

# USDA 2007 FARM BILL FORUM in NEBRASKA

Sept. 15, 2005

Please respond to the following six questions. Space permits (below or reverse side) to respond, or add your own comments about other 2007 farm bill suggestions.

- 1) How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers/ranchers and the next generation of farmers/ranchers from entering production agriculture?

Young people will easily work in agriculture if the economics are positive. This country has not been hungry, so ag. is overlooked in the positive trade deficit situation. If it were profitable, they would farm.

- 2) How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

eliminate all trade barriers - we need a level playing field - I am frustrated that American farmers pay the world's tech fees (Monsanto)!

- 3) How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

I wonder if we can avoid WTO assistance payments by helping American farmers on the input side of agriculture - my <sup>2005</sup> operating costs were \$65,000 above my cash flow projection due mostly to high fuel + fertilizer costs.

- 4) How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Recognize that farmers ARE conservationists and care about the environment - we need credit for all the water, soil + air conservation practices we are doing (no-till, low pressure pivot irrigation, GMo seeds that reduce chemical use).

- 5) How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Increase the # of FSA employees and empower them to get to know our operations and offer assistance where possible. Local control, local implementation

- 6) How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

Aggressively prove to the world the safety of GMo grains + livestock. Wean the U.S. from foreign oil - strongly support (demand?) renewable fuels

The public is welcome to submit their comments via the USDA Farm Bill Forums website at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or by mailing comments to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-3355. Comments should be submitted by Dec. 30, 2005

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