



Senate must take hard look at limiting farm subsidies

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his may be farm country, but it certainly isn't Farm Bill country. The taxes paid by Monterey County residents and the farmers who grow lettuce, grapes, artichokes and other Central Coast specialties don't come back to us in the form of lettuce, grape or artichoke subsidies.

Our tax money gets lumped in with other tax money until it tens of billions of dollars is accumulated for subsidies to cotton farmers, corn farmers and others who don't really need it.

As the Senate begins debating a new five-year Farm Bill, it needs to give more than lip service to amendments that would cap the giveaway at \$250,000 per enterprise or a substitute program by Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, to eliminate cash subsidies in favor of crop insurance.

The Farm Bill in its historic form picks the pockets of most U.S. taxpayers in order to promote and prolong farming and trade practices, such as the stockpiling of surplus corn, that should have been declared obsolete years ago.

It is time for people and politicians outside Farm Bill country to start paying more attention to the Farm Bill.

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