

From: "titus@dialmaine.com%inter2" <titus@dialmaine.com>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 10/11/2005 07:55 AM CDT
Date Sent: 10/11/2005 07:55:26 CDT
Date Received: 10/11/2005 07:57:07 CDT

Email: titus@dialmaine.com
FirstName: Lauchlin
LastName: Titus, CPAg
Address1: 1063 Main Street
Address2:
City: Vassalboro
State: Maine
zipcode: 04989

Question1: Third party technical service providers provide technical advice and skills and introduce new products and new concepts to producers to enhance their ability to be productive and competitive. TSPs also have a wide range of contacts with other farmers as well as industry, education, and government personnel. These contacts can be very useful to new farmers and the next generation of farmers as they enter production agriculture.

Question2:

Question3: Crop insurance seems to be a viable way to provide a "safety net" for producers and a possible way to eliminate disaster payments.

The Senior Farm Share is an excellent program in that it provides a stable market for vegetable and fruit producers at retail prices while at the same time providing excellent nutrition for needy senior citizens. The program has been very successful for both farmers and seniors in Maine. My suggestion is to allocate funding by state, provide an administration allowance and let each state design and administer a Senior Farm Share program that is appropriate for the region.

Question4: Continue and expand the use of Technical Service Providers to assist NRCS with the mission of getting conservation and environmental programs out to farmers.

Question5: Automatic steering provides many benefits for farmers. These include reduced fatigue, time flexibility, operator awareness, employee retention, and increased net profits. Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) systems provide sub-inch accuracy that is year to year repeatable. The system requires a base station that transmits corrections via radio to mobile receivers. The base station must be in "line-of sight". USDA involvement in developing a tower network to provide this technology to areas that wish to utilize it would be very beneficial to many farmers.

Assisting livestock operations with the development of methane burning systems could be beneficial to issues of Clean Air Act as well as increasing national energy needs and costs.

Question6: There should be some emphasis on the development/expansion of bio-diesel and ethanol production from agricultural products and by products.

Continuing research on alternative fumigant products to replace methyl bromide is also important. Use of methyl bromide in Maine has largely been for control of weeds in the planting year of strawberries.

Research in major usage areas has been centered around disease concerns.