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Question1: Farm subsidies to agricultural conglomerates should be ended immediately and entirely. Subsidies should apply only to the family farmer. After that, farming should be subject to the same laws of supply and demand as any other industry.

Question2: American and foreign consumers care about how farm animals are treated. But the US has fallen far behind many other countries in setting minimum standards for the welfare of animals on farms, in transport and at slaughter. 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.

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: They simply cannot. The federal government should not attempt to influence farming technologies or rural infrastructure. Government intervention in these areas will only compound the problems.

Question6: Organic and specialty crops are growing and promising markets. Renewal energy is critical and farming can play an important role. This is the one area where government intervention can make a meaningful and positive contribution.