CDT
Date Sent: 09/27/2005 07:59:38 CDT
Date Received: 09/27/2005 08:00:56 CDT

Email: rlcates@mhtc.net

FirstName: Kim

LastName: Cates

Address1: 5992 County Road T

Address2:

City: Srping Green

State: Wisconsin

zipcode: 53588

Question1: CSP - If farmers practice good conservation on their farms and get a decent payment for protecting the environment then I think this will help young farmers know they'll have a stable "income" to help obtain loans and may make some land, that might be too expensive to purchase with current farm prices, might make it cash flow with this extra cash.

2. low interest loans for yearly operating costs. We were paying 9% interest on borrowed money which translated to \$20,000/year going to the bank. If this could have been decreased then our farm business would have been more profitable instead of making the bank more profitable.

Question2: We need to promote farming practices that reduce use of energy and/or produce energy. Use CSP to help farmers whose farming practices do these things. Support innovate use of our crops/products for other product uses (energy production, etc).

Question3: Cap farm subsidies so no farmer receives more than \$100,000 in assistance and that all crops and livestock products are included. I think it is better to distribute funds to farmers through the CSP versus high subsidy payments. In the Upper Midwest we're seeing farmers tear up their soil conserving crops such as hay/pasture for corn/soybeans because of government payments. If farmers are going to get bigger to capitalize on these payments then they need to assume more risk - they need to innovate and diversify so their business is not dependent on one crop. Most successful businesses don't put their eggs in one basket. Farming is a business and government money that props up this business has made too many farmers dependent on this money. I believe under the current programs farmers are less innovative and their businesses are not as diversified.

Question4: CSP, CSP, CSP

More farm bill money should go into conservation programs that help working farms. Current programs are good but are skewed to many landowners that are not farming. These programs should continue but allocate additional funds to CSP.

Question5: Farm subsidies should be limited so we don't continue to promote farms getting larger. Larger farms tend to not buy as many of their products from local sources and decrease the number of people owning land (either as farmers or rural landowners). Our rural area has many few families living in the country - fewer people to support our local infrastructure (schools and businesses). Put more funding in RD to support value added ag businesses.

Question6: More value-added ag programs, TA and research that supports value-added, less energy intensive farming practices.