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Question1: Established farmers with land bases have a huge advantage over the guy starting out. The fallout from the credit collapse in the 80's have left most if not all of the under 40 crowd out of the game. One way to help startups would be to gear up incentives specifically towards those with less than 100K in gross receipts.

Question2: Most of our local farmers have not bought in to the free trade idea. A farm crisis is rapidly emerging in our area. We will never be able to compete based on price under a program that promotes a cheap food policy.

Question3: Hard times are hitting everyone and many can no longer make a living on the acres that they could a generation ago. Good stewardship will be traded for welfare as cost and risk continue to rise.

Question4: Promoting good stewardship will take lots of dollars. The CRP program was the most successful program of this type in the past. CRP needs to be revived and brought back to life in the new farm bill. Perhaps CSP will also work if fully funded.

Question5: The social and economic trends over the past 25 years are not likely to change in our area. Many folks have sought outside income to subsidize their farms.

Question6: Cool would have allowed to compete at home. Unfortunately ag business and politics drove the policy at the expense of production agriculture where the risk are high, capital is high and margins are slim.