

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, O'Neill House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-337, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

September 9, 2024

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell:

As representatives of farmers, livestock and specialty crop producers, lenders, and other essential stakeholders in agricultural communities across the United States, we write to express our strong support for advancing a meaningful farm bill in 2024 that addresses worsening conditions in farm country. Given the enormous challenges facing production agriculture – including a farm economy that has taken a downward spiral – it is imperative Congress act before year's end to strengthen farm policy for America's farmers. It is critical that Congress pass a new farm bill that strengthens the safety net as many producers are facing multiple years of not being profitable and this is causing their overall financial situation to deteriorate. Some will have challenges as they seek operating credit for the 2025 crop year.

We were encouraged to see farm bill proposals released by leadership of the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction in May and June. We were especially pleased to see swift movement in the House Committee on Agriculture and the resulting bipartisan vote of approval for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. The committee-passed bill addresses many of the significant challenges our members face.

Throughout the life of the current farm bill, producers across the country have experienced powerful headwinds, ranging from extreme weather to high input costs to uncertain global demand to supply chain disruptions. Farmers are struggling, and the decline in the farm economy is real. Estimated 2024 net farm income for U.S. agriculture is projected to be down \$55.61 billion, a more than 27% drop from the 2022 level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since the beginning of the year, the harvest price of major crops traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Intercontinental Exchange have fallen by an average of 21% while total production costs remain near record levels. Despite these factors, USDA projects that federal support for production agriculture in 2024 will be at its lowest since 1982.

Since the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law, we have realized considerable gaps in the farm safety net due to sharply changing conditions, including the trade war with China, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, COVID-19 and related supply chain challenges, rising foreign subsidies, tariffs, non-tariff trade barriers and other harmful practices. These conditions seriously tested the effectiveness of the 2018 Farm Bill, and it was only by the aggressive use of supplemental assistance that many farms survived.

The outlook for farm country at this current point is even more daunting. USDA-projected market prices for the 2024 crop are well below costs of production, and current projections paint another bleak picture for 2025. USDA forecasts the U.S. will again face an agricultural trade deficit amounting to a record \$42.5 billion this year. All the while, the safety net provisions in current law have not kept pace with inflation and are at this point far below the threshold necessary to provide effective relief to our farmers. Meanwhile, USDA forecasts that farm sector debt will reach \$540.8 billion in 2024, its highest inflation-adjusted level since at least 1970.

The farm bill reauthorization provides an opportunity for Congress to address serious challenges in agriculture. A durable farm safety net, along with risk management tools like a strong federal crop insurance program, voluntary and locally led incentive-based conservation programs, and enhanced international marketing and promotion programs, will be critical in shoring up America's farm families and rural communities, which otherwise face an uncertain – and potentially calamitous – future.

We appreciate the efforts of committee leaders to develop a farm bill and their recognition of farmers' contributions to provide food, feed, fuel, and fiber to consumers here at home and abroad. Congress must act before year's end to strengthen farm policy for America's farmers, and we remain committed to assisting in this effort. Failing to reauthorize a farm bill without meaningful investments in commodity programs and crop insurance, or settling for a simple extension of current law, would leave thousands of family farms with no options to continue producing for this nation in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Amcot  
American Association of Crop Insurers  
American Bankers Association  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Cotton Producers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Peanut Shellers Association  
American Pulse Association  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

CoBank  
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association  
Cotton Warehouse Association of America  
Cottonseed and Feed Association  
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau  
Crop Insurance Professionals Association  
CropLife America  
Farm Credit Council  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
National All-Jersey  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Canola Growers Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Cottonseed Products Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Council of Textile Organizations  
National Farmers Union  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Peanut Buying Points Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Supima ®  
US Rice Producers Association  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
U.S. Durum Growers Association  
U.S. Pea & Lentil Trade Association  
U.S. Peanut Federation  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice

AgCarolina Farm Credit  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
AgCredit, ACA  
AgFirst Farm Credit Bank  
AgGeorgia Farm Credit  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Agri-Mark, Inc  
AgSouth Farm Credit.  
AgTexas Farm Credit

AgWest Farm Credit  
Alabama Ag Credit  
Alabama Cotton Commission  
Alabama Farm Credit  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alabama Peanut Producers Association  
Alabama Soybean and Corn Association  
American AgCredit  
American Sugar Cane League  
ArborOne Farm Credit  
Arizona Cotton Ginner's Association  
Arizona Cotton Growers Association  
Arizona Dairy Producers Trade Association  
Arizona Farm Bureau  
Arkansas Bankers Association  
Arkansas Cotton Warehouse Association  
Arkansas Crop Protection Association  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Rice Federation  
Arkansas Soybean Association  
Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Blackland Cotton & Grain Producers Association  
Bongards' Creameries  
California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association  
California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
California Dairies, Inc.  
California Farm Bureau  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California Pork Producers Association  
California Prune Board  
California Rice Commission  
California Seed Association  
California Walnut Commission  
Capital Farm Credit, ACA  
Cayuga Marketing  
Center for Dairy Excellence  
Central Rolling Plains Coop  
Colonial Farm Credit, ACA  
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers  
Colorado Dairy Farmers  
Colorado Pork Producers Council  
Colorado Sorghum Producers  
Compeer Financial  
Cooperative Milk Producers Association

Cotton and Grain Producers of the Lower Rio Grande Valley  
Cotton Producers of Missouri  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Delta Council  
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative  
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery  
Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit Illinois  
Farm Credit Mid-America  
Farm Credit of the Virginias  
Farm Credit Services of America  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
First District Association  
First South Farm Credit  
Florida Cotton Growers Association  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Peanut Federation  
Florida Peanut Producers Association  
Florida Rice Growers  
Florida Sugar Cane League  
Foremost Farms USA  
Frontier Farm Credit  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.  
Georgia Peanut Commission  
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association  
GreenStone Farm Credit Services  
High Plains Farm Credit  
Horizon Farm Credit  
Idaho Barley Commission  
Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc.  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Illinois Milk Producers Association  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Illinois Soybean Growers  
Indiana Soybean Alliance  
Indiana Corn Growers Association  
Indiana Dairy Producers  
Iowa Corn Growers Association  
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives

Iowa Pork Producers Association  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Iowa State Dairy Association  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
Kansas Cotton Association  
Kansas Dairy Association  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Sorghum Producers  
Kansas Soybean Association  
Kentucky Corn Growers Association  
Kentucky Dairy Development Council  
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation  
Kentucky Pork Producers Association  
Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association  
Kentucky Soybean Association  
Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
Legacy Ag Credit  
Lone Star Milk Producers  
Louisiana Bankers Association  
Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association  
Louisiana Cotton Ginners Association  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Independent Cotton Warehouse Association  
Louisiana Rice Producers' Group  
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Maryland Grain Producers Association  
Michigan Corn Growers Association  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Michigan Soybean Association  
Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association  
Midwest Council on Agriculture  
Midwest Dairy Coalition  
Midwest Dry Bean Coalition  
Milk Producers Council  
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers  
Minnesota Barley Growers Association  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Land Bank, ACA  
Mississippi Peanut Growers Association  
Mississippi Rice Council

Mississippi Soybean Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Dairy  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
Missouri Rice Council  
Missouri Soybean Association  
Montana Grain Growers Association  
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative  
Nebraska Corn Growers Association  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association  
Nebraska Sorghum Producers  
Nebraska Soybean Association  
Nebraska State Dairy Association  
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association  
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation  
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau  
New Mexico Sorghum Producers  
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York Pork Producers Coop Inc  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
North Carolina Dairy Producers Association  
North Carolina Farm Bureau  
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
Northharvest Bean Growers Association  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
Northeast Dairy Producers Association  
Northern Canola Growers Association  
Northern Pulse Growers Association  
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Northwest Dairy Association  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau  
Ohio Pork Council  
Ohio Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oklahoma Sorghum Growers  
Oklahoma Soybean Association  
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Oregon Wheat Growers League  
Pacific Northwest Canola Association  
Pacific Seed Association  
Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Plains Land Bank  
Prairie Farms Dairy  
Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania  
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association  
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association  
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association  
South Carolina Farm Bureau  
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives  
South Dakota Dairy Producers  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association  
Southeast Milk, Inc.  
Southern AgCredit, ACA  
Southern Cotton Ginners Association  
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Southern Kansas Cotton Growers Coop  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
St Lawrence Cotton Growers  
Tennessee Dairy Producers Association  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Pork Producers Association  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Texas Association of Dairymen  
Texas Corn Producers Association  
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas Pork Producers Association  
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group  
Texas Sorghum Growers  
Texas Soybean Association  
Texas Wheat Producers Association  
Tillamook County Creamery Association

United Dairy Farmers of Florida  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
Utah Pork Producers Association  
Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance  
Virginia Cotton Growers Association  
Virginia Farm Bureau  
Virginia Grain Producers Association  
Virginia Soybean Association  
Virginia State Dairymen's Association  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Washington State Dairy Federation  
Western Peanut Growers  
Western States Dairy Producers Association  
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association  
Wisconsin Soybean Association

CC:

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable David Scott, Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, & Forestry

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, & Forestry