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Question1: This is a difficult problem to say the least. The current program for beginning farmers through Farm Service Agency is minimally effective and producing very limited successful results regardless of figures that might be represented. I would recommend some type of mentoring program in cooperation with successful local farmers to encourage younger farmers to take the step, with the backing and encouragement of these mentors. Some type of tax break as well as supplemental income available to new beginning farmer. I currently work for the Farm Service Agency as a Loan Specialist in Texas. My son would like to get started in farming in Oklahoma and works with a large farmer but there is no incentive for the farmer to assist him, although he has talked about it, and help him begin other than paying wages. Loans and sustaining considerable debt with no margin for error is a very high risk method of starting young people. I see more young people getting in trouble with 100% loans than are being assisted. I really think they would be better assisted in beginning by providing existing successful farmers the tax benefits and even some grants to pay the beginning farmer working for them enough wages and allowing them to use their machinery to build equity as part of a plan. ie. allow an additional \$12000 tax break if a beginning farmer works for them and they pay them (the beginning farmer) an extra \$10000 over normal wages, with the condition that \$8000 of the addition comes as a bonus at the end of the year to be put in a special account like an IRA which can be drawn to make a downpayment on land or major machinery purchase. The 100% lending practice with no margin is bad for the beginning farmer in most instances and increasing chances for failure and reducing chances for success. The mentor program would allow training by successful farmers in practices that have proven to be profitable and provide for positive supervision. FSA no longer has adequate manpower to even begin to provide any supervisory oversight to beginning farmers in most places.

Question2:

Question3: One payment limitation per individual period. If involved in entity choice to receive benefits via the entity or as individual one or the other only. Multiple entity involvement is making a mockery out of payment limitations.

Question4:

Question5: Continue with the programs that improve the infrastructure of rural areas to encourage relocation to those areas. Assist relocation of people from blighted city poverty areas of no hope, such as New Orleans and other major cities, to rural areas where the income of the communities can be propped up and sustained as well as improve the living conditions of those transplanted. Relocate the large servicing centers such as National Finance located in New Orleans, St. Louis and Kansas City to more rural located areas to move those incomes closer to areas of the people served. There is no reason National Finance with its 1400+ jobs need to be in a large metro. It could be in some of the smaller cities such as Enid Oklahoma (town of 50,000) in a rural area or

Billings Montana (133,000 people) or Roswell New Mexico (30,000), people all with adequate transportation available. Could even go with smaller towns than these to assist in supporting more rural communities with income. Another thing that needs to be considered is truly analyzing cost and benefits of the various programs. Such as the effect of the CRP program which has been a positive on the conservation aspects but very detrimental to many communities in the removal of the need for fuel, seed, fertilizer, equipment and parts and subsequently resulted in declines in many communities. Design of the programs should emphasize that the programs are not to benefit lawyers and doctors for investment purposes but farmers, the rural communities, and true conservation. Also as farms get larger the infrastructure of rural america will continue to deteriorate. Large tractors, equipment, and large tract farming eliminate numbers of people, equipment and the corresponding needs to support them reducing population even further.

Question6: