

First let me start by saying that it is both an honor and a privilege to be here today. My name is Edward Esposito of Esposito Farms in Echo Alabama.

For more than a century economists have predicted the demise of the small family farm. We have been labeled as backwards, inefficient and unproductive in comparison to large scale mechanized corporate agriculture. This view needs to be challenged.

Small farmers make better stewards of the land through diverse cropping systems, landscapes and biological organization. We responsibly manage our natural resources of soil, water and wildlife. 60% of all US farms of 180 acres or less produces significant environmental benefits for society.

Most consumers have had little connection to agriculture and food production. Through farmers markets, community supported agriculture and direct marketing strategies of small farmers, consumers are beginning to connect with the people growing their food and with the food itself as a product of a farmers cooperation with nature.

Small farms of less than 30 acres or less can have greater than 10 times greater dollar output than larger farms through the production of specialty items such as vegetables and flowers.

I would like to laude the USAD commission on small farms for their call to change policy that had favored large corporate style farms. Policy that I believe negatively affects rural communities and the environment. I am thankful that programs such as the small scale farmer and rancher and beginning farmer and now made available through the USDA/NRCS. I believe programs such as these will be of great assistance to small farmers in America and that they are long overdue.

Thank you once again for the invitation to speak here today.

**Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Required Witness Disclosure Form**

**House Rules\* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2007.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization you represent (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2007, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do **NOT** require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2007, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you:

Signature: Edward D. [Signature]

\* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: *Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.*

**PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.**

Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Information Required From Non-governmental Witnesses

House rules require non-governmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. Name: EDWARD D. ESPOSITO

2. Business Address: 457 CO RD 83  
Newville AL 36350

3. Business Phone Number: 305-934-8262(c)

4. Organization you represent: Esposito Farm

5. Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:

Producer specialty crops vegetables/Tropical  
Fruit. Conservation Technician  
DALE CO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

6. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:

Technical Trainings in Conservation  
Practices; Erosion Control etc  
Some course work Horticulture University  
of Florida Tropical Research and Center  
Homestead FL

7. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:

NONE

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.