



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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USDA Announces \$12 Billion in Agriculture Bridge Payments

On December 8, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$12 billion in aid for farmers via the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program. The aid is focused primarily on row crop producers as they have faced decreased prices for their commodities, increased input costs, and other setbacks due to tariffs this year. These payments are intended to give aid to farmers until the agricultural investments from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act are realized later in 2026.

USDA will mail pre-filled applications to eligible farmers using Farm Service Agency (FSA) data. Local FSA offices will have access to these applications should producers have questions or need assistance. Applications are expected to be mailed the week of Christmas, which is also when payment rates will be announced. Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Eligible commodities include: barley, chickpeas, corn, cotton, lentils, oats, peanuts, peas, rice, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, canola, flax, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, and sunflower. Livestock will not be included in these payments.

These one-time payments will be released by February 28 and will be based on 2025 planted acres - excluding prevented planting acres. Producers have until 5pm ET December 19 to submit acreage reports if they have not already done so. Payments will be capped at \$155,000 per person, though no other assistance payments received this year will count against a producer's payment limit.

Of the \$12 billion, \$11 billion will go towards the previously mentioned eligible commodities. The remaining \$1 billion has been reserved to help with specialty crops and others not covered by the FBA Program.

For additional information, click [here](#) to read the USDA's press release.