

From: "margpep@aol.com%inter2" <margpep@aol.com>
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Email: margpep@aol.com

FirstName: Dr. Marge

LastName: Peppercorn

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

zipcode:

Question1: Supporting huge farms has led to inhumane treatment of food animals and unhealthy use of pesticides, antibiotics, and hormones in producing our food. Tax breaks should be given to small farms to encourage farming and tax breaks should be removed from the huge corporate farms to encourage safer more humane farming methods.

Question2: US farming has shifted toward huge corporate farms with intense animal confinement systems which cause indecent misery for the animals at the same time as increasing the risk of disease in the animals and the risks of toxicity to the consumers. The US should start abandoning the concept of the factory farm and encourage small farms with better care of the animals and less need of pesticides, antibiotics, and hormones to be able to promote a healthier product.

Question3: Farm support provisions should be restricted to small farms which practice humane treatment of their animals and which attempt environmental protection.

I believe that cheaper market prices and corporate growth are very short sighted goals for farm policy and lead to unnecessary animal suffering and less healthy food.

Question4: I absolutely agree that conservation and environmental concerns are crucial in our farm policy and think that there should be an encouragement of smaller farms and elimination of the intense animal confinement systems such as pig gestation crates, veal crates, and chicken battery cages used on the huge factory farms.

Question5: Too many smaller farms on valuable farmland are being sold off as housing developments never to be reclaimable as farms and governmental financial supports should be given to allow these farms to stay as farms....allowing the farms to be farmed but buying the development rights as some communities have done would be a major help in this goal. I don't think more technology, more animal confinement, more genetic alterations, and more chemicals are the answer but more financial support for careful sound farming.

Question6: Product quality is critical and the healthiness and safety of our food should be much more important than corporate profit.

Additionally important in a civilized society should be the ethics of its food production. Increased support for organic farms should be included in the farm bill as should increased support for farms which practice humane animal husbandry. There should be disincentives for the huge factory farms and a prohibition of the intense confinement systems that have led to so much unnecessary animal suffering along with increased disease risks for consumers. These measures would enhance food safety and healthiness and also encourage new markets. In this age of oil problems, using farm waste and/or crops for fuel should also be explored and encouraged.