EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY USDA

2007 Farm Bill Forum

Name: DAN BLANKENSHIP

Address: 907 S. WASHINGTON ST.

City: RITZVILLE State: WA Zip: 99169

Phone: 509-659-4402 Email Address: Agmandan@ccser.net

There are several principles contained within the Conservation Security Program that concern/offend me:

① The inequities created when such a small portion of producers are eligible. How am I supposed to compete for a lease or a land purchase against someone who is receiving tens of thousands of dollars for doing nothing differently than I am?

② The concept that, eventually, I will be forced to bid against my neighbors for an ever-shrinking pool of support funds.

③ The focus of the program toward encouraging (mandating) "politically correct" farming methods (direct seeding, no till, chem-fallow) which have had disastrous results in low rainfall areas of Washington. Agriculture support payments should not be tied to whatever non-economic "fashionable" production methodology happens to be politically popular.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USDA
2005 NOV 10 P 12:17

(4) The differing payment limit rules between CSP and other programs. I believe this is a pre-cursor to automatic ratcheting down of support.

(5) All USDA programs are supposed to be "open to all, regardless of age, sex, national origin etc". Nowhere does statutory language say that equal protection provisions of the constitution say ... "unless you live in the wrong watershed".