



U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's Agricultural Issues & Farm Bill Survey

1. Which commodities do you produce and/or what kind of livestock do you raise? _____

2. How long have you and/or your family been operating a family farm or ranch in South Dakota?

3. Overall, how do you feel the 2002 farm bill works for South Dakota?
____ Very well
____ Okay
____ Not at all

4. What livestock provisions would you like to include in the next farm bill? (Check all that apply.)
____ Packer ban
____ Captive supply reform
____ Move up mandatory Country of Origin Labeling
____ Reforms at USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)
____ Other (Please explain.) _____

5. How important are payment limitations that target farm bill programs toward small and medium sized producers?
____ Very important
____ Somewhat important
____ Not at all important

6. If you believe it is important to limit farm bill payments, what payment limit would you suggest? (Please explain.) _____

7. How well do you think the 2002 farm bill commodity title works?

- Very well
- Okay
- Not at all

8. Should direct payments be targeted toward land operators? Yes No

Please explain. _____

9. South Dakota has been hit hard by agriculture disaster over the past few years. Would you make changes to crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)?

- Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

10. How important is it that this next farm bill creates a program to deal with agricultural disaster?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

11. The 2002 farm bill funded conservation programs at an 80% increase over previous farm bills. I'm interested in hearing what changes you would make to these programs and/or if you've had program sign-up or implementation problems (for example, issues with the Conservation Reserve Program re-enrollment or extension process or your suggested CRP changes in the new farm bill). Please explain. _____

12. Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices are critically important in farm bill program implementation, and I oppose any FSA county office closings. Which of the following would be the biggest problem for a farmer or rancher whose FSA office is proposed to close?

(Check all that apply.)

- Driving distance to next FSA office costs time and money
- Impacts on rural development efforts in that county and region
- Not everyone has the Internet, and FSA offices are the only place to get farm bill info
- Need to discuss with local FSA office how new farm bill will affect me
- Other (Please explain.) _____

13. How well do you feel the White House's trade agreements have worked for South Dakota agriculture?

Very well

Okay

Not at all

Please explain. _____

14. It is becoming increasingly difficult for new farmers and ranchers to enter the fold. What do you think could be done to encourage beginning and young farmers? _____

15. Renewable fuels have helped commodities get a better price in the market. As Congress debates an energy title in this next farm bill, what programs do you feel would be helpful in developing the renewable fuels industry? (Check all that apply.)

Incentives for cellulosic ethanol production (such as ethanol from switchgrass)

Ethanol and renewable fuels education for the public and in schools

Extending ethanol tax credits

Other (Please explain.)

16. What should Congress do to enhance our rural development initiatives? _____

17. I'd appreciate any additional farm bill comments you may have. (Attach additional comments if necessary.) _____

Thank you for your input! If you'd like more copies of this survey, please feel free to contact any of my offices listed below. You can contact my office toll-free from anywhere in South Dakota at **1-800-537-0025**. I also have an Agriculture Hotline that is toll-free at **1-800-819-0788**. If you prefer, you can also download additional copies of this survey from my website at <http://johnson.senate.gov>.

ABERDEEN

320 S. First Street, Suite 103
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Phone (605) 226-3440
Fax (605) 226-2439

RAPID CITY

405 E. Omaha Street, Suite B
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone (605) 341-3990
Fax (605) 341-2207

SIOUX FALLS

715 S. Minnesota Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone (605) 332-8896
Fax (605) 332-2824