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Question1: 1) Extend and fund the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, passed by Congress in the 2002 Farm Bill.

2) Increase promotion of the Beginning Farmer land contract pilot program.

3) Link beginning and retiring farmers, providing incentives for retiring farmers to rent or sell land and other assets to beginning farmers on favorable terms.

4) Focus research, marketing, conservation, and risk management programs on meeting the unique needs of beginning farmers.

5) Expand the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program and its ability to support small and medium sized farms and beginning farmers and ranchers.

6) Expand the Value-Added Program Grants (VAPG) programs and direct more of these funds towards small and medium sized farms and beginning farmers and ranchers.

7) Place payment limitations on commodity subsidies, capping levels at \$250,000 or less and eliminating loopholes. Commodity subsidies inflate land rental and purchase prices, placing land out of the reach of beginning farmers and ranchers.

Question2: 1) Build a healthy agriculture that does not rely so heavily on commodity subsidies. Support farmers in healthier, more sustainable, ways. For example, expand the Conservation Security Program to support all eligible farmers, nationwide, as intended in the 2007 Farm Bill.

2) Support and implement legislation and regulations that create fair competition at home in order that farmers and ranchers may thrive domestically as well as in global markets. Currently, unfair contracts, price manipulation, and discrimination against independent farmers prevent fair competition and healthy agriculture. Include a Competition Title in the 2007 Farm Bill, with the following legislation:

3) Producer Protection Act: This proposal is designed to set minimum standards for contract fairness in agriculture. It addresses the worst abuses contained in processor-drafted boilerplate contracts. It includes: (1) Clear disclosure of producer risks; (2) Prohibition on confidentiality clauses; (3) Prohibition on binding mandatory arbitration in contracts of adhesion; (4) Recapture of capital investment (so that contracts that require a significant capital investment by the producer cannot be capriciously canceled without compensation); and (5) A ban on unfair trade practices including

"tournament" or "ranking system" payment.

4) Closing Poultry Loopholes in the Packers & Stockyards (P&S) Act: USDA should have the authority to bring enforcement actions against poultry dealers. The P&S Act omits this authority even though USDA can enforce the law against packers and livestock dealers. Clarify that USDA's authority over poultry applies not only to broiler operations, but also to growers raising pullets or breeder hens. These loopholes should be closed.

5) Bargaining Rights for Contract Farmers: Loopholes should be closed in the Agricultural Fair Practices Act of 1967 (AFPA), and processors should be required to bargain in good faith with producer organizations. The AFPA was enacted to ensure that livestock and poultry producers could join associations and market their products collectively without fear of retribution by processors. These goals have not been attained due to loopholes in that Act. Retaliation by processors is commonplace in some sectors. This legislation should be passed to promote bargaining rights and prevent processor retaliation.

6) Packer Ban: About 10% of slaughter cattle, and about 25% of hogs, are owned by packers prior to slaughter. By drawing on these animals first to fill their plants, packers can unfairly depress the price of livestock they buy in the cash market. Packer-owned livestock has been proven to artificially lower farm gate prices while the consumer food prices continue rising.

7) Captive Supply Reform Act: Big packers are taking advantage of hardworking family farmers and ranchers by price fixing. Currently, forward contracts and marketing agreements are negotiated in secret, in a transaction where packers have all the information and power, with the result that these contracts and agreements depress prices and shut small and independent producers out of markets. The Captive Supply Reform Act would require such contracts to be traded in open, public markets to which all buyers and sellers have access.

8) Country of Origin Labeling (COOL): Country of origin labeling (COOL) was passed as a provision of the 2002 Farm Bill. This popular measure allows consumers to determine where their food is produced while allowing producers to showcase their products for quality and safety. It also limits the ability of global food companies to source farm products from any country while passing them off as U.S. in origin.

Question3: 1) Place payment limitations on commodity subsidies, capping levels at \$250,000 or less and eliminating loopholes.

2) Lower payment limitations on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). It is unfair to taxpayers to subsidize the costs of industrial livestock clean up. And it is unfair to sustainable farmers who internalize the costs of their production and do not receive comparable federal funds for their sustainable farming practices.

Question4: 1) Expand the Conservation Security Program (CSP), making it an uncapped program serving all eligible farmers and ranchers nationwide, as it was intended in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Question5: 1) For rural communities to thrive, small and medium sized farms, and beginning farmers, must be encouraged and supported.

2) To encourage and support small and medium sized farms, and beginning farmers, outreach and technical assistance should be improved and

expanded, using community based organizations. Application processes should be simplified.

Question6: 1) Expand and target the Value Added Program Grant funds for small and medium sized farms, and beginning farmers.

2) Expand and target the Rural Business Enterprise Grants for small and medium sized farms, and beginning farmers.

3) Expand and target the National Research Initiative/Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems for small and medium sized farms, and beginning farmers.

4) Expand the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program and its ability to support small and medium sized farms and beginning farmers and ranchers.

5) Increase funding for expansion of organic research, outreach, and data collection.

6) Increase funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program.

7) Extend and support significant funding for the Farm-to-Cafeteria program, which was passed in the 2002 Farm Bill.