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Question1:

Question2:

Question3: Encouragement of family-run smaller farms should be a priority. They are just the tip of the iceberg as many small businesses are discouraged in competition with large corporation concerned with increased production, smaller profit margins and lower market prices.

Stabilizing/subsidizing farm programs that can not support themselves (crops/products in regions that do not belong) should be eliminated. Again, encourage/convert to sustainable crops/products. If you can't economically grow a crop or raise animals in a certain region, why should it be subsidized? I'd much rather spend that money to convert to sustainable crops/products that benefit both the local economy and producer.

Can someone explain how milk prices are based on the distance from WI? If it isn't economically feasible to produce milk in CA or FL, why would we encourage it? At what point are we encouraging large subsidies vs. sustainable production levels?

Question4: Tangible & sustainable conservation and environmental goals should be the focus of any new policy.

For too long, we've not connected the natural environment with our increasing problems. Instead of working with natural systems, we've created alternative systems with short term success. The natural environment is a blueprint for success if we can encourage sustainability.

Extensive research has revealed the cooling effects of trees in urban heat islands. Proper placement of trees can reduce the growing problems of excess heat and pollutants. Combine this with the need to better manage storm water through "rain gardens" and you have a new paradigm in the design of every expanding urban areas.

The increased global market has created new "invasive" problems. Current & future resources need protection from non-native insects/diseases/etc. If we create a new natural urban environment but fail to support/protect it, what have we gained?

Promotion of alternative biofuel resources can help buffer the affects of rising energy costs. If a farmer produces corn/sugar cane/etc., processes it locally for biodiesel and then uses a portion of that fuel to continue his/her operation we have created sustainability!

Question5:

Question6: Again, sustainability should be the focus of any expansion efforts. Maximizing additional benefits should be encouraged. Biodiesel

has to be a focus as we rapidly deplete petroleum resources. The US should be a leader, not a follower in this movement.