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Question1: I am a new farmer myself, just having bought 1000 acres two years ago. What I think hurts the ability to start farming is both banks not willing to loan larger amounts of money for operating loans. Also the fact that the AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) is set at 2.5 million dollars. If a farm is even making over 500,000 dollars they shouldn't qualify for government payments. This only sets the stage for hugh corporate farms.

Question2: By putting incentives, or more importantly, decentives on certain grown crops. For instance, I used to grow Garland wheat. It was a high yielding poor quality wheat that Japan didn't want. They told U.S. farmers there would be a price discount of .05 cents if you grew it the next year. I switched, but the next year there was no discount price. There needs to be government control (in the form of price incentives or discounts) if you want the farmer to grow what is best for the country as a whole and not just himself.

Question3: I realize that one day these will be phased out, but until then you should look at regional support. For example to ship grain from Idaho to Oregon costs .70 cents a bushel. This money is an expense for Idaho farmers, but not for Oregon farmers who receive the same amount of government assistance. The subsities could be done away with and put into improvents in freight or world wide marketing.

Question4: This also effects land prices. In my area there are alot of dry farmers who have put all of their farm into CRP, because of this there isn't any farmland to buy. Also, quite a bit of the ground is unfarmable anyway. I have 40 acres in CRP and if you did away with the program tomorrow not a single acre would enter production (I own a irrigated farm). This year we have been fighting with Twin Falls farmers over water rights, in a brilliant move Governor Kempthorne passed a program called ICREP. Basically CRP for irrigated ground. Not only will this take high production ground (that is actually farmable) out of production, but it saves water for the aquifer, reduces nitrogen leaching into the water supply and adds water to the Snake River, which helps with our salmon problem and provides millions in renewable energy that goes through the damns, lowering power costs for everyone in Idaho. Sound good right? Well, water district 120 (the one that is being sued to shut down all deep wells) doesn't receive a single acre of ICREP because we are all ready over our allotment of CRP ground. This is an example of a great government program (ICREP) that is being used in a ineffcient way.

Question5: I am in favor of this. But don't call it the Farm Bill.

Question6: I believe ethenol is the future for farming and energy. I don't understand why we aren't pushing the production of ethenol. The ground used in producing ethenol would lower production of every other crop. Therefore, rising crop prices and eliminating the need for government support.