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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.

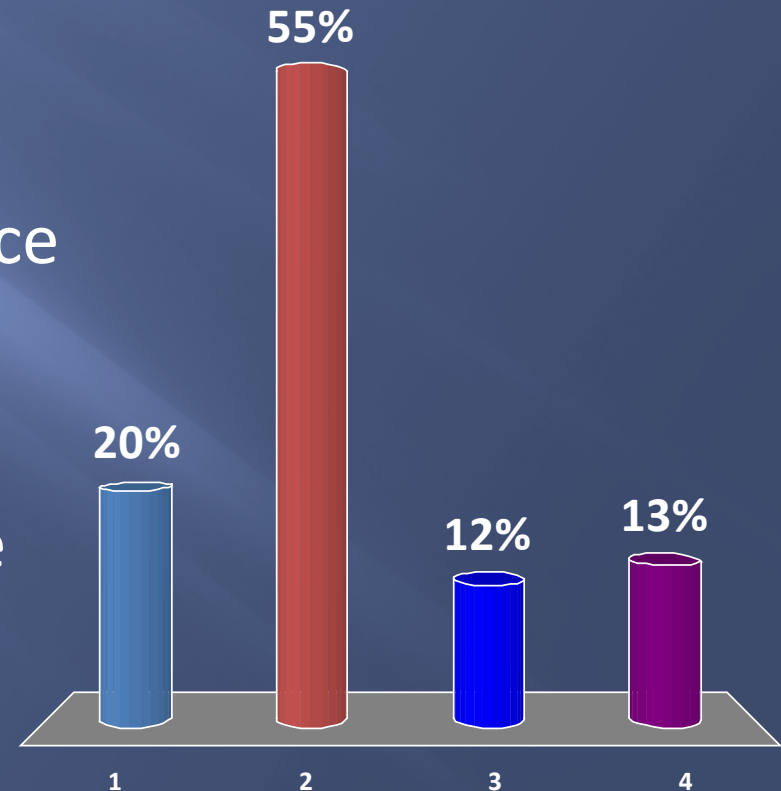
# Budget Cuts

- ▣ 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.



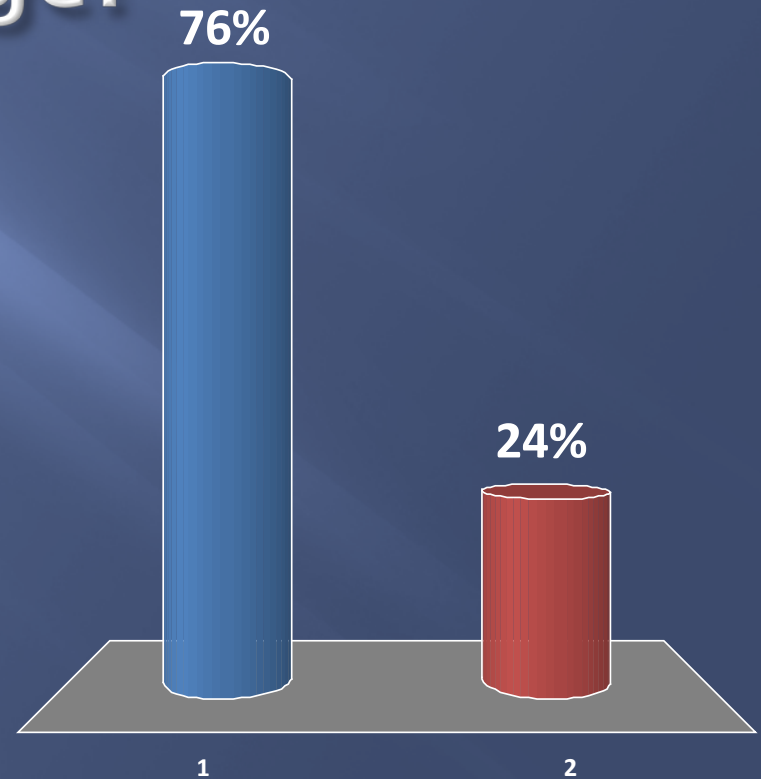
# Would you be willing to give up direct payments for:

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.



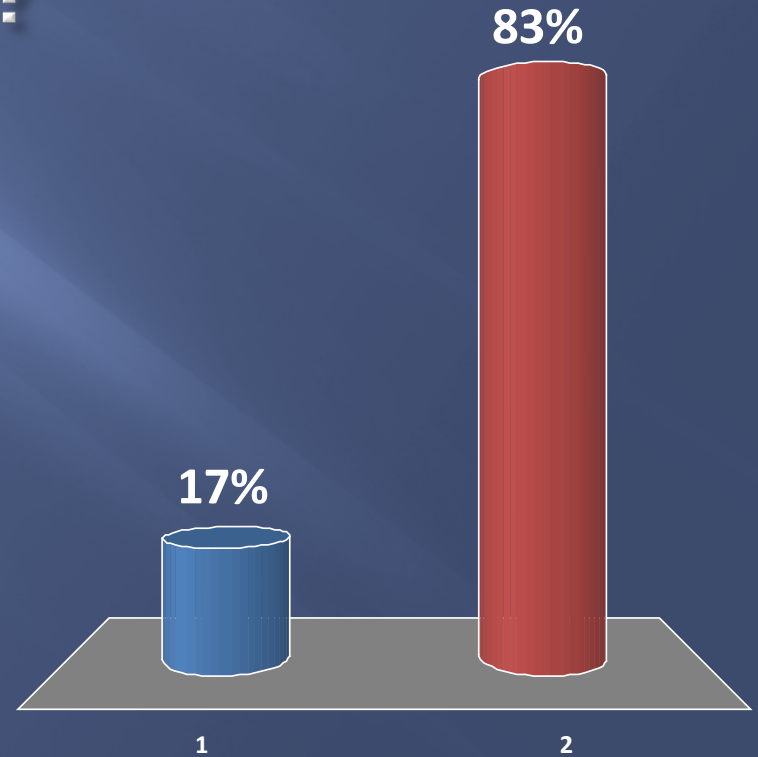
# Will you take advantage of the 100% expensing provision from the December tax cut/stimulus package?

1. Yes
2. No



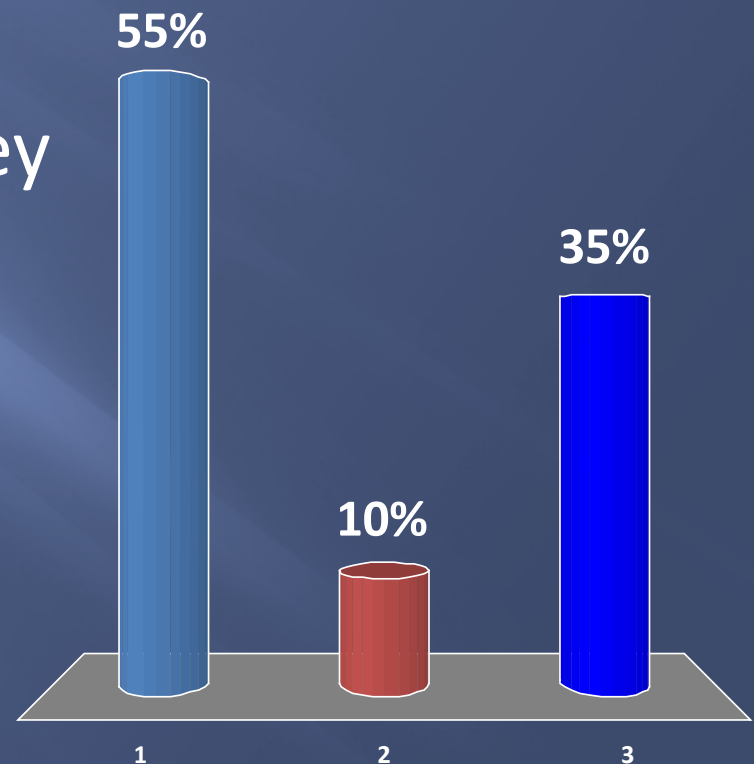
# Does the current farm program provide enough of a safety net should prices plummet and Counter-Cyclical Payments are made again?

1. Yes
2. No



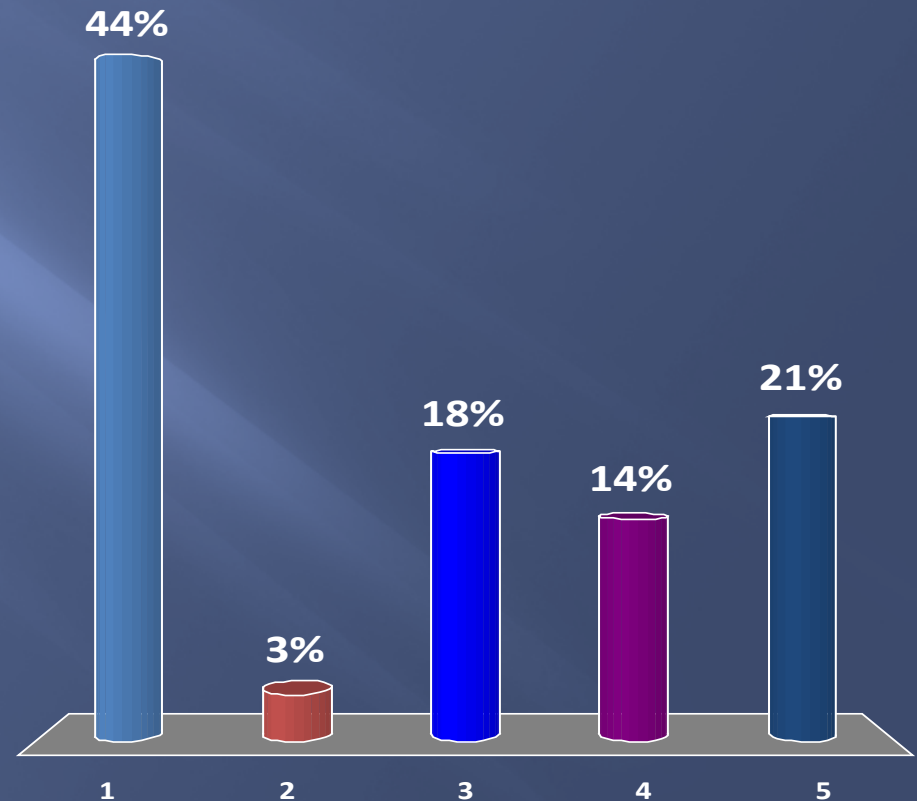
# Ethanol policy: Should the current blender credit...

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](mailto:rogerb@profarmer.com)
- ▣ [rbernard@farmjournal.com](mailto:rbernard@farmjournal.com)