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A view of Washington—From outside the Beltway

Roger Bernard

A VIEW OF WASHINGTON...

...From outside the Beltway

Roger Bernard
Pro Farmer/Farm Journal

Campaign mode

- ▣ All they seem interested in is getting re-elected once they get in.
- ▣ There's too much special interest money.
- ▣ Need better candidates so it isn't a choice between the lesser of two evils.

Once they're in...

- ▣ They campaign on making change, but once they're there, they seem to forget.
- ▣ They find they can't always fight the way Washington works.
- ▣ They stay too long.

Term Limits

- ▣ Most like the concept of term limits
 - 2 or 3 terms for House; 1 or 2 for Senate
- ▣ Don't mesh with current structure where seniority has benefits
- ▣ But even those who want term limits admit it will knock out some of the “good” ones

Regulations are too much

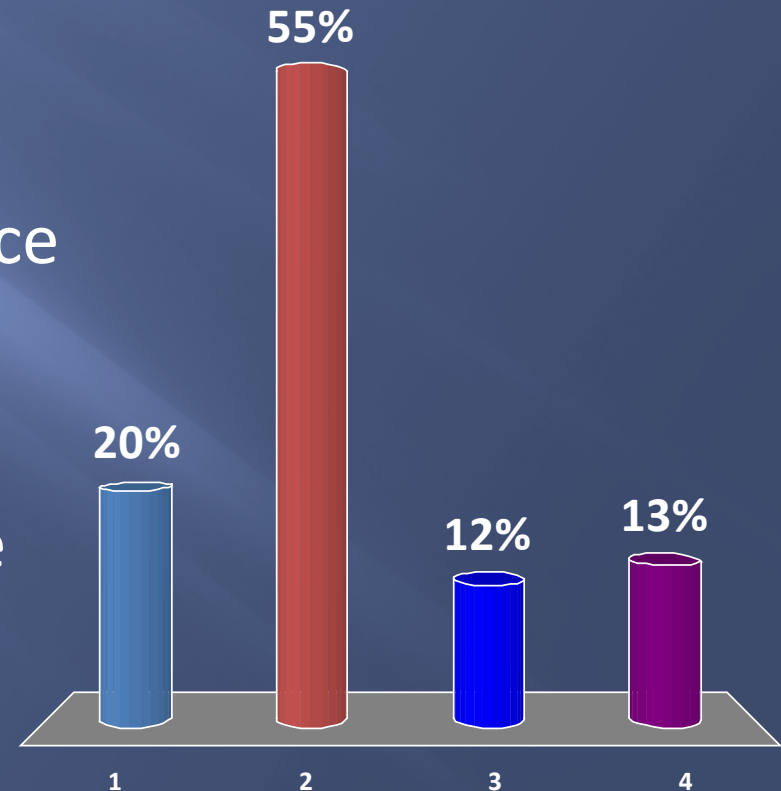
- ▣ EPA the most feared/hated agency
 - *next to IRS!*
 - They lack common sense
 - They've never been on a farm
- ▣ Why can't they let farmers be farmers.

Budget Cuts

- ▣ We have to live by a budget for our farming operation, why can't the government?
- ▣ We know cuts will have to be made, but they need to be equitable.
- ▣ For some sectors of agriculture and in certain times, direct payments are a lifeline.

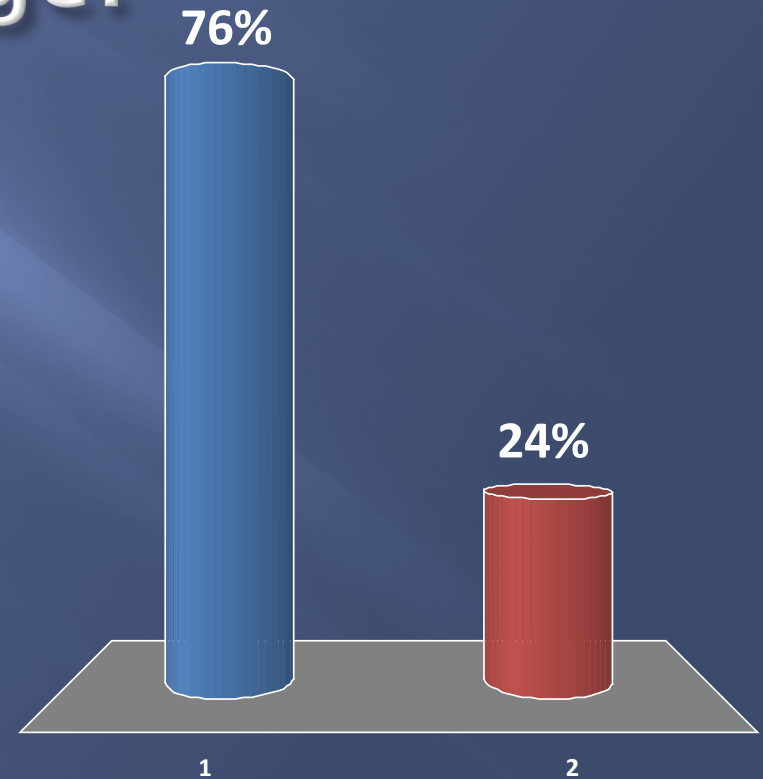
Would you be willing to give up direct payments for:

1. A better revenue-based program/ACRE
2. An enhanced crop insurance program
3. Some other option
4. Wouldn't be willing to give up direct payments.



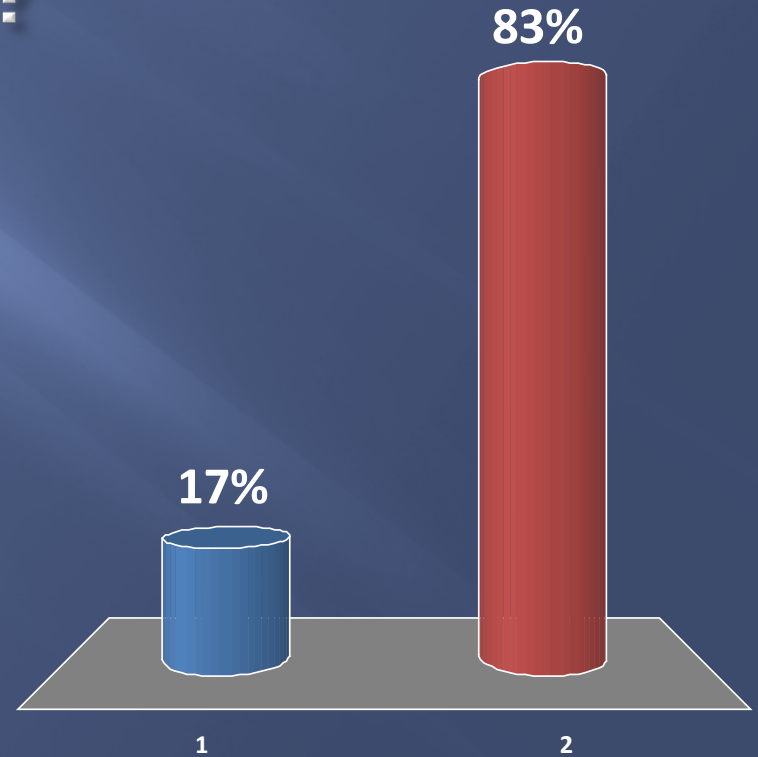
Will you take advantage of the 100% expensing provision from the December tax cut/stimulus package?

1. Yes
2. No



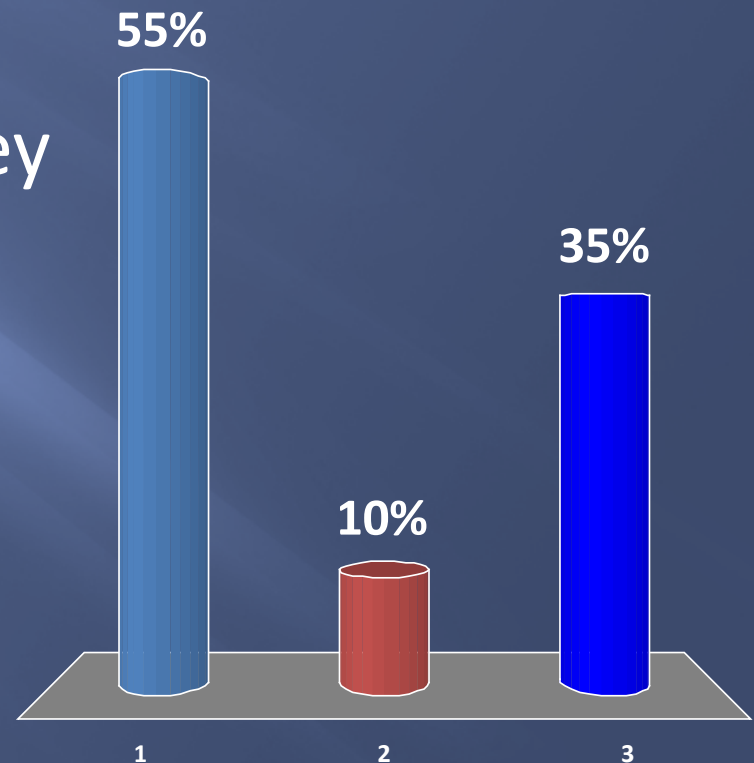
Does the current farm program provide enough of a safety net should prices plummet and Counter-Cyclical Payments are made again?

1. Yes
2. No



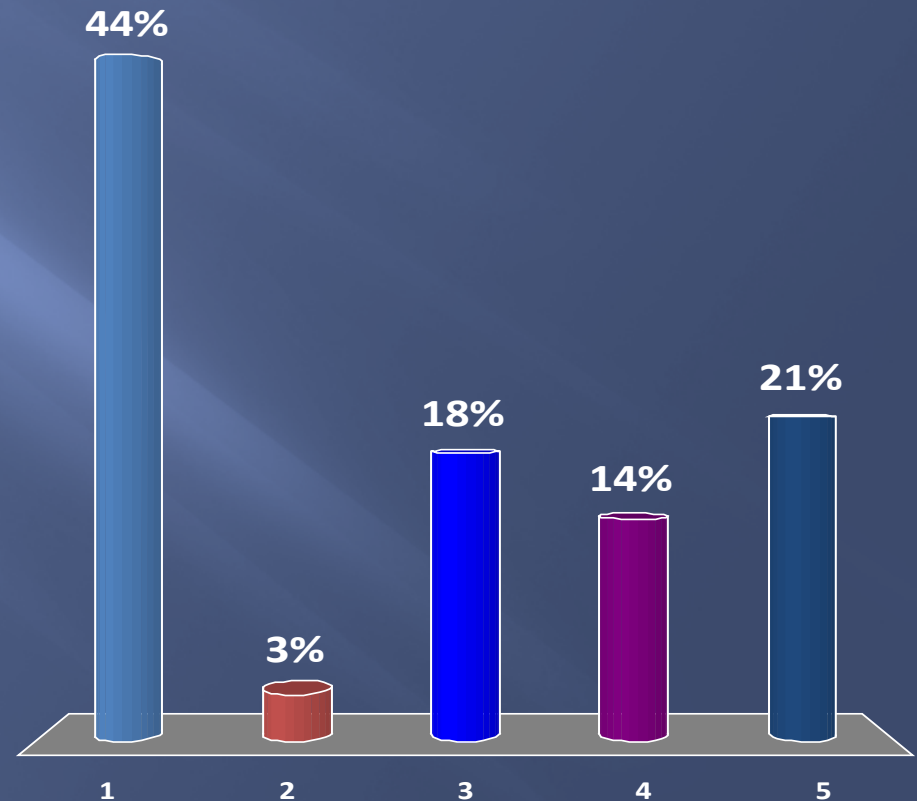
Ethanol policy: Should the current blender credit...

1. Be reduced and the money put to infrastructure.
2. Be ended and the funds used elsewhere
3. Continued at current levels.



What is the biggest impact to your operation in the next several years?

1. Regulations
2. Reduced farm program benefits
3. Availability of credit/financing
4. Competition from overseas farmers/governments
5. Trade



THANK YOU!

- ▣ rogerb@profarmer.com
- ▣ rbernard@farmjournal.com