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Question1: In South Texas land prices have not been affected by farm program policies but by rural development. New farmers like my two sons need the price supports to be competitive in a global market.

Question2: We do not ever want to see another grain embargo as we had during the late 1970's. In our area we would sell our products to Mexico at a cheap price due to the embargo and they would ship it out to other countries for a much higher price.

Question3: The growth in farm size is not due to the current farm program but to the need to increase acres and operate at lower cost due to the inability of farmers to pass on increasing costs of production to consumers. Farmers watch world production and carry over levels when deciding the crop plantings not because of program incentives. We are like any other business that looks for the best product to give the largest monetary returns in the world market. Larger farms will have higher amounts of program distributions if market prices remain low all year but on an acre to acre comparison the income is the same between large and small farms.

Question4: The trend for the last ten years has seen more farms adopting conservation tillage methods. This reduces cost per acre and is significant in reducing erosion and improving air and water quality.

Question5: The public does not understand farming today since so few are involved. We now face losing productive acres because of a small group of rural developments who can make working land impossible.

Question6: The American farmer has been improving their products for the last two decades. These quality requirements have been here for several decades now and we adapt our production methods to meet them but it does require increased cost of production. Bioproducts are interesting but can only be applied when farms are close to a processing facility.