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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 10/20/2005 08:01 PM CDT
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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: 1) Expand the tried and true practice of crop rotation to the forest industry operating on federal lands. The industry certainly does this on their privately owned lands.

2) Allocate millions of board feet of timber to be cut annually based upon computer models that calculate, utilizing watershed precipitation amounts, physical growth measurements, growing season duration and mean temperatures, last harvested data, other applicable inputs over a 20 year, or longer, period. Recreational value and other specific watershed considerations would need to be considered, given a weighted value, as well.

3) Consider agriculture subsidies to encourage specific tangible activities designed to produce cleaner water and air, (example: reimbursement for moving feedlots or barnyards to less imposing locations; protecting riparian zones from livestock) increase wildlife production, etc. The CRP Program accomplished some advancement along these lines as a secondary effect.

Question5: 1) Bingo! America has a long history of farm programs.

America needs, in the worst way, a Rural Communities Program.

2) The Midwest Regional RCAP, Midwest Assistance Program, conducted a survey of rural communities in their nine state region. The respondents solidly verified that a huge gap exists between infrastructure need and available financing to meet that need in rural America. More specifically:

a) By and large, families of agriculture grow up in small rural communities. They go to school there, they would like to do most of their shopping there, go to church there, eat an occasional meal out there, attend a movie there, have their children settle there, and someday, if not currently, live there.

b) Small communities in America are increasingly besieged by serious infrastructure problems - water, wastewater, streets, and housing. Construction costs of infrastructure projects far outstrip the typical rural communities ability to pay the debt service on a large loan, low interest or not.

c) Inverse economies of scale make it impossible for rural communities to accept large loans. Small communities need small, affordable, loans. There has to be significant financial assistance in the form of grants to rural communities to bring infrastructure project costs down to affordable levels.

d) The need for financial assistance to rural communities, in the form of grant monies, far exceeds the monies being made available through financial assistance programs today. Those monies continue to shrink, exasperating the problem.

3) America has lived off the fruit of the land for centuries. To a significant extent, the same can be said for the world today. The

riches continue to be extracted. It is far past the time that the communities of America's heartland, and their citizens, be afforded the same standards of living enjoyed in the more populated centers of our land.

Question6: