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Question1:

Question2: I am impressed the nations in the European Union have taken many steps to raise animals more humanely. It is disgraceful that so many cruel factory farming practices still remain legal in the U.S. The USDA should propose eliminating the most egregious factory farming practices, such as crates for pregnant sows and veal calves and battery cages for laying hens.

Question3: More money should be given to family farmers and farms that practice sustainable methods. Organic farmers should get more subsidies so that their items can be cost-competitive with non-organic items.

Current subsidies benefit large producers that subject animals to intensive confinement, mutilations and aversive handling techniques. The USDA should stop providing financial assistance to producers that participate in practices shown by scientific research to be inhumane.

Question4: I believe that keeping large amounts of animals in tiny spaces leads to many of the environmental problems associated with agriculture. USDA should propose setting minimum space allowances that provide animals with the freedom to perform natural behaviors. Giving animals more space will help reduce pollution- both air and water- and waste disposal problems.

Question5: I think it is important to protect rural areas from the air and water pollution that results in factory farming. Therefore, counties should be given the right to ban factory farms from their communities.

Question6: There should be an investment in the research and promotion of free-range and organic products.