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Question1: Change the rules to stop penalizing family held corporate farms. Closely held family corporations are a good way for the next generation to enter farming, but with the current rules a father/son or farming as a corporate entity receive one payment limit. This effectively eliminates family corporations a from of generational succession for farmers.

Question2:

Question3: The current farm bill is a mid-west bill that has not benefitted the east and west coasts as much as the midwest.

Also, the payment limitations have virtually made mid-sized farms extinct. Look at the census of farm sizes and you will see that we are getting more small farms and the big farms are getting bigger. Farms are fractured into smaller units to capitalize on the farm bill structure, e.g. fathers and sons farm as separate operations rather than farming together. Additionally, the farms that are above the payment limits are forced to get bigger and bigger to gain more efficiency by size while they compete in the market place with the smaller farms that receive more money per acre farmed. Of course, politicians would rather hand-out money to more voters in order to buy their votes rather than make US agriculture as competitive as possible in the world markets we compete in.

Question4: WTO says we need to move away from price and production supports.

Farmers should be receiving benefits to fix environmental problems, because we are being required to improve our environmental practices anyway. The money will stay in the local economy and the cleaner environment is a benefit to all Americans, not just farmers.

Farmers own most of the environment that the other citizens love in the Mid-Atlantic states anyway.

Design a farm bill that quantifies the value of the environmental services that farmers have traditionally provided for free, e.g. wildlife habitat, wetland stabilization, carbon sequestration, scenic vistas, oxygen replacement, ground-water recharge, etc. No other business would do these things for free. Where any of these environmental benefits are lost they are very expensive to mediate. It will be cheaper to have all Americans chip in to preserve the environment before it is lost.

Question5: Farmers have been left behind in the economic boom years. Homebuyers have bid the value of land up for homesites and for country estates. The consequence is that the value of the land we farm is grossly over-valued as compared to the net income that can be generated by farming the land.

The answer is not to steal landowners equity. It is not OK to freeze farmland values. Every American should expect that the value of their assets can appreciate in value as the free market demands. The answer can only be to make farming as profitable as possible so that we can compete with the rest of the economy for the use of our land. Farming

should be the highest and best use and be able to bid effectively for the land use to remain in farming.

Question6: Where would the rural economy be if we, as a Nation, made the commitment to spend as much on renewable fuels as we have spent on the war in Iraq? National energy self-sufficiency could be a realistic goal, but only if there is commitment to it.

Every American should be taught that they have a vested interest in preserving their local environment and domestic food and fiber production.

Technology will continue to provide added value for early adopters, but there will always be a roll for government to facilitate the use of new technologies and to expand markets.