

Set 1: school, teacher, parent, educ, public, children, choic, student

Set 2: administr, action, vice, discrimin, upon, subject, feel, strong

Set 3: trade, agreement, export, market, free, sell, japan, product

Set 4: energi, coal, gas, oil, clean, land, technolog, wind

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AUDIENCE Vice President Gore. The family farms are disappearing and having a hard time even in the current positive economic environment. What steps would you or your administration take on agricultural policy developments to protect the family farms for this multi- functional service they perform?

AL GORE Weve got a bumper crop this year. But thats the good news. You know what the bad news is that follows on that. The prices are low. In the last several years, the so- called Freedom To Farm Law has, in my view, been mostly a failure. I want to change many of its provisions. Now, many here who are not involved in farming dont — wont follow this, so just forgive me. Because the 2% of the country that is involved in farming is important because the rest of us wouldnt eat except for them. And you guys have been having a hard time, and I want to fight for you. I want to change those provisions. I want to restore a meaningful safety net. And I think that you pointed the way in your comments, because when you say there are multiple things accomplished by farmers, youre specifically including conservation and protection of the environment. And yes, farmers are the first environmentalists. And when they decide not to plow a field that is vulnerable to soil erosion, that may cost them a little money, but it helps the environment. I think that we ought to have an expanded conservation reserve program. And I think that the environmental benefits that come from sound management of the land ought to represent a new way for farmers to get some income that will enable them — enable you to make sensible choices in crop rotation, and when you leave the land fallow and the rest. Now, Ill go beyond that and say I think we need much more focus on rural economic development programs. I see a time when the Internet- based activities are more available in the rural areas and where the extra source of income that farm families used to have from shoe factories is replaced by an extra source of income from working in the information economy. So we need to do a lot of things, but we ought to start with a better safety net.

MODERATOR Governor Bush, two minutes.

GEORGE W. BUSH I would like our farmers feeding the world. Were the best producers in the world, and I want — I want the farmers feeding the world. We need to open up markets. Exports are down, and every time an export number goes down, it hurts the farmer. I want the next president to have fast track negotiating authority to open up markets around the world. Weâ€™re the best and the most efficient farmers. I dont want to use food as a diplomatic weapon from this point forward. We shouldnt be using food. It hurts the farmers. Its not the right thing to do. Im for value- added processing. We need more work on value- added processing. You take the raw product you produce, I presume youre a farmer, off your farm, and you convert it. Value- added processing is important. Im for research and development. Spending research and development money so that we can use our technological base to figure out new uses for farm products. Im for getting rid of the

death tax, completely getting rid of the death tax. One reason family farmers are forced to sell early is because of the death tax. This is a bad tax. The President shouldnt have vetoed that bill. Its a tax that taxes people twice. It penalizes the family farmer. So should I be fortunate enough to earn your vote, I also understand — I want to open up markets, but I also understand that farming is a part of our national security. Im from a big farm state. Were the second biggest state — farming state in the country. And I hear from my farmers and friends all the time. The Vice President is right, by the way. Every day is earth day if you own the land. I like the policies that will encourage farmers to put — set aside land as well for conservation purposes. Thank you.

MODERATOR A quick thing on the inheritance tax. There is a difference between the two of you on this. Vice President Gore?