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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 10/08/2005 11:51 AM CDT
Date Sent: 10/08/2005 11:51:35 CDT
Date Received: 10/08/2005 11:53:04 CDT

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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: The 2007 Farm Bill should contain a program called the Crop Land Reserve Program (CLRP). This program would provide assistance to convert our least productive and lowest quality cropland to grass/pasture land. The 1997 National Resources Inventory data shows that 16% of the nations cropland or 60 million acres are Class IV and above. The class III and IV sandy soils are not economical to farm because of low yields but are kept in production by current government programs. The Cropland Reserve Program would help give our farmers an alternative rotation that could be used for livestock and hay. The grassland/pastureland could still be used for the production of crops on a 5 to 6 year rotation. The CLRP would help with the environmental goals and also with our economic goals. Our least productive soils need to be in a grass rotation and the CLRP would help to accomplish this.

Question5: To provide effective assistance in rural America and enhance economic opportunities, more Government attention should be focused on our rural youth. The Rural Youth Loan Program should be the vehicle used by USDA to provide the integrated program delivery to help give our rural youth the needed production and marketing experience required to participate in the FSA beginning farmer loan program. A USDA priority should be helping our rural youth learn how to use the local land and water resource base, along with their labor, management and capital, to produce food and fiber in a profitable manner which would contribute to the short term and long term enhancement of rural economic growth.

Question6: