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Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 09/13/2005 12:35 AM CDT
Date Sent: 09/13/2005 12:35:39 CDT
Date Received: 09/13/2005 06:45:40 CDT

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Question1: The barrier to high land values and hence the barrier to new farmers entering agriculture that are occurring all throughout the United States could be helped with a grant program that provided a set amount of land to farmers (or monies to buy land) who through a legal commitment would farm the land for a set # of years. The land that was granted or paid for, in whole or part by USDA, would in turn be placed under conservation easement to ensure that the landowner does not in a few years or after any legal obligations have expired turn around and sell the land for a much increased profit, for development, hence the original barrier to farming that the grant was meant to overcome. The easement would ensure that if another owner wanted to buy the land it could only be used for the purpose in which the grant monies were originally intended - farming. Additionally, once under conservation easement the land could only be sold at the agriculture value to the next farmer making the land affordable if sold to someone other than the original grantee.

Question2: If an atmosphere and climate that supports many farms versus a few vertically intergrated farms is cultivated then this will in turn ensure that there are enough farmers to fill all the niches and crops needed in the United States and in the world. It is only with the decreasing # of farms that we find ourselves limiting our farm diversity. Helping farmers to always diversify when needed via outreach and grants. Finally, tapping into the markets that consumers want not what the corporate ag community thinks the consumers need i.e. organic and non GMO crops along with traditional GMO and non-organic crops

Question3: Continue and fully fund the Conservation Security Program (CSP) whereby farmers are rewarded on conservation benefits instead of how much food produced. At the very least a hybrid of CSP and the traditional crop subsidies is needed so that surpluses that drive down prices is not the result.

Question4: Continue and expand Conservation Security Program(CSP), Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program(WHIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) and add a new conservation program that was suggested in the 2002 Farm Bill - the "Old Field easement program". This "Old Fieldeasement/restoration program" would be the upland version of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) whereby farmlands are restored to early succession habitat and continously managed as such and put under permanent conservation easement and address the upland/grassland birds in decline (especially bobwhite quail) as noted by the USDA Farm Bill CP-33 Bobwhite Buffers practice.

Add a conservation easement option to the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Question5: Investing in new technologies and SOME infrastructure is needed and warranted but when USDA pays for sewer in rural areas then

USDA is in effect paying for the future decline of the young farmers in that community and eventual loss of farmland to development. In most cases when sewer is placed in rural areas then residential, commercial and industrial development will soon follow pushing land values upwards and out of sight to young and other farmers wishing to purchase new lands. I do not think USDA should be in the sewer business.

Question6: In particular as I stated above USDA should support ALL sectors of farming - whether the 10-acre organic farm or the 1000-acre traditional row-crop farm. It seems in the past that USDA has been slow to recognize emerging markets for example organic farms and I think a current emerging market that should be vigourously supported is biofuels manufacturing. I cannot understand why when we have vehicles that can feasibly run off 100% soybean fuel we (the United States) is not doing everything to make biofuels available and practible. It seems to me a win-win if you have a renewable fuel that helps the farm economy.