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Question1: Acreage payments such as amta have a terrible effect on beginning farmers. Young farmers rent land that may have been idle or less productive farms because that is all that is available. Having no base or not being able to add base or update yields puts them at a great disadvantage to older established operators. It also increases land rents which encourages retired operators and non farmers to hold onto the land. This decreases the amount of times a parcel is up for sale and makes consolidating adjacent parcels to gain efficiency difficult for every farmer.

Question2: We need to have open trade on all commodities such as grain. However we need to limit imports on products that have different quality or health standard such as meat. Also products that do not have equal taste such as milk protein concentrates. Entry of these inferior products will devalue the entire product in the eye of the consumer and decrease demand.

Question3: Even as a young farmer I don't beleive benefits should be limited by size. Green payments should be available to everyone. Not just specific watersheds. This type of distribution encourages production and expansion in environmentally sensitive areas and give those producers and unfair advantage over producers not in those watersheds. Benefits should not be based on history but on year to year performance if you continue direct subsidies.

Question4: I think practices such as strip till and contour ship should be rewarded with payment benefits. Practices like planting hedgerows or filter strips greater than 20ft only add to the number of acres required for cropping and serve little benefit. Financing for conservation machinery and fencing for rotational grazing should available direnctly from FSA.

Question5: Rural communities need huge reinvestment. We have capitalized on all the investment of the 70's and it is time to reinvest. We need more cost share for tiling and removal of hedges and other efficiency gains. A lot of farmland is now owned by non-farmers who refuse to improve or even maintain farmland. We also need more infrastruaction. We need to stop giving low interest loan to farmers for storage and give grants to start cooperatives that provide storage and drying. Let farmers invest in land and livestock and develop rural businesses that own the infrastructure. Invest in the Mississippi a little but don't forget the great lakes we could do joint ventures with canada and get commondies out of north america not just our backyard.

Question6: Go back to the 1992 yearbook of agriculture and put those ideas to use. Give aid to rural communities to develop cooperatives using new products. Biodeisel and ethanol are the big ones. But don't forget plastics from corn, paints from milk and other sources. These include other things like treatments make cotton more desirerabel in comparison to plastic based clothing. Forget about farm subsidies. Invest in the ifrasture and increase demand so that farmers can produce and have a good market and infrastructure.

