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Question1: Tax incentives and low-interest loans for new, small farmers as well as rewards for environmentally-friendly practices.

Question2: The US has fallen far behind many other countries in setting minimum standards for the welfare of animals on farms in spite of the fact that American and foreign consumers care about how farm animals are treated. The USDA should propose eliminating the most egregious factory farming practices, such as crates for pregnant sows and veal calves and battery cages for laying hens. Allowing more natural living circumstances will produce a more healthful product, one which will be an obvious choice for consumers. It is also the right and moral thing to do.

Question3: Current subsidies benefit large producers that subject animals to intensive confinement, mutilations and aversive handling techniques.

The USDA should stop providing financial assistance to producers that participate in practices shown by scientific research to be inhumane.

Question4: Eliminating factory farming practices will benefit both animal welfare and the environment. USDA should propose setting minimum space allowances that provide animals with the freedom to perform natural behaviors and also protect the environment by reducing pollution and waste disposal problems.

Question5: Instead of giving large subsidies to the giant factory farms, with their inevitable inhumane and unhealthful practices, reward the small farmers who can produce for local markets in a more cost-effective, healthful and humane way.

Question6: Product quality will increase when local farmers produce for local markets. This will also save money on transportation of farm products and enhance the environment by reducing the need for pollution-spewing vehicles. Your policies should include financial rewards to small farmers.