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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: While much of the Farm Bill concentrates on the rural agriculture practices, and rightfully so, a concerted effort must be made in the urban environment as well. Conversion of agriculture land to urban use is leading to increased pollution, heat islands, and increased urban sprawl. The new Farm Bill should provide for improved planning and for ways to improve these modified environments.

The promotion of quality Urban Forestry practices is one step in this process which can make a significant impact. Past studies have shown that \$2 of benefits are realized for every \$1 that is invested in Urban Forestry Practices. Urban trees serve as filters that remove many of the dust and pollutants present in the urban environment.

I see Urban Forestry as a tool that can be utilized to improve the quality of life in our Communities and can make a significant difference as we strive to reach our environmental goals.

In my opinion, Urban forestry practices can make an impact similar to the impact that improved tillage practices have had in our agricultural fields.

Question5: Rural Forestry practices should continue to be addressed in the Midwest. Over 90% of the woodland in Illinois is privately owned. These landowners need to have access to a qualified personnel who can help them better manage the resources. Too often Logging companies are dictating the management practices, which are not necessarily in the best interest of the landowner or the environment. I would like to see a more active management policy available to the small, rural landowner. Rural Communities are also in need of forestry assistance, in particular, the identification of the Community Assets (trees) and the assessment of Hazardous trees. Again, access to qualified personnel would be of great assistance.

Question6: Expansion of forest product research would be helpful. Of the few family owned farms that are left, many could benefit from development of alternative resource development. Such as nut or fruit production. Identify niche items that could be used to develop alternative sources of income.