

# 2025 Legislative Fly-In

## THE CRISIS IN FARM COUNTRY

- **Bankruptcies:** Up **95%** in the first quarter of 2025 compared to 2024.
- **Commodity Markets:** Since 2022, corn prices are down **50%** and soybean prices are down **40%**.
- **Production Costs:** Up nearly **50%** in the past decade, with phosphates up **60%**.
- **Trade Deficit:** Agricultural imports are projected to exceed exports by **\$47 billion** in 2025 – the largest deficit in history.
- **Food Prices:** Rising **2.9%** this year, while farmers get just **15.9 cents of every food dollar**.
- **Corporate Monopolies Are Thriving:** The largest private agribusiness and food company in the U.S. paid a **\$1.5 billion dividend** to billionaire owners after profits surged 44% and the largest global meatpacking company posted **\$528 million in profits** in just one quarter of 2025.
- **Farm Labor Shortage:** Farmers and ranchers are in desperate need of a high-quality, reliable workforce.
- **USDA Staffing:** Down **20% of its staff capacity** in 2025, straining the department's ability to serve farmers.

## Farmers are squeezed from all sides.

Consumers pay more at the grocery store while farmers earn less—and corporate giants cash in.



# WHAT MUST CONGRESS DO?

Family farmers are on the **brink of collapse**.

This is a **breaking point**. Farmers, ranchers, and consumers need **Congress to act now**.

- **Finish the farm bill** and make it work for family farmers and ranchers, not corporate monopolies.
- **Deliver immediate assistance** for farmers facing financial uncertainty. Farmers need help now, not next year.
- **Make farm programs work** for family farmers and ranchers by eliminating loopholes and enhancing profitability.
- **Break up monopolies** by strengthening and enforcing antitrust laws.
- **Fix trade policy** to ensure trade deals help U.S. producers, not harm them.
- **Pass permanent disaster relief** and deliver fast, effective responses.
- **Expand new markets** for farmers and U.S. commodities, with a focus on next-generation biofuels and high-value products.
- **Rebuild USDA** and restore staff and resources to support farmers.

## The choice is clear.

Stand with America's family farmers and ranchers—or stand by while the system collapses.



National  
Farmers  
Union

FOR  
★FARMERS'  
SAKE

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Farmers Union members from across the nation have come to Washington, D.C., to advocate for the interests of family farmers and ranchers. They are united around the following key priorities:

## Farm Bill 2.0

The reconciliation bill included several important improvements, but it also made changes that harm family farmers and ranchers and our communities and left out many other important policies. We need a “farm bill 2.0” this year that includes:

- Robust investment in **local and regional food procurement (S. 2338 & H.R. 4782)** so farmers receive a larger share of the retail food dollar, while feeding communities and schoolchildren nutritious and locally sourced foods.
- The **American Beef Labeling Act (S. 421)** to require mandatory country-of-origin labeling.
- The **Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act (S. 1312 & H.R. 1380)** to strengthen enforcement of the Packers & Stockyards Act and other pro-competition and antitrust laws.
- The **Farmers First Act (S. 2282 & H.R. 4400)** to reauthorize and increase funding for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN).
- An extension of the new **dual enrollment** option for ARC and PLC beyond the 2025 crop year.
- A **voluntary soil health and markets program** that rewards farmers for removing marginal crop acres from production and placing them into soil conserving practices on an annual basis.
- **Faster and more reliable support** when farmers face losses from natural disasters, without waiting on Congress to act.
- A national **agriculture Right to Repair law**.



# Agriculture Workforce

Farmers need a skilled workforce. The H-2A temporary agricultural visa program allows farmers to hire foreign workers for temporary, seasonal work, but it is outdated, restrictive, and unaffordable. Congress needs to take action to pass H-2A reform legislation, like the bipartisan **Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 3227)**, to bring the H-2A program up to date and fix the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) methodology.

# Trade

Ongoing tariff announcements are deteriorating decades-old relationships built with our global trading partners. Legislation like the **Trade Review Act of 2025 (S. 1272 & H.R. 2665)** would reassert Congress' authority to review and approve any new tariffs imposed by the president. We need congressional oversight of tariffs and trade policy to ensure new trade measures are helpful, not hurtful.

# Biofuels

Farmers and consumers benefit from the growth of clean, value-added, renewable transportation fuels by removing barriers to higher blends of ethanol and supporting advanced biofuels. Increased volumes of renewable fuels in programs **such as the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and year-round E-15** are vital to move towards E-30 and increased usage of advanced biofuels.

# USDA: The People's Department

**USDA must be well-funded and fully staffed** to serve the needs of all family farmers, ranchers, and our communities. Any reorganization of USDA, or other changes to the department and its programs, should be made only after thorough and transparent consultation with family farmers, ranchers, and others serving the farm community.

