

From: "bkruse@swbell.net%inter2" <bkruse@swbell.net>
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Email: bkruse@swbell.net

FirstName: Bill

LastName: Kruse

Address1: 10425 S Millbrook Lane

Address2:

City: Olathe

State: Kansas

zipcode: 66061

Question1: Farm program payments need to be reduced to no more than one half of average U.S. household income for each household receiving such payments. A 5 year phase-in would need to be implemented to avoid a melt-down of land values. Crop insurance should be the primary assistance for producer's. One-half of the savings should then be used to encourage conversation with a lifetime benefit for each producer.

Question2: The idea that "exports" are the solution is overplayed by policy makers, farm organizations, etc. History tells us for leaders to stay in power, they must encourage "cheap food" at all costs or they will not be re-elected, or have a revolt on their hands depending on the country involved. Accordingly, we see government policy to encourage over-production. Since food has inelastic demand, the producer eventually bears below market rewards for his/her efforts. Accordingly, exports are not the solution. No country in the world has as a goal to be dependent on other countries for the food to met the needs of their population.

That being said, then the obvious solution is to expand demand at the domestic level. Since food demand is being more than adequately provided for, the developement of alternative uses needs to be encouraged. Ethanol and biodiesel production seems highly desirable, but government policy makers seem to have little interest in offending the traditional oil & gas lobby.

Question3: Large businesses, whether farming or other business have the advantage of economics of scale. This allows the business to purchase inputs at a lower cost (just look at the discounts given by seed, fertilizer, and chemical companies for volume purchases). The tax code allows the corporate farmer to entirely writeoff corporate provided housing as well as reduce self-employment tax. As stated earilier, farm benefits need to be (1) limited to a relatively low amount (say about \$20,000 to \$25,000 for a producer's household), (2) support and promote crop insurance to minimize the financial impact of droughts and diasters, (3) support conservation with financial incentives, but have a lifetime limit.

Question4: Fund research for more effiecient ways to use renewal energy sources.

Identify the most cost effective conservation practices, and provide financial incentivies to implement with a lifetime cap per producer.

Question5: Due to the railroads providing less service to rural areas, the transportation of commodities has put many farm areas at a disadvantage, further weakening financially the local farm communities. As a result trucking commodities is more prevalent today than 40 years ago. Farm programs need to encourage the local use and processing of agricultural production to add value in the communities in which the products are produced.

Question6: Fund basic or pure research at the land grant universities only in areas the private sector is not addressing.

