

# KAMUELA VACUUM COOLING COOPERATIVE

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To Whom It May Concern,

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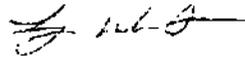
Thank you for the invitation to the USDA Farm Bill Forum. Unfortunately, most farmers cannot spare time away from their farms and will not be able to attend your meeting. We did, however put together some answers to your questions regarding the Farm Bill. As you are aware, many of the small "family farms" have been dwindling. The following responses were put together by a small group of farmers (in both vegetable and flower production) who have continued to run their businesses despite difficult conditions in today's farming environment.

1. How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?
  - a. Repeal NAFTA
  - b. Do NOT pass the Food Safety Act- instead educate the consumers on the need to wash their food.
  - c. Stop over regulating the industry.
  - d. Regulate foreign products – many diseases, pests and contamination come in with importer commodities.
2. How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?
  - a. A distinction has to be made between U.S. farmers who have large holdings abroad, and the American farmer who farms on American soil.
  - b. The American farmer who pays taxes on this land, follows stringent labor laws and contributes to his community should not only be applauded, but compensated through tax deductions, subsidies and/or incentives on health care and liability insurance, worker's compensation, fuel, etc
3. How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?
  - a. Policy should be based on actual farm income of bonafide farmers that derive at least 75% of their income through farming activities.
4. How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?
  - a. Farmers have the most to lose if we do not protect our environment and conserve our resources. Notification of environmental concerns in specific agricultural areas would be helpful in protecting the environment.
5. How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

- a. Protect agricultural lands
    - i. For example: a by-pass road is being planned to be routed through the middle of over a dozen of active truck and flower farms in Lalamilo Farm Lots. If this road is built a majority of the farmers will have to shut down operations.
  - b. Protect, build, and maintain agricultural water sources and storage.
    - i. For example: The irrigation system North Hawaii was built in the mid 1900's and is in need of major repairs, yet no funds are available to do it. Without water, agriculture is dead.
6. How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?
- a. Local products should be promoted.
  - b. Support of the needs of the American farmer.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide input into some of the policies that directly affects our livelihood. In closing, I'd like to add in one more comment. It is important for not only the individual, but also the government to evaluate themselves. Look, not only at your success, but your failures as well. Too many farmers are being lost. Do we really want to rely on foreigners to feed our country?

Sincerely,



Larry Nakamoto

President, Kamuela Vacuum Cooling  
Cooperative

