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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 11/28/2005 02:37 PM CST
Date Sent: 11/28/2005 02:37:47 CST
Date Received: 11/28/2005 02:40:22 CST

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Question1:

Question2:

Question3: 1. Payments should be capped at a lower, more reasonable rate--enough for a meaningful subsidy of a family farm, but not so high that large farms can continue to outbid small farms for land because of their larger program payments.

2. Allowing haying on CRP land hurts me. My neighbors can sell hay off their CRP land at prices below their actual cost of production because their CRP payment subsidizes the difference. My hay production is not subsidized, so I cannot do this. In our area, allowing haying once every three years is too often. Allowing it every 5 years would be more reasonable for maintaining health of the grass stand. But, sale of products from CRP land (hay or grazed livestock) should be prohibited in the calendar year that the haying or grazing occurred. That would reduce unfair competition, but it would not prohibit, for example, a rancher from CRP grazing dry, pregnant cows in the fall or feeding CRP hay to his own cattle in the winter.

Question4: I agree that future farm policy should be anchored in the following:

1. Vibrant rural communities.
2. Clean environment.
3. Sustainable agricultural enterprises.

Certainly, rewarding farmers for good land stewardship is more palatable to the public and is more in keeping with international trade agreements than rewarding them for over-producing commodities that depress markets. Why not structure farm policy to lead toward innovation in, and accomplishment of the three anchors I mention above?

Question5: Rural infrastructure is not keeping pace with the rest of the country. Investment in technology would help as part of a broader package of investment in rural economic development and infrastructure. One filter in analyzing future farm policy should be its effect on the vitality of rural communities.

Question6: They should be strongly supported.