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Question1: Believe it or not, the valuable natural resource we know as "land" is a finite commodity. Farm policy should be long-term focused. If that prevents a few agri-business firms from buying up all the useable land for sale and "strip mining" it for a decade's worth of profit for themselves, so be it. The USDA's primary purpose should be protecting the agricultural soil and water from money-grubbing profiteers, and should focus its budgeting on more inspections and meeting or exceeding health standards for the agricultural output of current and future farmers. It is not the USDA's mission to guarantee a profit for agri-business.

Question2: Make more organic and pesticide-free produce available; promote cage-free animal products; toughen and enforce animal waste standards and policies. You know, there is a reason many Europeans won't purchase North American beef and other meat products, and it isn't because they're "with the terrorists."

Question3: Tax based incentives for any farmer, big or small (however you define those terms) that invests in sustainable agriculture. Incentives for reducing petro-chemical fertilizers and pesticides; incentives for any farmer that increases their product distribution to local markets first. If that costs them some business, then assistance subsidies to those who do it.

Question4: Stop focusing so much on the profits of big businesses that keep farmers in a mythical prison. Let the petro-chemical industry exist or die (preferably) without agriculture as a captive industry. Encourage smaller farms and crop rotations by enacting tax disincentives on larger purchases of land. Did I read your question right--you want to know how to achieve conservation and environmental goals while expanding agriculture into currently private held forest lands????? Are you crazy? Protect the forests. They may be your last hope in breathable air. Finally, we simply must get tougher on developing plans to deal with animal waste.

Question5: Invest in the sustainability of air, soil and water. Discourage strip malls and construction. Promote green space. Allow farmers to own fields on which they produce absolutely nothing for a period of time while nature replenishes the land. Complete tax abatements on such land for example.

Question6: Attention to product quality and new attributes; organic and specialty crops; value-added products, including renewable energy and bioproducts and new uses for farm products generally; expanded basic and applied research; domestic and foreign market development; and similar activities.