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Question1: The unintended consequences also come in the form of depopulation of farm areas due to the inability of young people to get a foothold. If we want the farm policy to work in the future, we must address not only the economic issues, but also the social and esthetic issues which confront the populace not involved in agriculture.....these issues range from psychological to environmental to physical. The ongoing subsidies and lack of local control of farmers who allow their land to become overgrown with large tumbleweeds which cannot be considered noxious are a double slap in the face of small business owners and others who choose to live in rural Colorado. To subsidize farmers without requirements for controlling their obnoxious unnoxious weeds is like taxation without representation. The farm policy of the past has enabled some farmers to gain much in revenue and properties while the counties have lost population, suffered injury and psychological harm, not to mention the devastating effects of tumbleweeds piling up in fence rows, creating a safe haven for rodents which are on the increase and causing auto accidents and road closures. In the introduction to this web site it is expressed that the concerns of the community are important to the development and implementation of the 2007 Farm Bill. I suggest to you that unless there is a dramatic change in perception and implementation, there may not be any communities left to be concerned about. As a resident, a veteran, a college graduate, a parent, a small business owner and a Cheyenne County Commissioner, I am deeply concerned about the devastation and erosion caused by farmers who take their subsidy checks, but fail to consider the needs of the populace who live in the small communities of Cheyenne County. I have been asking questions for ten years and for five of them as a commissioner. I have written to representatives, the governor and have contacted the local soil conservation offices.....there appears to be nothing that can be done to give the local body politic any say in the farm methods of different farmers. If this is true then I hope the 2007 Farm Bill will implement changes which will not only help young farmers, but older citizens receive some relief from this annual devastation which poor farm practices allow. After all, just because we live in a farm community doesn't mean we have to live like third world citizens. Revenue to help fight this plight could be generated by an excise tax on each loaf of bread using wheat grown in this multi-county, multi-state area known as the wheat belt.

Question2: Have we forgotten supply and demand economics?

Question3: I think you answered this question by alluding to program incentives, especially on marginal ground which never should have been broken out.

Question4: I believe that as long as there is a farm policy with such attractive incentives that we will continue to ignore conservation and environmental issues. Remember, farmers are interested in making money and being good stewards of the land is the exception, not the rule. There is no way that the farm practices of growing four feet high

tumbleweeds and allowing them to desecrate our beloved environment every spring can be considered conservational.

Question5: If all small business owners were subsidized like farmers, then many communities would thrive and schools would flourish.

Question6: Tell the truth.