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Question1: Farmers should be supported in buying smaller plots of land and supported in getting started with small productions.

Question2: We should reduce emphasis on importing and exporting and increase diversity in national crop production to meet our diverse needs in industry and for our diets.

Question3: Most importantly, assistance should be made available to farmers practicing sustainable methods including polycultures, no-till, IPM, and following organic standards. If small farmers and organic growers are not supported by the government then consumers especially low-income consumers will continue to have unequal access to healthy and fresh food.

Also, subsidizing large farms for several years does not make incentives for farmers to become self sustaining, but rather dependent on the federal government. Lastly, farm assistant programs must be accessible to beginning farmers and for small farms to promote local economy and local food security.

Question4: Assistance and rewards should be given to farms which practice sustainable farming, including polyculture, IPM, no-till and other conservative practices. Health damages from residual pesticides and chemicals in our food chain and in the water are proving to be costly and devastating to ecosystems. We must use the precautionary principle by giving incentives to long-term sustainable practices rather than paying for the more costly damages in ecosystems, health and in our economy.

Question5: Promoting diversity in production and sustaining practices such as seed saving can make rural communities more secure.

Question6: Organic crops must be supported for all people to have equal access to healthy food. Marketing products which move through the food supply chain or into industry using the most sustainable methods should be rewarded with assistance to make those products cheaper for consumers which can lead to a self sustaining supply and demand cycle. Also, organic and sustainably produced crops can be made more accessible to consumers by implementing better labeling. For instance, what if our labels told us everything that was used to produce the product. Imagine, it would say the nutritional value but also the environmental value or devalue. Do you think we could make a shift if consumers could read on the label how much gasoline is used to send products across the world in a jet?