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Question1: Corporate farms are subsidized by the government which allows them to continue to be profitable. If this government can afford to support corporate farms it also must make provisions to subsidize smaller farmers especially those who are trying to establish organic farms and free range egg farms. If land prices are so high then provisions should be made to give these smaller farmers aid in buying land. If the government would support these ventures it would at least bring us up to date with smaller countries who are way ahead of us in this area. Organic farmers should be rewarded for their ventures. This would also help to lessen the cost of their products on the market.

Question2: As the public becomes more aware of the detrimental long term effects of factory and corporate farming, including disease on epidemic scales, the demand for products that are created under hygienic and humane conditions will increase. 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. Those farmers who put into practice ethical and humane treatment of animals should be rewarded and subsidized by this government.

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 and increase assistance to those who have shown that they are dedicated to humane treatment of animals, especially if mass slaughter is in their business.

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: If America is to get itself out of the deficit mess it is in, the government must focus on rural communities where farming is a big part of the economy. By continuing to subsidize large factory and corporate farms and neglect smaller farms the government is decreasing competition and the availability of choice to the discerning consumer.

STOP ASSISTING CORPORATE FARMS AT THE CURRENT RATE. START ASSISTING THE SMALLER FARMER!

Question6: For a starter, why is there still such a problem with the production of hemp in this country. It is a crop that produces wonderful products, including fabrics, soaps, cosmetics and insulation materials. It does not need the pesticides required for the growth of cotton. Organic products, soy products used for food and candles should all be

on the list of agricultural product development.