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**Subject:** Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/30/2005 11:18 AM CST  
**Date Sent:** 12/30/2005 11:18:03 CST  
**Date Received:** 12/30/2005 11:19:02 CST

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Question1:

Question2: If we assume the government is going to persist in pursuing the Free Trade Initiatives then three steps are essential in helping the Us remain competitve in a global environment.

### 1. EFFECTIVE AND ACCURATE ANALYSIS OF INTERNAINAL FOOD TRENDS.

This analysis must consider longstanding cultural food habits(for example the Europeans resistance to genetically manipulated products) as well as how these habits are likely to be effected and changed by globalization and improving lifestyles.

For example, it might make sense for the third world to concentrate on the basic grains etc for impoversihed countries and the US and European countries to concentrate on developed countries taste for "luxury foods"

### 2. C ONCENTRATE ON STRENGTHIEING AMERICA'S SMALL AND MID SIZED FARMS.

In the initial stages of globalization they will be our front line of defense against similar sized competeing units across the world, and will be able to respond quickly to changes in trends.

With all due respect to the large agri-businesses who do an impressive job of producing large quanitites they are not agile enough to respond quickly to change, and the indirect cost of these companies in a global market will outweigh their benefits. There are many more negatives to theselarge businesses, which do not fall in the scope of this discussion. Finally,

### 3. DON'T PUT ALL OUR EGG IN ONE BASKET.

Construct our agricultural markets so that we can survive and succeed even if free trade fails. Free trade has been successful in many ways, but the perils and pitfills are many. I cite NAFTA as an example. A fter ten plus years are ambiguous at best.

The American consumer is driving the world economy at the moment but that will not continue indefintely and we need to be prepared for that eventuality.

Question3:

Question4: ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH AND START UPS OF SMALL TO MID SIZED FARMS.

Question5:

Question6: All of the above are excellent ideas. Their implementation is too complicated for me to adequately address in an email.

I believe however, that a national, sophisticated marketing and public relations campaign would be beneficial. American farmers and

ranchers are the best in the world. Those still surviving have of necessity become excellent businessmen. They have in recent years endured much undeserved criticism which I believe is helping to fuel the free trade pressure to eliminate our markets. Certainly these campaigns at an industry level have been effective.