

If we want to maintain the ability to supply our population with safe and nutritious agricultural products, we as a nation need to take some concrete steps to keep agriculture viable. First, we need to insure that the resources are available for farming. That will mean we need to establish dedicated agricultural areas that can not be overgrown by suburban sprawl or converted to a sea of non-working "ranchettes". It will also mean that we must use our abundant solar energy resources in the western deserts to provide the energy needed to desalinate ocean water to supplement our very limited natural water sources. Doing one without the other would be useless. Both of these must be implemented by the State.

Second, we need to insure that our agricultural products are competitive. Right now our country and our foreign markets both are being flooded with other country's produce and food ingredients that are being grown and processed under conditions we would not tolerate in the US. These products are sickening and even killing us, because they are contaminated with chemical pollutants, intentional adulterants, and exotic bacteria and parasites. Their production costs are lower because they are using methods and materials that would violate our public safety standards! The result is an unfair competition between our safe and healthy products and imported products that are neither safe nor healthy, and are labelled in such a way that the average consumer can't even determine the country of origin. We can only fix this problem by requiring 100% inspection as well as both toxin and pathogen testing of all imported food products at our borders.

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