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Question1: 1. Why don't they make a program for first time farm buyers, like they do for first time home buyers?

If the government is gentler on the pockets of first time farm buyers, then it wouldn't be so hard to get into the business.

The farmer would be able to put more money towards making his/her farm productive and profitable, thus establishing the business and continuing to feed the country.

2. Thus the answer is this: Leave the current policy in place, but make a First Time Farm Owner loan very forgiving for those breaking into the business.

Question2: 1. Continue supporting our farmers with subsidies, that way they steadily produce crops.

2. Then, get research teams from major universities to study the worldwide market and make projections. Have a different group of researchers develop new products which can fit the criteria of the said projection.

3. We need foresight and diversity if we are to compete against the world. Find out what other crops besides corn and beans can be grown in the midwest. Then promote diversity.

Question3: 1. The goal of farm policy should continue to be enhancement and stabilization of farm prices and incomes.

2. Elect a committee to study what can be done to equalize the assistance received by farmers. The committee members should have agricultural backgrounds, and they should preferably be from universities with a strong background in agricultural research.

Question4: 1. Continue to allow farmers to have their farms in the grass program; I have seen personally that it is great for the environment and the native creatures that live on the land.

2. Encourage farmers to plant trees, or start a program where the government (or a nature group) hands out black walnut, cherry, and other hardwood species trees to people to plant so the trees can be harvested 40-50 years later. This is a long range program, and it could be under the same provisions as Mineral Rights (where it doesn't matter how many hands the land falls into, the trees can't be touched unless by natural disaster or by the harvester).

The trees will make a natural canopy thus sheltering the very animals that we have endangered by encroachment.

3. Continue to protect swamps and encourage farmers to build small ponds

for a water source for the native habitat.

4. Finally, make sure that any pesticides approved by the government are target specific (rather than broad spectrum, which does more harm than good).

All of these things above would make a cleaner United States, one we can be proud of.

Question5: 1. Make new technology affordable for the common farmer. (It could be as simple as changing a practice, such as plowing gave way to no-till).

2. Continue to provide subsidies.

These small farmers are most at risk of going under. When they give up, they sell their land to the highest bidder. Suburban developers are snatching up the small farms and converting them to housing or shopping sites, which results in suburban sprawl. (Longer commutes equals more energy and time wasted).

The small farm is thus lost, and no crops will ever be grown on that land again.

3. Education: educate the small farmer on specialty crops and/or other options so they will not be competing with the large farmers.

If we continue to let our farmland succumb to suburban development, the U.S. will end up depending on other countries for food. This is not where we need to be!

Question6: 1. Grants: make sure we continue to fiscally support agricultural product development, marketing, and research with grants handed out by a committee that has members gleaned from the top agricultural universities. (Purdue and Iowa State are two that come to mind).