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Question1: PHASE OUT the subsidy programs entirely. I grew up on a family farm receiving subsidies; now I am an engineer paying taxes. I have seen both sides, and I do not think subsidies achieved the INTENDED consequences, to say nothing of the unintended ones!

Question2: I don't think that is your job! The government should just ensure a level playing field: Define the terms, and enforce honesty. With regard to trade, that means requiring the same standards of production for imports that are imposed on our own farmers, for instance.

Question3: What is fair about distributing assistance to producers???

Why should the schoolteacher in Albuquerque pay taxes to "assist" a dairy farmer in Wausau?? Let the free market set prices, and let the futures market stabilize them. Just phase out all the meddling!!

Question4: Environmentalism is an appropriate function of government, because air and water are common property. HOWEVER, it is easy for the 900 lb gorilla called government to break a lot of things while it's fixing another. The environmentalists just broke the whole city of New Orleans. (SOWL & Sierra blocked the levee upgrades.) Just back off for a while before you destroy something bigger.

Question5: If you must meddle, ag research is probably a benign way to do it. I think the university experiment stations and extension services have been beneficial. Also if you must meddle, make sure we never import all our food. Food production is a critical strategic technology.

Question6: I expect that anything you can do the market can do better. E.g. specialty crops, non-food uses, etc. Hey, here's one you can do. Run clinical trials on herbal medicines. The drug companies have no incentive to test things they cannot patent, so we never find out whether Grandma's home remedies are for real. Use all our tax money to to run full scientific tests on them.