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Question1: I think the first thing that needs to be done is to eliminate the 1031 tax exchange program. This has had a huge impact on the increase of land prices in my area. Also, either cut or eliminate the LDP program. This program has had more of a short term impact on cash rent rates. Larger farmers use it, along with either larger equity or cash reserves, to "bid up" cash rents in my area.

Something to consider to help young farmers with limited capital and/or financial resources is to offer landlords a tax incentive to lease ground to these individuals.

Question2: Same thing that has been the problem for several years-reduce our trade deficit to level the playing field. We import far too many goods from overseas in comparison to them importing from the United States. This is by far our largest global trade issue.

Question3: This is a very complicated issue that will probably never get resolved. One solution could possibly be an across the board cap of benefits. Or as I said in question #1, cut the program altogether, and use the money designated for handout for better uses, such as creating tax incentives for using bio-fuels, R&D, etc.

Question4: Conservation is a very important issue, and needs to be considered in farm policy. CRP, WRP, and other environmental programs simply need more funding to continue either expansion, or to better manage their current acres. This funding could come from the cutting of the LDP program, or possibly offering lower per-acre reimbursement to the land owner for a longer period of time.

Question5: I think that this is an issue that is better handled at the local level. In order for rural economic development to be successful, we need more people moving to rural areas. This could be attractive with the use of tax abatements, TIF projects, etc. Wireless technologies are becoming more prevalent in rural areas, and within 5-10 years, will be commonplace.

Question6: This should be completely in the hands of the private sector. They have the cutting edge equipment and knowledge to expand into this area. Tax incentives are what the US govt. could do to help. I do think that the government does have an interest in what farmers produce, and should have a regulatory presence.