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Question1: In todays world most farmers are pressing their own children to get a college education. The bottom line is that you can't grow crops for 1970 prices and expect this generation to see much of a future in ag... Profitability, not just higher crop prices are the key to reversing this very bad trend.

Question2: How can US farmers be competitive with 3rd world countries who don't come close to paying the same costs as US farmers do for all their inputs. As long as the US farmer is depended on to support all ag based suppliers (fert, seed, machinary, fuel, elevators, etc.) and a whole host of other related industries that all depend on the prosperity of the US farmer/rancher...maybe concerns about the competiveness of US farmers should be a low priority. A prosperous farm economy benfits the entire economy, especially in rural areas @ least 10 fold!

Question3: The delivery system now in place depends on both direct and counter cyclical payments. A shift to the old 'Target Price' programs of old should be looked at. When payments are tied to price safety net just makes good sense-more fair and easier to defend. Used only when needed.... Also, payment limit should be re-worked. "Warm body" concept-one man one PL (like honey). Close the entity loop holes for increased PL's.

Question4: Increase CRP/CCRP programs. They benefit production ag on the supply side and benefit the enviroment/wildlife on the enviromental side.

Question5: Farm programs to the production ag producer provide this assistance now. The main thing that needs to be done is make sure that the producer has a good market price for his crops. This is especially true when you see Farm Program benefits being reduced.

Question6: We would like to see increased research in devolping alternatate uses for grains to alleviate surpluses. No matter if for fuels, food or whatever we need to 'boost' the ways these crops can be used. Technolgy is driving us to greater and greater crop yields. We must also use technolgy to find more and better uses for what the US farmer/rancher produces and is capable of producing. As you can see, these thoughts/answers are the compilation of a FSA County Committee

that consists entirely of Ag Producers. It would have been nice to have a forum specifically for Committees to give input on the upcoming farm bill. Plus it would have been nice to at least have a place for general comments on the upcoming Farm Bill on this site... USDA and FSA needs to become more responsive to our producers vs. the common view (right or wrong) that these agencies and departments set policy and then take it to the public and people they serve....