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Question1: In our part of the country land prices are driven by development pressure rather than farm programs, therefore any actions taken by the fram program should be based on reducing interest rates on loans to beginning farmers

Question2: I feel that any actions taken to maximize competitiveness in global markets benefits only the exporters; ADM, Tyson, etc. In no way does this action directly benefit the producer. Farm policy should be formulated to benefit the producer first, the large integraters will find a way to participate profitably. Producers are just surviving - the expoters are awash in money. Policy must be formulated to put more of the dollars in the producers pocket.

Question3: A "means test" should be established to direct the benefits to the producers who need them to survive.

Question4: The present CSP program is a very good start. It should be expanded to cover the entire US and the payments should be maximized. These payments go directly to the producers - the people who really need them and deserve them.

Question5: By making larger payments directly to producers rather than the large integrated manufacturing / export companies, the money is guranteed to come back to, and be spent in, the rural communities. Grants and low interest loans to rural institutions, local governments, etc. will provide local, rural investment.

The "Value Added Agricultural Product Grant" program should be continued and funding should be increased. Grants should be made on a state basis rather than all grants being submitted on a national competition basis.

Also, the program should provide grants that can be used for real estate and fixed machinery. These changes would greatly encourage activity in the rural areas and provide much needed investment and jobs.

Question6: Farm policy should encourage this activity, along with establishing sales activity.

Any action taken to make farm policy more flexible to enable greater support for expanded sales, marketing or research activities should be carefully devised so that the support reaches the producers rather than the established powerhouses. Support should be made available to farmer/producer cooperatives and farmer/producer owned businesses - not the large, established ADM's of the world. It is important to get the support to the producer level.