

**From:** "kneff@citlink.net%inter2" <kneff@citlink.net>  
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Email: kneff@citlink.net

FirstName: John E.

LastName: Neff

Address1: HC 60 Box 585

Address2:

City: Ruby Valley,

State: Nevada

zipcode:

Question1: Demand for agricultural land by hobby farmers and urban expansions are a fact of life.

I see no easy solution if we as Americans have the right to do with our property as we see fit.

Question2: We should negotiate not only for free trade but for FAIR trade. Tariffs and subsidies reduced in our country should reflect corresponding reduction of barriers against our products.

Question3: I have long been an advocate of the freedom to farm. I am in favor of doing away with all assistance to producers. The farm programs of the past have completely failed in preserving and protecting the small farmer. When I was president of the Elko County Farm Bureau a number of years ago we introduced resolutions to eliminate farm subsidies. Obviously that created quite an uproar. However that resolution only failed by about three votes at our Nevada State Farm Bureau Convention. In more recent years the Nevada Farm Bureau members have gone for more subsidies instead of less. In Elko County we have had programs to buy hay for people that don't put up enough to winter over in the recent dry years. There have been terrible abuses of this program and it seems that many of the poorest managers are the ones that are rewarded with the most government money. I also operate a grain mill in Elko County and have seen terrible abuses of the nonfat dry milk program administered by the Commodity Credit Corporation. Ranchers were supposed to trade their milk vouchers for livestock feed. Instead, many of them sold their vouchers and pocketed the cash because they really didn't need the feed. It was just a handout few could resist. Other ranchers traded their milk vouchers for hydraulic squeeze chutes and vaccine or anything else they could use- also because they didn't need the feed. If you are going to eliminate the abuse of the assistance programs you're going to have to eliminate the programs and make ranchers go it on their own. In Elko County the farm assistance programs have benefitted the GREEDY, not the needy..

Question4: I think most of the people that ranch in Elko County are good stewards of the land. It's extremely difficult to pay people to do what they should already be doing. In my experience I would never fund an improvement more than 50%. If it's a good practice the individual farmer or rancher should always be willing to contribute at least half.

Question5: Having seen firsthand the terrible infrastructure of roads in southern Brazil I would encourage continued emphasis on maintaining good roads and railroads to move our products to market. A lot of this should be the responsibility of the individual states.

Question6: I believe money spent in developing new markets for our farm products would be much better spent than money spent on subsidies. This should be a joint effort between USDA and the national associations that have been organized to promote beef, corn, soybeans, cotton, sugar, etc.