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Question1: Provide an incentive for beginning farmers such as a higher percent commodity payment [such as 125% of what a regular producer gets]. In addition, for cost share, such as EQIP, allow them 75% instead of 50%.

Question2: Think about setting up value added processing in rural communities to support and strengthen rural america instead of having the priority be exports. There will still be product to export but strengthening rural communities should certainly be a priority over foreign exports.

Question3: You cannot just cut all the commodity payments to producers. A win- win solution would be to take the Commodity payment money and fund the Conservation Security Program [CSP]. All producers would then enroll in CSP. In order to get their payment though, they would need to meet the basic soil and water quality criteria. As soon as they met it,they would qualify - no two years of doing it. It could be set up that everyone who met the criteria by December 31 would be eligible for a payment the next year. This would put all the commodity payments in the Green Box for the WTO and solve that problem. In addition, it would assist agricultural producers in meeting non point source pollution challenges with TMDLS and Hypoxia. It also would take the payment focus off of production [yield, bushels, tons, etc.] With just a little tweeking of programs this could be a fairly simple solution to many of the challenges USDA is facing with the farm bill.

Question4: Fund the Conservation Security Program [CSP] and let everyone enroll. Don't pay them until they meet the criteria but let them get in. CSP is an excellent program that needs some tweeking [it is a new program that is complex]. The real success of CSP will be when producers change from where they are currently at, to qualifying for CSP at a base level. If producers can't enroll they will not make the changes needed to help agriculture meet local, state and national water quality goals.

CSP is set up to handle this. Stewardship and Maintenance payments should take the reduction factors out and make these payments more in line with what the commodity payments are. Shift the Commodity money into CSP so it meets the WTO Green Box criteria. Let everyone enroll and pay out the year following when they have met the criteria. Payment can happen field by field if necessary.

Question5: Provide more funds to support the growth of value added processing of ag products in local communities. Instead of exporting raw products, let's process it locally and ship higher value products, create local jobs. Get local cooperatives involved. What will we do when all the local elevators are closed? These people know how to handle, transport and process ag products create incentives for them to lead these type of efforts. It needs to go way beyond ethanol and biodiesel. Think higher value products- capture them 1st and then use the waste for ethonal or feed. Multiple revenue streams for ag producers. Think about growing and processing within a 50 mile radius

of a community instead of always these huge processing efforts that don't support the small, local communities [except the one they are in!!] We need all rural communities to be winners.

Question6: From our products think [1] higher value and [2] multiple benefits. As producers we think of selling the raw product. Let's process it and add higher value. Get other crops involved so we have diversity- not only on the landscape but in our communities. Ramp up carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous credits so farmers get paid for these with their crop. Extract the high value derivatives and then burn or feed the balance. Energy can drive a lot of conservation benefiting crops but it has to go beyond corn and soybeans. How about ethanol from grasses or biodiesel from hazelnuts? There needs to be greater diversity on the landscape so if one ship sinks there is something to fall back on. Support the genetic research and development of these other crops besides the mainstream ones. Keep the research at our public universities instead of having them funded by companies with a directed interest. Unbiased research is becoming more limited.