

From: "pdplatz@means.net%inter2" <pdplatz@means.net>
Subject: A NEW Farm Bill !!!
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Dear Mike Johanns,

I have an idea for a new farm bill that would truly be a new idea. I think my idea would bring young people back to production agriculture and save the taxpayer billions of dollars.

I propose paying each (qualified) adult in a farming operation \$10,000.00, and each (qualified) child in a farming operation \$5,000.00. It's that simple. No other payments or supports of any kind. Period. My wife and I and our 4 children would get \$40,000.00 a year. A bachelor farmer gets \$10,000.00. A husband & wife get \$20,000.00. A husband & wife & 2 kids get \$30,000.00 etc.,etc. No crop loans, no disaster payments, no crop insurance subsidies, no LDP, no target price. This would be a 10 year farm bill. Guaranteed. No possibility of changes, no possibility of reduced payment. It has to be this way because young farmers will be making life changing decisions based on this program. If someone wants to have conservation payments that's fine. Some other genius can come up with that. But the two programs are completely separate from each other.

Think about what this would do for the young farmer. The ultra large farmer will get the same as a young farmer. No discrimination either way. Yes, the existing large farmer will see their government payments drastically reduced. That existing large farmer still has an advantage over the young farmer because he has a very large net worth. If he wants to pay rental amounts that are high he can still do so. But the young farmer has an advantage because he gets the same amount of subsidy before he even turns a wheel.

What is a "qualified" farmer? He must live on or near the land he farms. He is 18 years old. He can be enrolled in an agricultural college. He can still work either full or part time off the farm if he so chooses. He must farm a minimum amount of land (160-320 acres?). ("He" is male or female.)

I am 44 years old, and am tired of people giving lip service to the young farmer. There was concern about getting young farmers started way back when I started farming in 1982. Nothing has changed. 23 years later the big farms get bigger and our rural towns continue to die one farm auction and retirement at a time. Now it's time to think about bringing some of my kids into the farming business. My farm bill will bring the young people back to the country by the thousands.

Is my idea simple? ABSOLUTELY! I try to look at things from a young farmers point of view. My farm bill finally creates a level playing field for the young farmer. The payment amounts really are welfare for farmers, but it is at least fair and equal welfare. Will chaos erupt in farm country? Probably. Chaos is going to happen anyway at some point. We cannot continue on our current path. Something must be done. NOW is the time. NOW. I hope my son doesn't have to write a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture 25 years from now wishing something had been done in 2005.

Please feel free to contact me.

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