

From: "bfitz_1951@yahoo.com%inter2" <bfitz_1951@yahoo.com>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 11/09/2005 08:48 AM CST
Date Sent: 11/09/2005 08:48:21 CST
Date Received: 11/09/2005 08:50:26 CST

Email: bfitz_1951@yahoo.com

FirstName: Barbara

LastName: Fitzpatrick

Address1: 2500 W. Valley Dr.

Address2:

City: Fayetteville

State: Arkansas

zipcode: 72703

Question1: Change the accounting/tax structure that permits farm land to be appraised, evaluated, or taxed at urban or developer rates. Working farms and conservation program land should have their own rates.

Question2: Global markets should not be our primary objective. Our farm policy should be designed to insure self-sufficiency in small/family farm-raised, sustainably grown food and non-fossil fuel energy. Our global market should be biofuels and products otherwise not available locally (specialty crops).

Question3: Farm policy should provide a floor below which subsidies will make up the difference between costs, including owner labor, and sales.

Question4: Fully fund all wildlife conservation programs. Especially make sure all marginal lands and all riparian lands are included in the program.

Question5: It should be a 2-pronged approach. Improve the "infrastructure" of schools (with strong FFA programs), clinics, etc. Improve the "technology of self-sufficiency and sustainability".

Fluctuating fuel prices can drive a farmer out of business - unless the farm produces the fuel, be it wind-generated electricity, biodiesel or other biomass fuels for the equipment, biogas (chicken houses and dairy barns are a great source of biogas) for heating or other natural gas applications.

Question6: Move the money into food sustainability (organic and natural) and fuel self-sufficiency (renewable energy and biofuel products) programs for the farms themselves and America in general. Basic and applied research in these areas should be expanded. Any research dependent on petroleum should be curtailed. We should not swamp foreign countries with subsidized products that destroys the local market - that's a very bad foreign policy - but should market products the local economy doesn't produce.