

**From:** "barsotti@wvi.com%inter2" <barsotti@wvi.com>  
**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/28/2005 09:30 PM CST  
**Date Sent:** 12/28/2005 09:30:47 CST  
**Date Received:** 12/28/2005 09:31:50 CST

---

Email: barsotti@wvi.com

FirstName: Mike

LastName: Barsotti

Address1: 44886 E McCully Mt Rd

Address2:

City: Lyons

State: Oregon

zipcode: 97358

Question1: I'm a tree farmer, and do not deal with ag land prices or commodity prices. It seems clear to me that one of the biggest "unintended consequences" of USDA farm supports has been subsidize food prices that now make it very difficult for a farmer to cover cost without continual price support.

Question2: This issue does affect timber prices as well and food prices. If our ecological protections are increasing our costs, could there be tariffs on imports that do not support international criteria and indicators for sustainable farm and forest practices.

Question3: Tough question. I do think that our country is better off with family farm and forest operations. I don't think it is wise to have all corporate or all family operations, but a mix. USDA policies that favor corporate over family operations should stop immediately. I'm biased but I would think that there should be programs that favor family operations until there is evidence that the programs are driving out corporate operations.

Question4: Two thoughts: develop programs that establish economic returns for environment services farmers and forest landowners provide. Why should critical wildlife habitat and clean water be considered a rural landowner responsibility. As we become more and more urban, the cost of environmental benefits are being carried by a minority of our citizens. Lets have everyone pay for these public values.

The second: Tax imports that are not sustainable.

Question5: First, I agree that this is a big issue. I'm from Oregon and when the Forest Service and BLM changed management strategies with the NW Forest Plan, rural communities were hit hard. I mention this as an example of federal policy that impacted rural communities. I agree with this question in that its time that federal police positively impact rural areas. As the earlier questions addressed the unintended consequences of "playing" with prices, I think USDA should focus of building/supporting an infrastructure that in turn create vaule for rural products. An example in the west is support for the development of co-gen plants that can create a market for small diameter trees that are a fire hazard and forest health risk.

Question6: I seems to me that there has been a shift from looking to our farms and forests for products to looking at imports to meet these need. With this shift our rural lands are then looked at to product ecological and social products and values. If this is true, we need to turn back the clock or create income for these new environmental and social vaules. Maybe a combination of traditional products and markets for these non-economic products is what is needed.