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**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/27/2005 12:46 PM CST  
**Date Sent:** 12/27/2005 12:46:49 CST  
**Date Received:** 12/27/2005 12:47:30 CST

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Question1: With the continued rising costs of farmable land across the US, it is important to make low interest loans available to support small acreage farms; for the purchase of land for new farmers and for the continuance of existing small acreage farms.

Question2: I would like to see the US look more seriously at its ability to feed itself first. Incentives for cooperative marketing and farming to meet the market demands would be helpful to support global markets.

Question3: Small acreage farms are on the increase across the country simply because there is less available farming land out there. Small farms focus on local food systems; minimal fuel costs on transporting, and local market demand is met. Assistance in the way of funding incentives for farmers markets, cold storage for crops, cost-share for packaging would all be effective.

Question4: By providing educational opportunities to farms that are using non-sustainable methods of production you would offer ways of improving the stewardship of the land. Less chemical input, alternative methods of fertilization, lower use of pesticides, herbicides etc.

Question5: By providing funding to the state university programs that educate rural areas, such as Ag Extension. Incentives for NOT selling off farm land for housing.

Question6: By providing funding (grants, low interest loans) for educational opportunity for farmers to attend workshops on any of these subjects, as well as incentives for research related to more sustainable production methods.