

Agriculture

- The primary goal of agricultural policies should be providing food for all people and reducing poverty among farm workers and farmers, both in this country and abroad.
- We must create fair playing fields for all, especially local and family owned farms. We must expose and stop trickle-up economic policies.
- We have to curtail and eventually eliminate the system fueled by special interests that creates these unfair playing fields.
- The current 2007 Farm Bill, soon to be 2009 Farm Bill, has a number of provisions advancing these social and economic justice measures.
- In particular, we must place limits on the size of Federal commodities payments and subsidies, which now go disproportionately to the largest corporately owned farms.
- I want to see gains made in federal food stamp and nutrition funding. Current food stamps are about \$1/person/meal, the same level for the last 30 years, and which are currently \$10/month for seniors.
- I want to improve safety and health conditions for farm workers. In particular, we want to help farm workers who are exposed daily to pesticides sprayed or drop-dusted onto fields.
- Disaster relief provisions must include relief both for growers and for farm workers.