

September 12, 2005

TO: USDA Secretary Mike Johanns

Dear Mr. Secretary:

First, let me briefly introduce myself. I am a semi-retired farmer, age 74, who turned the management of my farm over to my son 9 years ago. I was born and raised in our community about 20 miles west of Hutchinson, and have been active in church and community affairs during these fifty plus years. I have several concerns about the new farm bill.

1. We definitely do not want to lose our flexibility we gained back in the '90's in the Freedom to Farm bill. We can take so much better care of the land now with rotation of different crops, less chemicals, better weed control, etc., that we don't want to go backward and lose that.
2. There has been publicity about giving farm payments only to the producer, and not any to the landowner or landlord. That would be useless, in my opinion, because division shares would immediately shift away from crop share agreements.

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3. The media hitting a large number of many cases. Landlords, so he represents are basically 80 acres, but spect of it, and

4. In my opinion, payments to ~~landowners~~ if someone wants to farm 10,000 acres, they can do some of it without government funds. This should also help some new, young farmer get started.

Thank you for your taking time to read this. As a conservative Republican, I hope you succeed.



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