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Unintended consequences that break farmers will break young farmers. To farm takes a huge investment, the return on that investment is not as good as can be made in other areas of our economy. You cannot isolate new farmers or next generation farmer from the cruel economics of the market or the perceived attitude of government. The best way to encourage young farmers is to see that all farmers are treated fairly in the market place and that they receive a fair return for their efforts. If USDA would do this there would be no need for a lot of their programs. The U.S. farmer doesn't want a hand out. Just a fair market he can survive in!

Trends that are of concern are:

1. consolidation of the processors and consolidation of large retailers-Farmers bargaining power seems to diminish as the processors or retailers economic power increases- The middleman spread continues to widen at the cost of farm profits. Our country cannot have a strong food industry if the producer and the processor cannot both make a fair profit at the same time!

2. The government and the processors have U.S farmers competing in a world market. If we can not produce commodities at third world price they buy it from the third world countries and break our markets.

The problem is that a Brazilian or Chinese farmer can live very well on what it costs me for health care. I do not see any processor or USDA personnel saying they will work for the salary of their counterparts in Brazil or China. The U.S. Government undermines farm commodity prices by letting other countries dump commodities on our markets. Cost of living should be included in any and all duties formulas and free trade agreements.

Our country will not be strong if we out source our food production!

3. The recent increase in fuel prices. It takes a lot of fuel to produce food. The farm profit margin was very small before these increases. I do not believe I can pay \$2.40 for farm diesel, if I am only receiving \$2.60 a bushel for my wheat. I am looking for a way to burn milk in my car because I only received \$1.13 / gal. for high quality grade A milk in July.

4. Farm land in this country is being put into housing at an alarming rate. If some of the young farmers can survive will there be enough land for them to farm?

5. Processors and large ag conglomerates probably have more influence on what is written in the farm bill than you or I.

With the above obstacles, I don't believe many farmers have a chance of surviving. Young farmers have less of a chance.

Do not leave young farmers future to chance! Do not leave our food supply to chance!

Support farm prices at a fair and equitable level!

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