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Question1: First, there should not be any "unintended consequences" in well thought out policy. Acknowledging such is an admission that policy makers are doing a poor job. Continuing the "status quo" policies guarantees that more mistakes will be made. Try thinking out of the box for a minute. A classic example is the fact that farmers who wish to farm "organically" not only have to comply with all existing rules and regulations for agriculture but must also comply with 300 additional pages of special rules and regulations AND PAY an additional fee to do so. Therefore in order for new farmers and ranchers to farm in a sustainable manner, these good doers are being penalized. Consider paying THEM \$500 for complying with the extra 300 pages of regulations.

Question2: Farm policy has ignored unique American commodities with global markets such as speciality forest products by failing to support research and extension in the field of agroforestry. Corn and beans can be grown in much of the world but no place on earth except the US can produce authentic crops such as wood's grown American ginseng, black cohosh, goldenseal, and others. Policy makers need to consider far more "minor" crops, particularly forest crops that are unique to the US.

Question3: There are far too many corporations farming the government purely for the subsidies. Eliminate corporate farm subsidies and redistribute them among family farms. Cap assistance at reduced levels of production where surpluses exist.

Question4: Recognize the positive value of relatively intangible benefits provided particularly by forests such as cleaner water, cleaner air, carbon dioxide sequestration and unique specialty forest products that sustain all of the above. Develop policies that reward good stewardship instead of penalizing practices or imposing fees on practices such as organic farming. Increase funding for education leading to long term management plans for natural resources such as forestland.

Question5: Focus efforts on increasing federal assistance to small scale rural producers instead of large scale corporate farms. Develop policies which support "appropriate" local, rural technology instead of "mass production" technology. Instead of cutting and consolidating funding for primarily rural agencies such as the Cooperative Extension System and the Farm Service Agency. These agencies should have substantially increased funding.

Question6: Increase R and D (including marketing) for relatively minor but unique commodities such as agroforestry. Reduce R and D funding for commodities that we already have a surplus of i.e. milk, beans, corn.