

From: "soggybogcattleco@yahoo.com%inter2" <soggybogcattleco@yahoo.com>
Subject: Public Comments for 2007 Farm Bill
Date Sent: 12/09/2005 08:00:11 CST
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Message sent to the following recipients:

Secretary Johanns

Message text follows:

Kip Dunlap
302 W Lincoln Street
Nooksack, WA 98276-4215

December 9, 2005

[recipient address was inserted here]

Dear [recipient name was inserted here],

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the 2007 Farm Bill.

Question 1: The competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in global and domestic markets. How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

Comment: The American producers are already at such a severe competitive disadvantage because of the high labor cost for production, the ever soaring high land prices, and all the regulatory issues that American producers are faced with that the producers from other countries don't have. The Farm Bill needs to shape policies that will help the producers compete on an equal basis. This comes from the right kinds of tax structures, policies, labor laws, and a regulatory environment that is responsible, commonsense and flexible. In short we need to assure that the competitive advantage provided to us by our soils, our climate and our productive capacity is not thwarted by inappropriate government restraints.

Question 2: The challenges facing new farmers and ranchers as they enter agriculture. How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

Comment: The new Farm Bill needs to streamline agency cooperation on all levels in order to allow producers to be more economically viable and not trap them and bog them down in bureaucracy that leads to their demise.

Question 3: The appropriateness and effectiveness of the distribution of farm program benefits. How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

Comment: We know from our past experience what doesn't work including short-term fixes, idling the production lands, storing the crops, and cut

backs in production. We know that programs designed to preserve the farmland are futile. It does no good to preserve the farmland if you do

everything else possible to put farmers out of business. You will not have any farmers remaining to utilize the land that you have preserved.

Question 4: The achievement of conservation and environmental goals. How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Comment: I speak from personal experience regarding the environmental

goals of the farm bill, because I was awarded an EQIP contract only to run

into complications. While the goal of the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) is a worthwhile objective, to provide the producers with some tools and assistance in complying with the local and state regulatory requirements, it lacks the necessary support. In my incidence

the local and state agencies were not supportive in fact were in opposition of my attempts to comply with my Federal CCC (Commodity Credit

Corporation) Contract. The local agencies have different agendas and no

interest in the Farm Bill or the environmental goals or programs included

in the Farm Bill nor or they obligated to support them. In my Incidence the Local and State agencies denied the permits necessary for me to comply

with my CCC contract agreement. Since I was denied the permits necessary

to full my contract agreement I ended up in litigation with the Local and

State Agency because they obstructed my efforts to fulfill my contractual

obligation. I ended up in a governmental runaround, which ultimately forced me to sell my farm in order to avoid bankruptcy because of the high

cost of the litigation with the government. The NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) and or the FSA (Farm Service Agency) besides the technical support they provide need to also supply some sort of liaison to

coordinate all the agencies for permitting purposes and/or provide the necessary support to obtain permits. The new Farm Bill needs to streamline agency cooperation on all levels in order to allow producers to

be more economically viable and not trap them and bog them down in bureaucracy that leads to their demise

Question 5: The enhancement of rural economic growth. How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

Comment: Rural Residents are dependant on rural economies. Rural farms

need a climate that will promote and foster entrepreneurship, and encourage farms to start farm related business so they can share resources

with other operations. They also need to be equipped with the tools that will allow them to also compete in regional and global markets

Question 6: The opportunities to expand agricultural products, markets, and research. How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

Comment: One significant way would be to offer tax incentives or cost sharing of farmer owned projects that would invest in energy conservation, renewable energy, or the production of agricultural byproducts that would provide the same purposes.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments for the 2007 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

Kip Dunlap
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