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Question1: From what I know of farming if you don't own or rent or contract to farm a lot of acerage you can not make a living from farming. This precluded new farmers from coming into the business unless they inherit the land or money to purchase the land. Some new farmers will comeinto the buisness by way of "inheriting" the land that their parents have rented, or farmed on. My parents own enough land to make a living from along with their retirement but when the divide it between the 3 siblings I am not sure there will be enough land to have the scale of operation it takes to make a living from farming by itself. My husband and I will have that as an extra cushion but not as the main source of income.

How can the federal govenment mitigae this? I don't know because property taxes are set by the state and most of the rest is expenses to operate the farm and those expenses are paid to the seed, fertiliser and machinery companies and the fuel and maintenance for the machinery. All these companies need to make a profit as well. And I don't think you should tell a farmer who chooses to sell the land that they must take a lower than market price because it is farm land. The developers would just but the land and farm it for the required minumum years before developing it.

This is a real concern for the continuation of family farming!

Question2:

Question3: I think some of these programs should be tied to the net profit amount of the farmer from the farm resource. If a farmer nets over a certain amount from the agricultural products then they would be elgible for a less amount / unit from the federal subsidy. If the net income is above another amount the farm may not be elgible for some federal subsidies at all.

Question4: Conseravtion and environmental goals should always be tied directly to elgibility for the funds. If there are environmental concerns associated with the land such as soil errosion, stream bank destruction, animal waste pollution of water ways... then the producer should be enrolled in cost share programs that address these problems (if the producer falls into the net income range where they are elgible for federal assistance) or not be elgible for other federal assistance. If the producers falls into the net income range that would preclude him from receiving federal subsidies than he would not be elgible for cost share programs that assist in taking care of environmental problems as well but would be fined if the environmental problem continues, without be addressed.

Question5:

Question6: This ia an area where federal and state assistance is greatly needed. Government needs to take the lead on developing new markets and for new products from the agricultural producers. The producers generally don't have the time or the marketing experience to deal with this. Help is needed