

**HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING
TESTIMONY FROM THE HONORABLE
BROOKE L. ROLLINS, SECRETARY, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JUNE 11, 2025

Serial No. 119-7



Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture
agriculture.house.gov

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

62-625 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2026

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:06 a.m., in Room 1300, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Glenn Thompson, [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Members present: Representatives Thompson, Lucas, Austin Scott of Georgia, Crawford, DesJarlais, LaMalfa, Rouzer, Kelly, Bacon, Bost, Johnson, Baird, Mann, Feenstra, Miller, Moore, Finstad, Rose, Jackson of Texas, De La Cruz, Nunn, Van Orden, Newhouse, Wied, Messmer, Harris, Taylor, Craig, David Scott of Georgia, Costa, McGovern, Adams, Hayes, Brown, Davids of Kansas, Salinas, Davis of North Carolina, Tokuda, Budzinski, Sorensen, Vasquez, Jackson of Illinois, Gray, McDonald Rivet, Figures, Vindman, Riley, Mannion, McClain Delaney, and Carbajal.

Staff present: Justin Benavidez, Laurel Lee Chatham, Austin DeBerry, Luke Franklin, Justina Graff, Harlea Hoelscher, Sofia Jones, Joshua Maxwell, Josie Montoney, Thomas Newberry, Sam Rogers, Patricia Straughn, Joshua Stull, John Konya, Britton Burdick, Suzie Cavalier, Kate Fink, Clark Ogilvie, Michael Stein, and Jackson Blodgett.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. GLENN THOMPSON, A
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will come to order. Welcome, and thank you all for joining today's hearing where we will hear from Secretary Rollins from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After brief opening remarks, Members will receive testimony from our witness today, and then the hearing will open to questions.

So once again, good morning, everyone. I would like to welcome you all to today's hearing and extend a special thanks to the Honorable Brooke Rollins for joining us for her first appearance before this Committee as our 33rd Secretary of Agriculture. I am proud to call her a friend and deeply appreciative of the leadership she has shown in just a few short months on the job. Madam Secretary, we are truly grateful to have you with us today.

This Committee is dedicated to the prosperity and long-term sustainability of rural America. Our nation's farmers, ranchers, and

foresters are the fundamental piece of America's number one industry which clothes and feeds millions of American families and billions around the world.

And that is why Congress came together at the end of last year to provide meaningful relief with \$21 billion to address weather-related losses in 2023 and 2024 and another \$10 billion to help offset sustained economic losses impacting producers. I am grateful to Secretary Rollins for the work she has done and will continue to do to get those dollars out the door and ensure that help reaches the producers who need it most.

Largely thanks to these investments and a renewed emphasis on expanding global markets, recent USDA forecasts show net farm income stabilizing for 2025. Those dollars, while not enough to make producers whole, were enough for many to keep the lights on and obtain credit to farm another year. However, input costs remain high and commodity prices continue to soften and forecast margins, working capital, and debt loads continue to deteriorate.

Our work to support America's farmers and ranchers is not yet complete. Over the past several years, the producers we represent have withstood an unprecedented mix of adversity, a global pandemic, record inflation, supply chain disruptions, animal disease, and natural disasters, and yet they have continued to deliver the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. While that is not something that we take for granted, it is something we must support through sound policy, stable markets, and a strong USDA.

That said, we have plenty to discuss this morning, Madam Secretary. We are eager to hear your plans to make USDA more efficient, particularly as it relates to reorganization efforts, ensuring that there is not a disruption to customer service. We are also interested in your strategy to support producers with today's challenging trade environment and animal health risks. As you and the President work to lower barriers and open new markets and we navigate these issues together, I trust you will continue to keep the interests of the American agriculture front and center.

We are turning the page to a new chapter for American agriculture, one where new scientific breakthroughs and technology will work hand in hand with tradition, stewardship, and grit to address the challenges at hand and build on the legacy of resilience and innovation driven by our farmers and ranchers.

As part of that new chapter, it is incumbent on Congress to do our job. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Pub. L. 119-21) is a critical down payment on meaningful change for America, but it is just the beginning. We must also deliver a full farm bill reauthorization that provides certainty and long-term support for our producers. Once we complete the reconciliation process, we will build on that foundation with a comprehensive farm bill later this year.

Secretary Rollins, I know that you bring to this role a deep belief in the power of rural America and the American farmer. We share that belief. I know that we are aligned in our commitment to the people in this country who produce, as well as those who consume. As we begin this conversation today, I want to underscore my hope and expectation that the relationship between this Committee and the Department of Agriculture will be a strong, productive partner-

ship. The future of our food supply, our environment, and our economy depends on it.

With that, I thank you again, Secretary Rollins, for your service and your testimony.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Thompson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. GLENN THOMPSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM PENNSYLVANIA

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That is why Congress came together at the end of last year to provide meaningful relief with \$21 billion to address weather-related losses in 2023 and 2024, and another \$10 billion to help offset sustained economic losses impacting producers.

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As we begin this conversation today, I want to underscore my hope—and expectation—that the relationship between this Committee and the Department of Agriculture will be a strong, productive partnership.

The future of our food system, our environment, and our economy depends on it.

With that, I thank you again, Secretary Rollins, for your service and your testimony. I now yield to Ranking Member Craig from the great State of Minnesota for her opening remarks.

The CHAIRMAN. I now yield to Ranking Member Craig from the great State of Minnesota for her opening remarks.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ANGIE CRAIG, A
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM MINNESOTA**

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I want to welcome Secretary Rollins to our Committee hearing today. She reminded me in the back room that she spent every summer in Minnesota, so she has a deep connection to my home state as well.

Doing right by our family farmers requires working across the aisle. That has been a trademark of this Committee over time, and that is how successful farm bills usually function. Traditionally, USDA has reflected that commitment as well by supporting our family farmers as they grow food that feeds our country and the world, ensuring our food is safe to eat, stopping the spread of animal disease, and innovating the future of food and agriculture.

However, I am genuinely concerned that under this Administration, agricultural policymaking has become more partisan and polarized. This reckless push to cut nearly \$300 billion in funding to a title of the farm bill instead of prioritizing getting a 12 title, 5 year farm bill across the finish line is of particular concern to this Committee, and it has put the bipartisan farm bill in jeopardy.

In addition, DOGE has been given essentially a free pass to damage program integrity and undermine the USDA's ability to carry out its core functions and provide key services that America's farmers rely on.

Madam Secretary, your agency has fired and then had to rehire agency employees because of uninformed and reckless decisions over the course of the past few months. Our trade deficit is increasing. Retaliatory tariffs are coming. Countries are already moving to buy commodities from other nations instead of America's farmers. Input costs are stubbornly high. The bird flu remains a concern. Food banks have been defunded. Billions of dollars in farm programs remain frozen. School cafeterias have been cut off from sourcing locally grown food. Food safety and animal health experts have been fired or forced out. Nutrition assistance programs are being decimated. The farm bill is in jeopardy. The USDA Inspector General who rooted out fraud, waste, and abuse was fired. And the MAHA Commission, which USDA signed off on, is issuing reports with made-up science and fake citations without talking to family farmers.

I grew up in farm country. My grandfather was a farm foreman. And I now have the opportunity and honor of representing corn, soybean, pork, and turkey producers, among others, in Minnesota's 2nd District. They are tough people. They want markets, not farm income from more government handouts because their government's policies are hurting their farms.

So yes, Madam Secretary, we are grateful that you have come to testify in front of us today, and we have a lot to talk to you about. Thank you for being here.

And, Mr. Chairman, I yield.
[The prepared statement of Ms. Craig follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. ANGIE CRAIG, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
MINNESOTA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to welcome the Secretary to our Committee hearing today. We have a lot to cover—and thank you for being here.

Doing right by our family farmers often requires working across the aisle. That's been a trademark of this Committee over time. And that's how successful farm bills usually function.

Traditionally, USDA has reflected that commitment as well. By supporting our family farmers as they grow food that feeds our country and the world, ensuring our food is safe to eat, stopping the spread of animal-borne disease and innovating the future of food and agriculture.

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So yes—we have a lot we want to talk to you about today. Thank you for being here.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentlelady. She yields back.

The chair would request that other Members submit their opening statements for the record so our witness may begin her testimony and to ensure that there is ample time for questions.

[The prepared statements of Ms. Adams and Mr. Jackson of Illinois follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. ALMA S. ADAMS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank Secretary Rollins for being here, and I look forward to your testimony and the opportunity to have a conversation.

Today, we are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, where American families are living paycheck to paycheck, and I am deeply concerned about the actions from the White House.

So far, we have seen . . .

The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement was terminated. The Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program was canceled. These programs provided nearly \$30 million to North Carolina for these vital community partnerships and distribution of local, healthy foods.

The 1890 National Scholars Program, suspended. I am pleased that the USDA lifted the suspension. However, for this program to truly thrive, scholars and insti-

tutions need assurance that it won't face sudden suspensions again. I heard directly from representatives of 1890 Institutions, and they shared how deeply concerning this pause was for them and their students—many of whom were left uncertain about their financial stability and educational futures. That is why I introduced the Land-Grant Institution Parity Act, which protects Federal funding for our land-grant colleges and universities, including the country's 19 land-grant HBCUs, commonly referred to as 1890 Institutions.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), frozen. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte has been a recipient of a nearly \$63,000 grant from NIFA.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program, canceled.

Despite court orders and the rescission of the initial memo, key USDA programs remain stalled, and uncertainty and confusion remain among families, farmers, and universities as they await the disbursement of funds and question whether programs will be frozen again or canceled in the future.

In fact, Nourish Up, a food pantry network in my district of Mecklenburg County that strives to provide help to the more than 200,000 people with food insecurity in the community, feels whiplash.

After freezes, terminations, and proposed cuts to food assistance programs were revealed several months ago, staff at the food pantry noted that the uncertainty about available funds has added a layer of unpredictability to planning for non-profits and other safety net organizations that often operate on lean budgets.

I am also deeply concerned of the White House's desire to have this 'One Big Beautiful' bill—I will tell you, there is nothing beautiful about it. And it is not an exaggeration to say that this budget bill is the single biggest threat to food security in generations.

In my district, we have 46,000 households that receive SNAP benefits every month. That's one out of every seven.

The average SNAP benefit in North Carolina is only \$5.70 per person per day. That's already not enough to put food on the table anymore.

Reducing it further would cause food insecurity to grow in our region and our state.

Four in five North Carolina families receiving SNAP benefits have either a child, a senior, or an adult with a disability in their household.

Whether it's a reduction in benefits or reducing the number of recipients, both would lead to severe harm for food security in Charlotte.

On top of SNAP cuts, the Republican budget bill would also add even harsher work requirements on anyone trying to access the program.

To be clear, SNAP already has work requirements. It's estimated that these requirements would threaten the food security of 375,000 North Carolinians.

Rather than help support the basic needs of their constituents, Republicans want to kick more people off SNAP so they can fund their tax breaks for billionaires.

It's unacceptable.

And, from the President's Budget and House Republican Agriculture Appropriations bill, both want slash WIC's cash value benefit, which allows families to purchase fruits and vegetables as part of their WIC food package.

Let me be clear—these cuts don't happen in isolation—they target the same low-income families who rely on SNAP, Medicaid, public education, and other critical services. Slashing multiple supports at once intensifies hardship and deepens poverty.

These actions will also harm American farmers who will no longer see proceeds from producing this food.

I've spoken with farmers in my district about SNAP and they are overwhelmingly supportive of this program.

Kim, a farmer in Charlotte, told me that, "I support SNAP because we are a farm located in a 'food desert' within the City of Charlotte. How can we feed our most vulnerable if we are unable to take these benefits at our farmstand?"

Wendy, a farmer also from Charlotte, told me, "We support SNAP because it brings people to our farm who otherwise wouldn't have the chance. We support SNAP because it gives small farms like ours a way to serve the community while staying sustainable."

We must work together to ensure that families and farmers across the country are able to thrive. At the end of the day, these are not red issues or blue issues—they are red, white, and blue issues—American issues.

Thank you for being here, I look forward to your testimony, and I yield back.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM ILLINOIS

Thank you, Chairman Thompson. Thank you, Ranking Member Craig, and thank you, Secretary Rollins, for appearing before this Committee today.

Last year, this Administration declared war. Not on the New World screwworm advancing on our southern border, not on the corporate consolidation squeezing our family farmers, but on an idea: the idea of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. And in doing so, it has created a crisis of competence and confidence at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We are here today to examine whether the Secretary's actions—the termination of over 3,600 contracts and the cancellation of nearly a thousand employee trainings—are rooted in sound policy and the rule of law, or in a politically motivated purge that has left this nation's agriculture and food supply more vulnerable.

The Secretary has made “merit” her North Star. Yet, she has done so while ignoring the legal definition of merit that has governed our civil service for nearly half a century—the Merit System Principles, codified at 5 U.S.C. § 2301. These principles were not designed to be “woke”; they were designed to prevent the very thing we are witnessing: the replacement of a professional, experienced civil service with one based on political loyalty.

If Congress does nothing, a dangerous precedent will be set. An agency head will be allowed to disregard binding legal frameworks like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 based on a secret, unwritten definition of what they find politically objectionable. This is not oversight; it is an assault on the rule of law itself.

I have significant concerns that I hope to address today. The Secretary's crusade has been waged without providing this Committee, or the American public, with a single, consistent definition of the “woke DEI initiatives” she is so determined to eliminate. Agency action cannot be arbitrary and capricious.

We will ask the Secretary to define her terms. We will ask how eliminating training on preventing sexual harassment makes our food safer. And we will ask if her own appointment meets the rigorous standards of “merit” she seeks to impose on others, especially when compared to the vast experience of her predecessor in this role.

The central question today is one of staggering hypocrisy. Can a leader who rails against programs designed to create opportunity, while seemingly being the beneficiary of a system that prizes political connection over proven experience, be trusted to lead with integrity?

This is not an academic debate. This is about our nation's ability to function. It's about the stability of the agency that ensures the food on our tables is safe. It's about whether we will honor the legacy of cases like *Pigford v. Glickman* and ensure the USDA serves all farmers, not just a select few.

We have an opportunity to get answers today. The American people deserve to know if their Department of Agriculture is being led based on evidence and law, or on political whim and prejudice.

Thank you, and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. I am pleased to welcome to the Committee our witness for today, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins. Madam Secretary, thank you for joining us, and we are now going to proceed to your testimony. You will have 5 minutes. Thank you for your written testimony that you have submitted. All of our Members have a copy of that written testimony. The timer in front of you will count down to zero, at which point your time has expired.

Secretary Rollins, please begin when you are ready.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BROOKE ROLLINS, SECRETARY, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, thank you, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, and distinguished Members of this Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to highlight what the U.S. Department of Agriculture has accomplished since the start of our new Administration just a short few months ago.

Under the Trump Administration, the hardworking Americans who feed, fuel, and clothe our nation and the world are at the cen-

ter of everything we do at USDA. Our USDA is putting farmers first and taking bold action every single day. The following is a quick list of just a few of those highlights over the last 118 days.

First, tackling the avian bird flu outbreak and lowering the price of wholesale eggs by more than 65 percent, with retail prices following at 25 percent and gaining every week.

Second, taking action to respond to foreign disease outbreaks like the New World screwworm because food security is national security. I am sure we will get into that today.

Third, we have kicked off a comprehensive effort to identify and to rectify politically motivated lawfare originating and against our family farms, such as the Maude family of South Dakota.

Fourth, we are streamlining unnecessary regulations and cutting red tape for poultry farmers and other producers, for example, by extending line speed waivers and removing duplicative data collection.

Number five, USDA moved out the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program in record time, and a lot of leadership in this Committee to get that money there, and aid, have already sent out aid to more than 500,000 farmers in just the last 8 weeks, with a total of over \$7.7 billion out the door to date. Additionally, we have issued \$1 billion of the emergency livestock relief to date and are on track to meet our deadlines for the remaining Congressionally authorized disaster programs, which are so important, especially since the farm bill was not done in the last few years.

Number six, in the Oval Office yesterday, talking with President Trump and the media about the increase of productivity and production in our timber industry after being decimated over the last few years.

Seventh, opening up five markets around the world in certain parts of the world where new markets have been open and our products have moved in, great American farm products.

And finally, continuing to address waste, fraud, and abuse in SNAP and, frankly, all USDA programs that have long neglected to put our farmers first. This includes a review of thousands, tens of thousands of contracts, grants, employee trainings, and DEI programs, resulting in over a savings of \$5.5 billion.

Now, let me expand on just a few of those in my remaining 2 minutes and 11 seconds. My team and I are regularly meeting, as I mentioned, with foreign partners, expanding markets around the world, promoting agricultural products, which are the best. I have already traveled to the UK and to Italy. I am soon to leave for Vietnam, Japan, and India, and after that going to South America. We are working as hard as we possibly can, pushing these aggressive trade deals to put our American farmers and producers first.

In this Administration, it doesn't take more taxpayer dollars to boost timber production, to unleash American energy dominance, and to balance unfair trade commitments around the world. It just takes a President who can harness the strength and ingenuity of the American people.

There is still much work to be done as we realign the American and world economy at the service of the American people and the American farmer. We are leaving no stone unturned as we evaluate

the effectiveness of all of our programs, and I thank each one of you on both sides of the aisle for your collaboration in that effort.

We are also at a pivotal moment where we can safeguard our country from fiscal ruin, and I applaud the steps this Committee took, sir, on passing the One Big Beautiful Bill and all of the work that that took. This bill leverages a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and specifically for our farmers, increasing \$3.8 billion in income projected, protecting over two million of our family farms from the death tax, and cutting more than \$10 billion in taxes, again, just in our agricultural community.

As the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture, I have the profound privilege of seeing firsthand how our nation's farmers serve as the very heartbeat of this country. Their unwavering dedication and resilience are not merely testaments to hard work, they form the bedrock that upholds our national security, revitalizes our rural communities, and preserves our cherished traditions.

Our farmers and ranchers do not rest, and neither do we at the USDA. I am proud to be at the helm of Abraham Lincoln's "People's Department." I am proud to be at the table with President Donald Trump and fighting for the very foundation of our American way of life.

Thank you, and I look forward to today's discussion.

[The prepared statement of Secretary Rollins follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. BROOKE ROLLINS, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, and distinguished Members of this Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to highlight what the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has accomplished since the start of the new Administration. President Donald J. Trump said it best in his proclamation on National Agriculture Day: "From the earliest days of our Republic, our farmers and agricultural communities have been the source of American success—enduring the elements and defying hard conditions to cultivate our land and feed the people. Farming is indelibly engrained in our history, customs, and culture, and stands to this day as the bedrock of our economy and way of life." As the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture, I have the profound privilege of seeing firsthand how our nation's farmers serve as the very heartbeat of America. Their unwavering dedication and resilience are not merely testaments to hard work; they form the bedrock that upholds our food security, revitalizes rural communities, and preserves cherished traditions.

The People's Department is supposed to be the forefront of agriculture, natural resources, rural development, food, and nutrition. We should help shepherd public policy guided by the best available science, laws passed by Congress, and the input of experts across this great nation—especially those who tend our lands and livestock. However, for too long, the hardworking Americans who feed, fuel, and clothe the world have been sidelined in this mission. That changed January 20. The President and I share the same goal of making agriculture great again, and I personally have and will continue to ensure farmers, ranchers, and the constituencies of the USDA have a strong voice in the White House and around the world.

I'd like to start with a short list of what we have accomplished before going into greater detail.

1. Supported American poultry and egg producers, addressed the *avian flu*,¹ and lowered the cost of eggs for consumers.

¹ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/03/20/usda-update-progress-five-pronged-strategy-combat-avian-flu-and-lower-egg-prices>.

2. Taken bold action to respond to foreign disease outbreaks like *New World screwworm*² to strengthen the domestic food supply, because food security is national security.
3. Launched a *new web portal*³ for potential victims of ongoing lawfare originating under the Biden Administration to submit their concerns and experiences.
4. Fought for *fair trade for all American farmers and ranchers*⁴ by tackling trade barriers, visited two countries with plans to visit five more before September 30 to both expand market access and support the Trump Administration's trade agenda.
5. Unleashed *American energy dominance*⁵ through expanded access to mining and drilling on Federal land and releasing a *biofuels incentive program*⁶ to help fuel America.
6. Streamlined unnecessary regulations and cutting red tape for agricultural producers. This work included sweeping reforms to *boost timber production, streamline pork and poultry processing*,⁷ and reduce wildfire risk through *public-private partnerships*.⁸
7. *Signed a joint memo*⁹ with Secretary Burgum on wildfire preparedness, ensuring our two Departments are working in close coordination this fire season.
8. *Deployed resources to assist*¹⁰ the wildfire response in Canada.
9. Approved a variety of Congressionally authorized fund distributions to support communities affected by wind storms, drought, and disasters in the agricultural sector—at record speed.
10. Sought and addressed waste, fraud, and abuse in all USDA programs, including, *SNAP fraud*,¹¹ and *woke programs*¹² that have long **not** put Farmers First.
11. Reviewed thousands of contracts, grants, and employee trainings and DEI programs resulting in terminations totaling over \$5.5 billion to date. USDA also identified and canceled nearly 1,000 employee trainings, more than 750 of which focused on DEI alone.
12. Led major steps to *Make America Healthy Again*¹³ (MAHA) through *prioritizing health in SNAP*.¹⁴ Over the last few weeks, I have signed the first *food restriction waivers*¹⁵ submitted by innovative governors in Nebraska, Iowa, and Indiana. Each waiver restricts unhealthy foods from SNAP and respect the generosity of the American taxpayer. The MAHA movement at USDA has also supported the *food industry's voluntary changes*¹⁶ to make food healthier.

² <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/27/update-usda-efforts-fight-new-world-screwworm-mexico>.

³ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/30/secretary-rollins-hosts-maude-washington-after-us-government-dropped-lawfare-case>.

⁴ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/02/usda-announces-agricultural-trade-promotion-programs-fy-2026>.

⁵ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/03/25/usda-delivers-rural-energy-commitments-provides-path-applicants-support-us-energy-independence>.

⁶ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/03/31/usda-delivers-rural-energy-commitments-strengthens-us-energy-security-and-increases-american-growth>.

⁷ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/04/secretary-rollins-announces-sweeping-reforms-protect-national-forests-and-boost-domestic-timber>.

⁸ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/02/26/secretary-rollins-initiates-new-public-private-partnership-reduce-wildfire-risk>.

⁹ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/20/secretary-rollins-and-secretary-burgum-sign-joint-fire-memo-ahead-peak-fire-season-receive-fire>.

¹⁰ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/31/usda-sends-fire-resources-assist-canada-wildfire-response>.

¹¹ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/24/usda-ensures-illegal-aliens-do-not-receive-federal-benefits>.

¹² <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/02/20/secretary-rollins-releases-first-tranche-funding-under-review>.

¹³ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/04/hhs-and-usda-hold-first-public-maha-event-outline-vision-healthier-america>.

¹⁴ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/15/rollins-applauds-arkansas-governor-submitting-snap-waiver-make-america-healthy-again>.

¹⁵ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/23/secretary-rollins-applauds-state-waivers-make-america-healthy-again-removing-unhealthy-foods-snap>.

¹⁶ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/22/secretary-rollins-applauds-dairy-industry-voluntarily-removing-artificial-colors-national-school>.

13. Took leadership to make *rural America*¹⁷ prosper again by reducing regulations and revitalizing communities.

While USDA is taking bold action, I must also make note that we are at a pivotal moment where we can safeguard our country from fiscal ruin and I applaud the steps this Committee has taken in passing H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to cut spending, fuel growth, and level the fiscal footing of the American economy. This is in addition to much needed funding this Committee provides for agricultural producers alongside reforms to cut waste, fraud, and abuse in USDA programs—saving billions of dollars. USDA is also doing its part to help return to greatness by eliminating wasteful spending, promoting efficiencies, cutting regulatory red tape, and shifting our mission towards expanding market opportunities for farmers, rather than promoting programs that merely cater to special interests of Washington D.C. bureaucrats who have never set foot in a field or pasture.

Expanding on the above-mentioned actions, one of the most important things we can do to help our nation's producers is to expand new markets. After 4 years of inaction by the Biden Administration, which caused America's agricultural trade balance to go from a surplus under President Trump's first term to a significant deficit under President Biden, USDA has now made it a top priority to advocate on behalf of American agriculture on the world stage. Last month, I visited the United Kingdom after President Trump announced a historic trade deal that will lower tariffs, remove trade barriers, increase market access, and strengthen cooperation on economic security. Seeing the UK is the United States' fourteenth largest agricultural export market, this deal can address disproportionately high tariffs, small tariff-rate quota volumes, and unjustified non-tariff barriers.

Additionally, we've recently negotiated a new streamlined facility registration process for U.S. dairy products bound for Costa Rica providing increased access to a \$130 million market. Panama partially opened its pork import quota mechanism, which will allow an estimated additional \$30 million in U.S. pork product exports. South Africa restored market access for U.S. microwave popcorn shipments, valued at \$2 to \$3 million. USDA conducted two trade missions to Thailand and Guatemala, and hosted USA Pavilions at six global trade shows with a combined total of \$282 million in projected exports. In the last 2 months, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service has worked with India to reduce India's tariff on U.S. Bourbon imports by 50 percent, resulting in a likely \$2 million increase in distilled spirits exports to India in 2025. We worked with Japan to lift the mandatory aflatoxin testing requirements on U.S. almonds, resulting in a likely eight to ten percent increase of U.S. almond exports to Japan annually.

In April, USDA launched agricultural trade promotion programs for Fiscal Year 2026 and is accepting applications for four export market development programs. These programs historically total over \$250 million annually. I also plan to travel to India, Vietnam, Japan, Peru, and Brazil over the next 4 months. Together with the U.S. Trade Representative, and the consummate dealmaking of President Trump, we will build new markets, expand current markets, and hold existing trading partners accountable to ensure trade is fair and reciprocal and that the competitive position of U.S. agriculture reaches new heights.

Just as important as expanding export markets is protecting the United States from foreign animal disease including combating highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). I understand the importance of animal health issues and the effects they have not just on ranchers and producers, but also on trade and the prices for everyday consumers. Since my first day, I have been intensely focused on tackling the avian influenza crisis, and after USDA's announcement of our five-pronged plan to curb avian influenza, I am happy to report that as of today, wholesale egg prices have dropped sixty five percent since February 28.

Even though much of the public attention has been on avian influenza, we are also working around the clock to address New World screwworm. This pest feeds on livestock and could create an economic impact of well over a billion dollars if it enters through our southern border. I am in consistent communication with my counterpart in Mexico to contain the threat south of the U.S. border. Our goal is to push this pest back to the Darien Gap in Panama, and USDA is working daily with Mexico to make sure the resources, tactics, and tools are in place to do just that. Additionally, USDA recently announced a \$21 million dollar investment to renovate an existing fruit fly production facility in Metapa, Mexico to further that long-term goal. Once operational, this facility will produce 60–100 million additional ster-

¹⁷ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/03/04/secretary-rollins-previews-her-vision-restoring-rural-prosperity>.

ile NWS flies weekly to help push the population further south. Given the geographic spread of NWS, this additional production capacity will be critical to our response. Furthermore, we are still exploring many other options including domestic facilities to produce sterile flies. In the meantime, current restrictions on live animal imports from Mexico remain in place, and as previously announced, USDA will continue to evaluate the current suspension every thirty days.

While the threat of foreign animal disease is top of mind for many livestock producers, the state of the farm economy is important to all rural America. As goes agriculture, so goes rural main streets across the country. That's why, upon my confirmation, crafting and implementing the Congressionally directed Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) was preeminently important. On March 19, we issued \$10 billion in economic assistance for farmers and ranchers through ECAP. The program has been extremely efficient, paying farmers, on average, within 3 business days of an application submission. A note of thanks to all of you for your unwavering support for producers in times of economic crisis by passing that important legislation. USDA continues to work diligently to deliver Supplemental Disaster Relief, over \$20 billion. Earlier last month USDA released our projected timeline for development and delivery of each of the components that comprise the full suite of Supplemental Disaster Assistance for agricultural producers. On May 29, USDA released the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) payments to cover grazing losses due to eligible drought or wildfire events in 2023 and 2024. Those emergency relief payments are automatically issued for producers who have an approved Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) application on file for 2023 and 2024 thus producers do not have to contact USDA to receive payments. On April 22, USDA dispersed \$340 million through the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund across thirty-one states to deliver relief to farmers, ranchers and rural communities impacted by natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires that have caused devastation across the country.

Part of making American agriculture more prosperous in a time of economic hardship is eliminating the regulatory burdens that hinder its growth. Under President Trump's leadership, we are streamlining unnecessary regulations and cutting red tape for agricultural producers, and other industries under the USDA purview, to allow them to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. This includes making sweeping reforms to protect national forests and boost domestic timber production, ending regulations that have stifled energy and mineral development on Federal lands so we may reaffirm America's role as a global energy powerhouse, and reducing wildfire risk through public-private partnerships and many other actions. I have been fortunate to spend time with our wildland firefighters to thank them for their heroic service. I value their perspectives and feedback, and I am proud of the work they do to save lives and protect our beautiful homeland. We will continue to execute President Trump's agenda to make America's forests healthy and productive again.

In March, I announced new action to reduce burdens on the U.S. pork and poultry industries, allowing for greater efficiency while maintaining food safety standards. We are extending waivers allowing existing establishments to maintain higher line speeds and are moving towards rulemaking to make these standards permanent for more pork and poultry plants. We have also withdrawn overly burdensome proposals related to Salmonella in poultry as we reconsider more effective ways to achieve public health objectives. These reforms will strengthen U.S. food production, reduce costs for producers, and support a more resilient supply chain—all without compromising food safety.

Finally, a major part of my role is overseeing the Department's sixteen nutrition programs, on which USDA spends approximately \$400 million a day. While these programs are critical, the American taxpayer expects their generosity to be valued and for programs to be executed with integrity and accountability. With this in mind, upon my swearing in, I sent a letter to states and Tribal, Territory, and local government partners noting a suite of guiding principles, each of which can serve as catalysts for change, allowing the Department—and the American taxpayer—to better serve vulnerable families and communities. One of the guiding principles outlined in the letter is to make it clear to states that they must ensure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are provided with clear expectations that those who can work, do. It is important to remind states that under current law Congress conditioned the receipt of benefits by able-bodied adults without dependents on satisfying work requirements. Many states continue to abuse the system by requesting work requirement waivers despite a national unemployment rate of 4.2% in April 2025. I applaud this Committee for also prioritizing employment and look forward to our continued partnership to get able-bodied adults off the sidelines and into the world of work.

Equally important is making certain nutrition benefits are preserved for those legally in our great country. The Department has reminded all state agencies to enhance identity and immigration verification when determining eligibility for programs like SNAP. A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report indicated a staggering \$10.5 billion in improper SNAP payments were made in Fiscal Year 2023 alone. This was about twelve percent of total SNAP payments that year, nearly \$30 million per day. The inadequate verification of an applicant's identity and citizenship by states is specifically highlighted as contributing to the improper payments of SNAP funds.

American agriculture began 4 centuries ago, when neighbors born across an ocean came together in a New World to clear fields, build homes, and plant crops on the edge of wilderness. That same spirit animates us now. Our farmers who tend the fields do not rest from their labor—neither do our ranchers and livestock producers who steward their lands, herds, and flocks—and neither do the American mothers and fathers who rely upon American agriculture to feed their families. American agriculture does not rest—and neither will we at USDA. I'm proud to be at the helm of the People's Department, at the table with President Trump, and fighting for the most American of industries—agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you for your important testimony today, Secretary.

At this time, Members will be recognized for questions in order of seniority, alternating between Majority and Minority Members and in order of arrival for those who joined us after the hearing convened. You will be recognized for 5 minutes each in order to allow us to get to as many questions as possible, and I recognize myself for 5 minutes of questions.

Madam Secretary, I would like to talk with you about an issue that poses an imminent threat to the pork industry and livestock production overall. State mandates like California's Proposition 12 are misguided, not based in sound science, and create arbitrary production standards for pork producers.

In addition to being burdensome for producers, the final pork product is also more expensive for consumers. Pork prices in California have risen 20 percent on average since the implementation of Prop 12, and the cost of constructing Prop 12-compliant barns are estimated to be at least \$3,400 to \$4,000 per sow. With costs like these, neither the producer or the consumer are winning.

As we all know, the Supreme Court has weighed in on this matter and asked Congress to act. We attempted to do so in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 (H.R. 8467, 118th Congress). The language we included would ensure that livestock producers only have to abide by production standards in the state in which they reside, protecting both the rights of an individual producer and states' rights.

I know you understand this issue well. Can you talk about the negative impact that state mandates like Prop 12 have had on the pork industry and the dangerous precedent it sets for all livestock production? And what is the risk for both producers and consumers if we do not act?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a really important question. It is one that came up a lot in my confirmation process on the Senate side of the House. And one thing I will note is that no one is more of a believer in Federalism and the Tenth Amendment and our Founders' vision of the states' rights to be able to be their own laboratories of innovation. So I will say that first.

But second, when those ideas and those rules and those laws begin to impact other states in such a negative way, that is not what our Founders intended. That is not constitutional, and it is not okay. The extreme impact of Prop 12, especially on our pork producers, I believe this is a bipartisan question. We may not all agree in this room, but I think most agree, even on the Democratic side of the House, that it cannot stand. So I stand in full support of your effort.

We are also looking at things we could potentially do at the Department to mitigate for some of the consequences of this rule that, again, California has the right to do what California wants to do. But the minute that crosses the border and begins to, again, compromise in such a significant way our pork producers, we need to act.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, thank you, Secretary. I would like to turn to a topic that is of increasing concern for our producers, and that is the availability of agricultural labor. Last Congress, the Committee convened the Agricultural Labor Working Group, led by co-chairs Rick Crawford and Don Davis, and they are working on turning their bipartisan recommendations into legislation, but a legislative solution will not address the immediate needs of the industry.

I was encouraged by President Trump's comments at the April 10 Cabinet meeting where he said he would work with the agriculture industry and alluded to a process by which there would be some sort of flexibility provided to farmers and a new process to allow undocumented workers and their jobs to come back in legally. However, recent enforcement actions have begun to impact and even target agricultural operations, and yet there is still a lack of clarity for producers.

As I am sure you know, these employers have a limited ability to question an employee's documentation and are unaware of any issues with their status until an I-9 audit is conducted. What, if anything, are you, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, and Secretary Noem doing to follow through on the President's comments and making sure that enforcement is not impacting food security, which I think we both agree is a matter of national security?

Secretary ROLLINS. No, that is right, sir. And in fact, I was with the President yesterday in the Oval Office. I spoke with him again this morning. This was one of the issues that we spoke about. This President's commitment to ensuring that all laws are followed remains paramount, but also combining that with understanding the significant challenges to our ag producers in finding the labor that is necessary to produce, not only for their farms to be able to basically stay in business, but also, to your point, this is much bigger than that. This is a national security issue. And the moment that America is not able to feed ourselves any longer, that is the moment that we are no longer the superpower, the preeminent superpower in the world. So that is how very seriously I take this.

As you mentioned, on April 10 at our Cabinet meeting, the President himself brought this issue up and specifically directed Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, who herself is from a farming background, who is our Labor Secretary, along with myself and Secretary Noem, our DHS Secretary, who also is from a farming and

ranching background, to ensure that we are doing everything we can to make sure that these farmers and ranchers have the labor that they need.

So the President is hyper-focused on that, understanding the challenges currently at hand, but please know that we are in constant daily communication about how to solve for that quickly, while also working in partnership with this Committee. And, Mr. Chairman, your leadership on this has been really, really important, as have so many sitting in the room today.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Secretary. My time has expired.

And I will recognize the gentlelady from Minnesota, the Ranking Member, for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you so much.

Over the past several months, I have met dozens of family farmers and producers across this country. They have represented operations of all different types and sizes. Despite their many differences, there was a common theme between all these meetings, the lack of certainty. Every farmer, grower, rancher, and producer has said that they need more certainty. And despite this Administration's promise to put farmers first, we have seen that many of the actions are actually harming them.

We have seen trade wars increase instability in farm country and surrender market access to our competitors, like Brazil. We have seen USDA programs that farmers rely on for income frozen or eliminated with little to no explanation. And on the ground in districts like mine, local FSA, NRCS, and Forest Service staff are being let go. Wait-lists are getting longer, and fewer USDA staff are available to help family farmers navigate the agency's incredibly popular and impactful programs. And the Administration wants to gut a title of the farm bill in reconciliation.

I have three questions, so I may have to reclaim my time during some of your answers because I want to make sure to get to all of them. Let me start by asking about the agency, Madam Secretary. Before the Department moved forward with its layoffs restructuring plan, did the Department carefully analyze what these folks did and the impact these cuts would have on farm country?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, thank you, ma'am, and certainly had a great visit to your state, Sugar Beet Farm, recently.

The bottom line is this, that no one has been fired. There were 15,000 USDA employees who took the resignation, the deferred resignation, but no one was fired, so I think that is really important. In a normal year, Madam, we will have 8,000 to 10,000 attrition rates. So while I think there is a big narrative about how these important people have been fired, that was not the case.

What we have done, and yes, to answer your question, is a very careful review. Yesterday in the Oval Office we talked about our wildland firefighters. They are at 96 percent full, meaning we are ahead of where the Joe Biden USDA was last year at this time to prepare for wildfire season.

To your point on the FSA offices, what I have asked every Member to do—and I know you have my cell phone. I welcome every Member, Republican or Democratic, to call me directly with specific examples, and we can get on that right away because that forward-

facing part of USDA with our rural communities and with our farmers is a priority to me.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. So if you could help us solve for that I would appreciate that.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you. I am going to go to my second question. Thank you so much. Look, just to be clear, if you had reviewed this, you would have made sure that folks who are trying to stop bird flu in our country weren't allowed to retire. In fact, I ran a big business for a lot of years before I came to Congress, and voluntary retirements, often, exactly the wrong people retire. That is why you make a more thorough review of these things before you just say everybody who wants to retire, retire.

But nonetheless, let's go on to trade. Forty percent of my district is covered in corn and soy every summer. Since we are losing market access in China, what markets are you targeting to help U.S. soy producers compensate for the market access that they have lost?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I appreciate that question. And I know in your comments you mentioned the farmers in trade and the uncertainty, and we certainly realize that. We are very aggressively, specifically on our row croppers, but to soy, for example, really working to expand the markets. Last week, I was in Italy. Interestingly, Italy, of course, the Government of Giorgia Meloni is very aligned with President Trump. They are very open. But Italy, again, as an example, imports about \$75 billion in agriculture products. Only \$1.7 billion comes from our American farmers and ranchers, and this is one of our best friends around the world.

So we had great conversations, specific to soy, on how we get—which is the number one import but not nearly enough—how we get more of that into Italy, into the EU, into Japan, into India, into Vietnam—

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Secretary, I am sorry, I have 40 seconds.

Secretary ROLLINS.—and we will continue to do that.

Ms. CRAIG. I am going to reclaim my time.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. CRAIG. China represents 50 percent of the U.S. soybean market. I am not going to ask, but I believe it would have been a better strategy to go get these markets before you do an across-the-board trade war that decimates 50 percent of the market.

Secretary ROLLINS. About 1 hour ago the President announced a deal with China, so that is being solved.

Ms. CRAIG. So that is not a question.

And then, last question really is about HPAI. Do you support—look, I have a bunch of turkey growers in Minnesota. Don't even get me started on the MAHA report, Secretary Kennedy. Do you support developing a robust vaccine strategy, and will you commit to using vaccines to combat animal disease?

Secretary ROLLINS. We are looking at all of the above. We have \$100 million committed. We have 417 applications, Ranking Member Craig, that we are currently working through. Vaccines, therapeutics, we are looking at everything across the board.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you, and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Lucas, for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And Secretary Rollins, thank you for taking time to testify before the Committee today and discuss the issues that are affecting our farmers back home.

Last week, I chaired a Subcommittee hearing to discuss voluntary conservation programs in the farm bill and the improvements Congress can make to ensure that these programs truly work for producers that they are intended to benefit.

I heard from a variety of witnesses representing both producers and technical assistance providers, and they agreed with reinvesting the unobligated Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117–169) funds into the baseline of the farm bill without the climate sideboards is a necessary step to ensure that these programs reach more producers.

To that end, Madam Secretary, I have heard from many of my producers back home that the Climate-Smart Commodities Grant process under the Biden Administration was confusing and left little room for producer choice. Can you share with the Committee what you are doing at USDA to revamp this program and to streamline the application process for producers?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir. Thank you. That remains a top priority for us. We have already made announcements on how to make it easier, cleaner, and better, and to put our producers first. We have asked several applicants to reapply based on that as a priority in driving that forward. If you hear anything different, Congressman, please let us know. It is those anecdotes that help us get better. But yes, sir, we are solving for that every day at USDA.

Mr. LUCAS. It sounds like the Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative is focused on making sure producers come first and that USDA is a partner alongside producers rather than a dictator. Does that sound like an accurate assessment of what you and the Department are attempting to do?

Secretary ROLLINS. That is accurate. We have asked people to reapply if and when they have at least 65 percent of their application focused on producers.

Mr. LUCAS. In my remaining time, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the Emergency Livestock Relief Program funds that went out the door last month. Oklahoma has experienced several severe fires in recent years that have impacted hundreds of producers across the state. And under the Biden Administration, it took an average of 13 months for disaster funds to reach producers.

However, Congress passed the American Relief Act of 2025 (Pub. L. 118–158) in December, and producers have received ELRP assistance in May. That is a significant improvement, and I know my constituents are grateful. Madam Secretary, have you received any immediate feedback on the rollout of these funds?

Secretary ROLLINS. We have been so grateful—realizing it is imperfect, but we have been so grateful at the response. I just want to say this morning at 6:00 a.m., I was on a conference call with the team talking about the next round of funds, 6:00 a.m. Last night at 10:30, I was on a call with a couple of other Congressmen talking about it. We are so committed to working 20 hours a day,

sometimes more, to ensure that this money moves as quickly and as efficiently as possible. And I am really proud of the team for being able to execute on that. And by the way, these are both political and careers, which I just want to lift up.

Mr. LUCAS. And I want to thank you for increasing funding to reimburse states for food safety inspections. Oklahoma administers top-notch food safety inspections, and I know my constituents back home view it as a great example of the Federal Government working in tandem with the state. Madam Secretary, what additional steps do you think Congress needs to take to ensure that state food inspection programs run smoothly and that the funds USDA released are—and of course, the funds are greatly appreciated, but there is a role here in Congress to ensure the longevity of cooperative partnerships and state programs.

Secretary ROLLINS. I think that it continues to be of paramount importance, especially, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, I think as Ranking Member Craig mentioned, I think as Chairman Thompson mentioned, that food security is national security. And just last week, if you weren't tracking, we arrested someone that potentially had come in across the borders with some agroterrorism products that could potentially have really disrupted our food supply. So the food safety inspection system specific to the states continues to be a priority.

And again, anecdotally, if you see something different or have suggestions, please let me know, top of the list for us.

Mr. LUCAS. And my last thought is thank you for the very aggressive approach on the screwworm flies.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. LUCAS. Being a livestock producer in Oklahoma, not that far from your stomping grounds, we are really close to the problem right now.

Secretary ROLLINS. We are really close. I will be making a major announcement next week on the very next step, which will be probably more aggressive than anyone in recent history on the New World screwworm. And I think you and hopefully the entire Committee will be very pleased.

Mr. LUCAS. I and my constituents say thank you.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize Mr. David Scott from Georgia for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Secretary, you have advocated stopping the funding going to the 1890s African American colleges and universities. Do you realize the damage, backwardness, and evil that you have done?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, first of all, your premise is completely wrong. In the last Administration, I was in President Trump's West Wing, and fully funding the HBCUs was my project. I stood in the Oval Office when that happened. I, to date, continue to be, alongside President Trump, one of the biggest advocates for our HBCUs and our 1890 projects, so I am not sure what information you have, sir, but that is definitely not me. And you can look at

my long history of supporting those efforts. I think they are very important.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. So if I understand you correctly, you support this vital program?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. You have not frozen or advocated freezing the money?

Secretary ROLLINS. No.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. You are full steam ahead?

Secretary ROLLINS. Full steam ahead. Now, we are looking at every program at USDA, so as part of the larger effort to analyze and evaluate, yes. But no, our support is paramount for those projects. The President has been unequivocal in his support, and we will continue in that direction.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. So in February, you did not advocate suspending funding for the 1890s African American student scholarship program?

Secretary ROLLINS. Not in total, sir. It was part of the larger review of every program, including the farming program, to ensure that we were using taxpayer dollars to their highest and best use.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Okay. The reason that I am very concerned about this is that this is the most significant bipartisan Democratic and Republican program here. Not only do we support it, but this Committee voted to increase the funding to \$100 million from the \$80 million that we got in the last farm bill. We need you to help us secure that. This is the most important product.

Let me tell you why this is so important historically. There was a general in the Civil War that devastated the South. William Tecumseh Sherman went through here and devastated. But this same general laid out the program for revitalization of the South, and he went to President Lincoln and said, "In each of the Confederate States, we are going to put land-grant colleges. It is the land. It is the economy. It is the strength of the South." And they put forward this program.

But there was no room for the African American community until, in the 1890s, they brought forth the "separate but equal" doctrine. Everywhere they had put the White land-grant schools, they had to put the Black ones. And that is the growth of this.

So I wanted to share with you the history. I am glad that you are on our team and helping us. This is great news. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Sir, thank you for that. And I will say I am a proud graduate of Texas A&M University and spent a good amount of time at Prairie View A&M about 45 minutes away. I am really proud of that school. In fact, our Vice Chancellor of Texas A&M and head of the ag school, Jeff Sable, is here. He was my meats professor 30 years ago at Texas A&M, now running the whole kit and caboodle. So no, we remain very committed and understanding—

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Great. And I am a graduate of the great alma mater, Florida A&M University.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I wouldn't be here if they didn't give me that scholarship.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you.
Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

This Penn State land-grant university graduate recognizes Mr. Austin Scott from Georgia for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And Madam Secretary, I appreciate your commitment to the 1890 colleges. That is important to all of us. It has historically been done in a very bipartisan manner. And I might also mention that my colleague, David Scott, I believe you were in school with a Donald J. Trump at one point of your life. Is that correct?

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Yes, at the Wharton School of Finance, and he helped to get that scholarship program. It was under his Administration that we passed it.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Yes, sir.

Secretary ROLLINS. He is very committed.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. All right. I want to bring this up, Madam Secretary, and I am asking for your help with this. And what I am asking for is transparency in this. And so you will recall that in the American Rescue Plan (Pub. L. 117-2), there was \$3 billion that was put in for people. And if you owed any money to the USDA, you were going to receive 120 percent of whatever your loan balance was. There was one race that was excluded from that payment. The courts ruled that it was unconstitutional, that you could not discriminate and exclude a race from those payments. That money was—I think it was four out of four Federal judges said you could not exclude based on race.

So that same money was then transferred into the Inflation Reduction Act. And in the Inflation Reduction Act, they did two things. One of them was the Farm Loan Borrower's Relief Program, and basically how any loan who was more than 60 days late got brought current. So if you were 5 years late on your farm payment, you got 5 years' worth of payments, plus the next payment made. Now, if you cashed in your retirement plan to make your farm payment, you didn't get anything. But anyway, they brought those loans current and plus 60 days.

And my understanding is there is questions around the 1099. It is clearly taxable income since there was not a bankruptcy, and I just want to make sure that we are working with the IRS. My understanding is two separate 1099s may have been issued on that, and making sure that that is taxable income by law.

But then there was about \$2.2 billion that was paid out, and they were discrimination payments. Over 40 percent of those payments went to people who had never farmed, and they ranged between \$5 and \$500,000 in the payments. And my understanding is a third-party vendor was used to make the determination of discrimination or not discriminated against, and that third-party vendor no longer exists, nor did they exist prior to the program being put in. Fifty percent of the payments went to Alabama and Mississippi. Almost 50 percent of the payments went to people that never farmed.

And I just want to make sure that we are looking into this and where those payments went to, who they went to, and that it is going to be public record who received those payments.

And so I have met with your people. Just any comments on that would be appreciated. But just, again, looking for a commitment to continue to work to find out if there was fraud in those payments.

Secretary ROLLINS. Congressman, what I have seen in the last 118 days, since I was sworn in, in mid-February has blown my mind. It is stunning the amount of money that was pushed out in the last USDA without accountability, without understanding of where it was going, just the pure sums are absolutely mind-boggling. So we are working feverishly to try to get our arms around it, and we will continue to do so. And I would so welcome your partnership in that as we are moving that forward. But, yes, you have my 100 percent commitment.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. One hundred percent. I want to know who was the vendor that got paid the ten percent of that money. That is a lot of money that someone got paid.

Next, can you just give us an update on the block grant applications process? I represent the State of Georgia. As you know, we were devastated by the storms. But if you could update us on the block grants, I would very much appreciate that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir. The block grants are moving forward. Georgia has been at the front of the line. They have been extremely efficient. Their leadership has been great, Tyler Harper and the whole team there. We have met with your team from Georgia four different times. That money is likely to move in the next week or 2.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much. And I look very much forward to you in making sure that there is no fraud or criminal activity in that other payment program.

Secretary ROLLINS. Great.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Sir, we will follow up with that. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Costa, for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and the Ranking Member, for this important hearing. Thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here. It is good to see you again since the swearing-in. And I want to remind you of that the offer I made then and still stands, would like you to come out to California and show you some of the most productive agricultural land in the country. Last year, \$59.5 billion at the farm-gate, the largest agricultural state in the nation, has been for decades.

I believe, and I think maybe there is a large consensus in this room, that food is a national security issue. It doesn't often get treated that way, but it is. I know from a lot of perspectives, not only the people that I represent, but I am a third-generation family farmer in California. And I think it is important to note that California has over 70,000 farms. Ranches are remarkably productive. Seventy percent of these farms are less than 100 acres. Eighty-nine percent are less than 500 acres, yet we produce 50 percent of the nation's fruits and vegetables, 80 percent of the citrus production, 20 percent of the milk supply, and more than 400 different agriculture commodities. It is truly an amazing story.

This food production goes towards supporting nearly five million Californians who rely on SNAP, who are food-insecure, as part of the 47 million Americans that also rely on SNAP as their food safety net. And I think we need to work together if we are going to get this farm bill done. That is the bottom line. That is what we have always done in years past. And our farmers and ranchers want to provide for our neighbors and communities, and not cut them off from the dinner table.

That being said, Madam Secretary, I have a couple questions. High-path avian flu hit the entire country. In California, the dairy industry and the poultry industry were hard hit. We know it is important that we follow science. You said that in your testimony. I think it is important for all of those impacted by the avian flu that we go forward with a production of a vaccine, being mindful of our trading partners.

I have a bipartisan letter here, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit for the record on the high-path avian flu.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The letter referred to is located on p. 106.]

Mr. COSTA. Thank you. I would like to know whether or not you are committed to continuing to work on a vaccination program for the dairy industry, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. I am. One quick clarification to my friend from Georgia, the crack team behind me, Mr. Scott, we will be finalizing the agreement for Georgia next week. The money will move in July, so I just wanted to make sure to clarify.

But yes, sir, we remain wholly, wholly committed to looking down every single path, under every single hood, doing everything we can on this high-path to try to contain it. It obviously has jumped to the dairy industry, could jump again to another industry. It is of paramount importance we do that.

Mr. COSTA. Well, and the possibility that it could affect humans is a great concern to all of us. Let me go on.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is exactly right.

Mr. COSTA. Next question involves market assistance for specialty program crops. I have had a number of farmers in my area that have applied for that. There has been confusion with the FSA offices. They are still reaching out to determine whether or not the payments from the market assistance specialty crop program are going to take place. Could you comment on this?

Secretary ROLLINS. I will. I want to make sure I get it right. So let me flip in my handy-dandy little folder here.

We have allocated \$2.65 billion to this program, so it is a significant priority. That is what I wanted to check.

Mr. COSTA. For the purpose of my time, why don't we follow through with your office on these constituents who have been calling my office, and we can try to resolve this problem?

Secretary ROLLINS. That would be great. We would welcome that.

Mr. COSTA. Food for Peace has been an important bipartisan effort since its inception in 1954. I am very disappointed on what happened with USAID, and I don't know how you folks are going to be able to implement the responsibility as the President has outlined. Do you agree the program should continue for USDA? It not only helps people who are food-insecure throughout the world, it

helps America's view, and it helps American agriculture. What is your position on that?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, well, we are reevaluating all of it. I will tell you that we have 14 of the Food for Progress projects remain active in 17 countries and funded. So the ones that align with the America First agenda, the ones that make sense to put America first and for our community, we are continuing those. And that is the reorganization and the refocus the President asked us to do, and to the American people.

Mr. COSTA. Well, more discussion to carry on here. Also, research. Research has been an important component with our land-grant universities. I will talk to you later and send you a letter, but there are important programs at USDA stations working together with California agriculture, and I am very concerned about the reduction of these research programs. They have done so much for so many.

Secretary ROLLINS. The research programs continue to be a priority. What we are looking at, that the ones that aren't as effective, the facilities are behind, they don't make sense, it is a waste of taxpayer dollars. But overall, the USDA remains extremely committed to the important research that our land-grants do and partake. You will see an extension and expansion in some of that but ensuring that it makes sense.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. COSTA. To be continued. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you so much. And look forward to connecting with your office specifically on the specialty crops.

The CHAIRMAN. I am now pleased to recognize the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DesJarlais, for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here today.

Farmers across Tennessee and the nation want America to be healthy and are a critical part of the solution, but are also very concerned about the Make America Healthy Again Commission's report's potential implications on the agriculture industry, specifically relating to pesticides and herbicides. Unfortunately, the report sows seeds of doubt about our food system and the hard-working farmers who feed the planet.

On top of that, outside USDA's participation on the commission, our boots-on-the-ground farmers weren't included in the development of the report. Do you have plans to remedy this and make certain farmers are not only included but are at the center of the discussion and decisions moving forward?

Secretary ROLLINS. My commitment is just that. And I have worked and have been unequivocal on the record how important these crop protection programs are, pesticides specifically, glyphosate and others more specifically, and the President has as well. So we will continue that. There is no doubt that we could do better on the next report, and my commitment is to do everything I can to ensure that our ag community is better represented.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Well, I know that will make Tennessee Farm Bureau very happy, as well as many other farm bureaus and farmers, so thank you for that.

There is probably no industry with more uncertainty than agriculture, but there is one certainty in this Committee. There will always be vigorous and lively debate over the SNAP program. And I have been trying to get answers to a question for years now about SNAP eligibility for non-citizens. And your USDA manual has a list of 15 criteria for non-citizen groups such as refugees, individuals granted asylum, Cuban, Haitian entrants, all children under 18.

So we are often told that it is very difficult to be a recipient of SNAP if you are not a legal citizen, but according to USDA's own policy, that would appear that that is not necessarily the case. A number that we hear, and I am sure it is a moving target, is about 42 million Americans are on SNAP. Is that still a good number?

Secretary ROLLINS. That is the correct number.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Okay. And can you tell me roughly what percentage of non-American citizens are on the SNAP program?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, it should be zero. If it is not, we are moving that direction. About a month ago, we put out a very significant statement on this. This is news to me. We are running it down right now, and we will circle back.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Okay. I am sure that you can see the copy of the eligibility, and it is immediate eligibility with no waiting period for the group. And there are 15—I didn't read them all. And I guess I just want to know where that money comes from because we have to create a farm bill.

I am an advocate of the SNAP program. When I bring this up, people think I am anti-SNAP. That is not true. Don't want anyone to go hungry. I want everybody who needs to be fed to be fed. I think one issue we have argued over during reconciliation was able-bodied people who can work, with many exceptions. And I think it was misrepresented who those people were because we make it pretty clear that if you are disabled, if you are a pregnant mother, if you have young children, if you are elderly this doesn't apply to you.

But it is an issue that is pretty well received across all political spectrums, whether you are Democratic, Independent, or Republican. Roughly about 80 percent of all those groups think that able-bodied people who can work should work. And I hope that that is something we can get in the farm bill.

But I would actually like to see a number. If all children under 18 that are in this country illegally, and we had 20 million people cross the border in the past 4 years, I don't know what, maybe 25 percent were under 18. According to these guidelines, they are eligible without a waiting period on SNAP. So I would really like to get some clarity as we write a farm bill and try to budget for the nutrition program, just what part of the pie that consumes.

Secretary ROLLINS. Sir, I am told that that language you are reading is Congressional language out of the Congressional statute. So that is something that would need to be fixed by this body. But we are obviously looking at it, and certainly within our own USDA, ensuring that American taxpayer dollars support Americans.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. And I would like to think that most people would like to see their American tax dollars go to American citizens. And then if there is some other solution to deal with the im-

migration problem we now face, then we need to know what that is. But we need to know what those numbers are as we plan our farm bill.

Secretary ROLLINS. One other thing I think is important just because this is such an important conversation is that we did ask for the first time of any Republican or Democratic USDA for the exact data that you are asking for from the states because the states are implementing this. So hopefully we will, for the first time, be able to answer that question.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. McGovern, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Thank you.

Madam Secretary, I have to be honest. I am deeply troubled by what this Administration and this Congress are doing to so many programs that help vulnerable people and small farms. We live in the richest country in the history of the world. We have 47 million Americans who are hungry or food-insecure. That is a scandal. And hunger is getting worse under this Administration.

We actually spent a few years developing a roadmap for ending hunger in this country. The Biden-Harris Administration hosted the second-ever bipartisan White House conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. And out of it came a national strategy that called upon every sector of society to do their part to end hunger once and for all.

And now Congressional Republicans are cutting food programs indiscriminately with apparent support from the Trump Administration. I mean, the Administration has already taken \$500 million away from food banks. And President Trump's budget goes after WIC, slashing the food budgets of pregnant women, breastfeeding moms, and young kids.

Meanwhile, your Department has cut farmer programs, too, like the Local Food for Schools Program, Local Food Purchase Assistance Program, and the Leahy Farm to School Program. Your Department has frozen funds obligated to farmers, canceled signed contracts, and purged career staff who work directly with our farmers.

And internationally, this Administration is torching our global food security programs like Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. They are both eliminated in the White House budget. You said that food security is national security. It is mind-boggling that the Administration would cut those programs. And China is filling the void. The bottom line is that these cuts are hurting people. They are hurting consumers, hungry people, our local economy, and hurting our farmers.

And so, Madam Secretary, I would urge you to read the national strategy that came out of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. And I hope I can persuade you to make meaningfully combating hunger a priority because things are going in the wrong direction.

But today, I need to talk about what small farmers in my State of Massachusetts are up against. We have been losing family farms

in America over the last 50 years. And there are a lot of reasons for it, and it is complicated. But what should not be complicated is whether USDA has a responsibility to do something, to try to stop it. Over the years, we have heard from Secretaries of Agriculture like Earl Butz, who said, "Do farmers get big or get out?" Or your predecessor, Sonny Perdue, who said, "In America, the big get bigger and the small go out." I couldn't believe he said that. I guess a simple yes or no question. Do you agree with that characterization?

Secretary ROLLINS. No, sir—

Mr. MCGOVERN. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS.—I do not agree with that. And in fact, we rolled out a significant small family farm program 3 weeks ago, across the board, ensuring that these farmers can survive and thrive—

Mr. MCGOVERN. Well—

Secretary ROLLINS.—like never before.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I am relieved to hear you say that you don't share that philosophy because right now, small farmers in New England are counting on you, right? Appropriations Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro and I teamed up at the end of last year to craft a disaster supplemental package specifically targeted to help small specialty crop farmers in our region, plus Alaska and Hawaii, who need to be made whole after catastrophic infrastructure and crop losses in the last few years. We have had unprecedented floods, freezes, and storms, and our farmers are at risk of losing everything. The modern farm safety net does not catch them. It was woven for farms that are much bigger or only grow a few crops.

Traditional diversified operations, meaning local fruit and veggie farms that feed their communities, do not have any safety net because the Federal Government has never adequately created one for them. When disaster strikes, they are on their own. That is why we created this Farm Recovery and Support Block Grant to finally change that.

I am terribly concerned right now with how your Department has been making decisions about the rollout of the program so far, and I hope that you would agree that farmers and not bureaucrats or politicians in Washington should be deciding on which disaster relief programs best meet their needs.

I know there is ongoing conversations between state agriculture commissioners and the Department, but I would urge you to listen to the ag commissioners, and I would just ask you to, this is not a trick question. Will you commit to working with us and our state agriculture commissioners to make sure we don't leave our small farmers behind? Because this is a really big concern in Massachusetts and throughout New England.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir, and I have had multiple conversations with Congresswoman DeLauro and your ag commissioners. We have met with your state eight different times on this, and we will be rolling that out very, very quickly.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Yes. I think there is a concern based on some of these conversations that the USDA is not quite understanding the uniqueness of some of these smalls in New England, and a lot of them are afraid that they will not qualify for any relief. And

again, we passed this in the supplemental bill. We put it in the supplemental bill to address the needs of these small farmers.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. LaMalfa, for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thanks for joining us, Madam Secretary. I appreciate you being here, and we have a lot to do.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. LAMALFA. As you know, we have very large and destructive wildfires all over the West, especially in my districts in California. The Paradise Fire, the Dixie Fire, 1 million acres, it is on and on. So we know the overgrowth of fuel and the declining forest health due to the overcrowding of the tree population is a big part of that. So where does the overgrowth of fuel come from? Lack of management.

What we also have as an issue is unkept roads on Federal lands make it basically where you can't even enter, whether it is private lands or Forest Service roads. We have the problem with these blocked roads. One of the areas I would highlight or lowlight is the Mendocino National Forest in northern California. In the last couple decades, 97 percent of that unit has burned. Think about that a moment, 97 percent of a given forest has burned in a not that long period of time.

So what the issue is, is they are not maintaining their roads, so therefore, private parties can't get on their land. Forest Service, if they decide they are going to do any work, can't get on the land. And they will tell us that, well, we don't have enough money in the pot to maintain the roads, but they have the money in the rest of the pots to do other things that they can't do. So maybe they need to move the money from the other pot to getting the roads fixed first so we can even enter the lands. So that is some of the frustration there.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. LAMALFA. Last Congress, we were told in a field hearing by the Forest Service, we have more money than we have ever had after some of the spending programs under the Biden Administration. Yet in the same sentence say, we need more money in order to process a particular sale that is being talked about. So do we have any idea where the money is going to be spent overall to do catastrophic fire prevention in Forest Service? Do you see much happening there?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, 100 percent. And I was in the Oval Office yesterday with the President talking about this very issue. You will see something else coming out tomorrow from the White House on this very issue. We are 96 percent full on our hiring for the fire season, which, again, is ahead of where Biden was a year ago. So if there is a narrative that we are not fully funding, it couldn't be more wrong. We already have an 8+ percent timber increase in production with a goal of getting to 4 billion acre-feet over the next few years, which will solve for so much of this.

Mr. LAMALFA. Good.

Secretary ROLLINS. So this President is—I am very encouraged by his interest in this, and I think we are going to be able to really make some real progress for the first time in 30 years.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thanks so much. We really, really need it because we are way behind on 193 million acres that Forest Service has under their purview, and that some of these units are proud of a few loads of firewood, not the amount of boards we need to be moving.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. That is right.

Mr. LAMALFA. Let me talk about specialty crops real quick here, too. In California, we have lots of almonds, walnuts, prunes, peaches. Many things that are grown in California aren't grown anywhere else in the U.S. or in any significant number. So I am really pleased that the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops, that you are boosting that significantly, which means a lot for helping move these products, since if we don't grow them in California, we are probably going to have to import them somewhere.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. LAMALFA. So how is the timeline going for the continued rollout of the MASC program?

Secretary ROLLINS. We are moving very, very quickly. Of course, everything is under review in partnership with the White House, and so we are currently in review phase, but hopefully very soon that second tranche will begin to move, understanding how important this is, especially for the smaller farms, which really reflect the specialty crop industry.

Mr. LAMALFA. Well, I am excited for that tranche, thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, you are welcome.

Mr. LAMALFA. One final thought here. On the north coast just above the Bay Area, there is this Point Reyes Seashore National Park. I am pretty sure you are aware of what is going on there.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. LAMALFA. We have had long-time, multi-, five or six generation farmers and ranchers there that were approached in about 1960 because the government wanted their land to form a park. They finally struck a deal, say, hey, we will sell after a lot of browbeating and threat of eminent domain. They said, "Okay, we will sell you the land, but we would like to lease it back and farm it and ranch it for dairies, beef, and like that." And these are organic growers. These are very responsible growers that are taking care of that land.

They have been, over the decades, worn down and finally are being kicked off the land unless folks in the Administration can help prevent this from happening. And so I beg you, and working with Secretary Burgum on that, to help preserve these dairies and beef operations because they actually maintain the land. I have seen talk where the Park Service, as soon as they have accomplished kicking them off, they are going to have to hire somebody to graze the land, like their own manager to graze it anyway. It makes no sense. So we have them drifting out by lawsuit after lawsuit because they have to get NEPAs and things.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. LAMALFA. They used to get 20 year leases from the Park Service. The Park Service has got giant issues there. Not com-

pletely your bailiwick, but I know you want to support. Thank you for helping with that and for helping make sure agriculture can thrive as these responsible folks are doing.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, just let me say I have just become very aware of this issue in the last month and am very focused on it. I had a briefing on it yesterday. I would love to talk to you maybe tomorrow and get a full download, as I would like to get out to California very soon and go meet with them.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thanks so much. We would love to have you out.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I now recognize Ms. Adams from North Carolina for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Madam Secretary, for being here. And let me just say how delighted I was to hear about your support for HBCUs. I am HBCU strong. I am a proud graduate twice of North Carolina A&T State University, an 1890, the largest public HBCU in the nation, so I am happy to hear what you said about that, and we will look forward to your support.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. ADAMS. But the House Republicans' budget proposes shifting SNAP benefit and administrative costs to states. I served in the State House of North Carolina for 20 years, so I know the challenges that they have. So the CBO anticipates that these cuts could lead states to cut all or some food assistance for 1.3 million Americans due to the cost shift. Is that right? Yes or no?

Secretary ROLLINS. I am sorry, ma'am—

Ms. ADAMS. Well, that is a yes or no.

Secretary ROLLINS. You are talking about the—

Ms. ADAMS. That the shifting might cause states to cut all or some food assistance.

Secretary ROLLINS. Oh, currently under consideration. Well, the partnership and the idea of the states, we spend \$400 million a day—

Ms. ADAMS. Okay. Well, want I want to—

Secretary ROLLINS.—at USDA, and that partnership I think is really important, and that is what the leadership of this Committee led.

Ms. ADAMS. Okay. Let me do this. I have a series of questions, and they are pretty much yes or no. So are you in support of these unfunded mandates?

Secretary ROLLINS. I am in support of the most fiscally responsible effort to ensure that we are delivering the right amount of aid to the people who need it.

Ms. ADAMS. Okay. So let me just say that the CBO has confirmed that this is an unfunded mandate, and the states have confirmed it, as well as our counties.

And Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into the record a letter from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners that speak to that issue. Madam Secretary—

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Ms. ADAMS. Thank you.

Madam Secretary, are you aware of reports from USDA that show that food insecurity has risen 3 years in a row? Yes or no?

Secretary ROLLINS. Ma'am, we have \$42 million on the SNAP program. At this point of employment and unemployment, the last time, we had \$17 million so that program has exponentially grown.

Ms. ADAMS. Okay.

Can you give me a yes or no? Okay. well, my time is—let me just move on then. Okay. So are you aware that recent USDA reports show that grocery prices are expected to increase by 3.3 percent this year?

Secretary ROLLINS. Inflation has gone down for the first time since the last Trump Administration was here, so that will directly reflect on groceries.

Ms. ADAMS. I want a yes or no, but I don't suppose I am going to get one. But anyway, listen, we should not be taking food assistance from families, revenue from our farmers and rural economies at any time, but especially not as costs are so high and expected to rise further. SNAP is an effective economic stabilizer during downturns, with every dollar generating as high as a \$1.80 economic impact during these downturns. So shifting costs to the states removes that economic stabilizing impact because states will see their tax base decrease substantially at exactly the moment when more spending is most needed.

So my next question—it is a yes or no if you can do that—are you in favor of removing this economic benefit, especially for rural and small town cities and the farmers who benefit from the sale of their produce in these towns?

Secretary ROLLINS. No one in America should go hungry, so of course I am in support of programs that are effectively run that fill that gap.

Ms. ADAMS. All right. I am not sure if you are saying yes or no. But anyway, let me just say this. States already—and I have heard so many people talk about the skin in the game, and states do have skin in the game already through the 50/50 administrative cost-share and the current monetary penalty that they face for a too-high payment error rate. In fact, Pennsylvania was sanctioned \$40 million last year for having a high error rate.

So let me ask one last question. So with fewer staff—we have suggested, for example, that we know that there have been cuts, right? So with fewer staff and reduced resources, will the USDA be able to endure timely and effective support for state agencies as they handle complex policy changes, waivers, and investigations into instances of scheming theft and technical assistance requests?

Secretary ROLLINS. To this, I can say yes.

Ms. ADAMS. Okay. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. You are welcome.

Ms. ADAMS. So giving ongoing unfunded and understaffing in states causing delays in SNAP application processing, is the USDA taking action to help states process applications more quickly? Can you say yes or no, ma'am?

Secretary ROLLINS. I would need to look into that, but my assumption is yes, that we are doing everything we can to help move that quickly.

Ms. ADAMS. Okay. Thank you very much. The USDA's 1890 scholars—

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia [presiding.] I am sorry, ma'am, your time has expired.

Ms. ADAMS. Am I out of time?

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. ADAMS. Why is the clock still ticking here? Okay.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. ADAMS. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. All right.

Ms. ADAMS. I yield back, and thank you, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, ma'am.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. It is all good, Ms. Adams.

Mr. Crawford, you are now recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary, thank you for being here. I appreciate you joining us today.

A lot of important issues, not the least of which is national security for our nation's food supply and our producers. Before the recent news of two Chinese nationals smuggling what many believe to be a weapon of agroterrorism, I had a conversation with DNI Gabbard about getting USDA office opened and staffed with ICE personnel to begin working with you and others to address matters like this when they come up, and hopefully before they ever make it to our borders. I know you will work closely with DNI Gabbard as a matter of national importance.

This is a new authority that we tried to get in place under the previous Administration. It has actually taken us years to get to this point, so I hope that we will be aggressive, and these incidents really underscore the need for it.

Secretary ROLLINS. Agreed. I will do everything I can. Please feel free to call me if you think there is more I can do.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Absolutely. I appreciate that.

Recently, the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology issued a salient report on a multitude of issues facing our ag and biotech sector. And when you think about areas that need the most attention in our country like our supply chains, specialized subject matter expertise, bio-surveillance and bioweapons, and the gaps that exist at USDA, how do you prioritize those personally, and how can we here in Congress help you fill those gaps?

Secretary ROLLINS. I think it is of utmost importance. You will hear from USDA in the coming week, in fact, in the coming couple of days, a renewed, elevated, and amplified focus on just that, how we work across this government under Donald Trump to ensure we are addressing all of this at warp speed, aggressively to solve for it. It really is a national security issue, and making sure that people understand what is at stake is really important.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Well, and I am glad we had an opportunity to talk about this and make sure that you were aware of that authority that does exist in statute that was not acted on in the previous Administration. It is most definitely a priority, as we have seen in the news lately, and we don't want to get caught flat-footed on these incidents of potential bioterrorism, agroterrorism.

Let me shift gears on you just in the remaining 3 minutes that I have. I am from Arkansas. You may already know this. I represent the largest rice-growing district in the country, in addition

to lots of soy, corn, wheat, *et cetera*. Rice farmers and rice mills in my district directly benefit from the bulk shipments that are part of the Food for Progress program, Pub. L. 83–480, and that ships rice, wheat, other commodities in bulk in international aid.

I know the Trump Administration has taken a hard look at all foreign aid programs to ensure they are functioning as originally intended, which includes serving as a market for producers. I was pleased to see the McGovern-Dole applications open up a few weeks ago for the 2025 funding. Do you have any timeline when we might see Food for Progress, when that might be announced?

Secretary ROLLINS. I know we have 14 current active Food for Progress projects going on right now in 17 countries. Yes, you are right, May 9 was the McGovern-Dole announcement. Let me find out the exact date on that, sir, probably during the next question, and I will respond immediately.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Perfect. Thank you so much. And I don't have any further questions, so I will yield back. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. The chair now recognizes Ms. Brown for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Ranking Member Craig.

Secretary Rollins, thank you for appearing before the Committee today to talk about what has been happening over at USDA for the past 6 months.

I want to start by asking you some questions about the Make America Healthy Again movement and the MAHA report that your agency, alongside the Department of Health and Human Services, released last month. Secretary Rollins, did you personally review the MAHA report prior to its publication on May 22nd?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I did.

Ms. BROWN. Okay. Since you reviewed the report before publication, did you notice the report cited nonexistent studies or that there were a number of missing or broken links or that the report misrepresented underlying studies? And if so, why did you not ensure they were corrected before the report was published? And if not, do you take responsibility for the work the agency publishes on your behalf without your review?

Secretary ROLLINS. Those have all been solved, but thank you for the note.

Ms. BROWN. See, what I am concerned about here is making sure that our children in our country are actually healthier. And I welcome this conversation with my colleagues and the Administration. But sound policy actually follows sound science.

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree.

Ms. BROWN. And right now, we are not all working from the same set of facts. So as you move toward the August deadline for the second report, I strongly encourage you to follow the science, not to jump to conclusions, and to rebuild trust by ensuring transparency, accuracy, and meaningfully engaging scientists, agricultural, and nutritional stakeholders.

So turning to another area—

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree. Thank you.

Ms. BROWN. You're welcome. Turning to another area of concern, I want to talk about the Quarterly Agricultural Trade Report. Earlier this year, you indicated the report would be released on May 29. Yet, it was ultimately published several days late and without the usual explanatory section. It had been reported that you delayed the report because it showed an increase in the trade deficit in farm goods for later this year.

So Secretary Rollins, why was the report delayed and incomplete? And was the delay related to the report showing a worsening trade deficit in farm goods?

Secretary ROLLINS. I will look into that and get back to you. It is my understanding that we wanted to make sure it was complete, that the citations were correct, and that the review was done in total. Of course, I have only been on the job 118 days with 100,000 employees, and multiples of these reports moving all the time directly out of USDA. But we will look into that and circle back.

Ms. BROWN. So did your team remove the explanatory text from the report specifically because it attributed to the growing trade deficit to the Trump Administration's tariff regime?

Secretary ROLLINS. It is my understanding that that was not the case, but we will look into that. I think the President has been very forward-leaning on understanding that we are in some time of uncertainty, but as these trade deals continue to get done, China announced about an hour ago, the UK 2 weeks ago, more coming, that that is going to be a really important part of the conversation moving forward. I want to make sure every piece of research we move out is the best cited, *et cetera*, and so that is a big part of my portfolio right now is to ensure that.

Ms. BROWN. I am glad you mentioned uncertainty because economists, farmers, and others rely on reports like this to track markets and plan for the future. When you start to insert politics into data releases, you harm the reputation of your Department and erode the trust the government is trying to produce when it has untainted data.

So Secretary Rollins, will you commit to publishing data and reports that are complete and free from tampering of the underlying data?

Secretary ROLLINS. We just have to make sure our internal review process is in place. But yes, we will work around the clock to ensure it is the correct data that gets out at the right time to make the most impact for our farmers and ranchers.

Ms. BROWN. I appreciate that. I expect my colleagues and I will continue this conversation because the stakes are simply too high for those who fuel and feed our nation. At a time when chaos reigns from this Administration, our farmers deserve certainty and support from Washington, not uncertainty and spin, so thank you, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, Congresswoman. I appreciate it.

Ms. BROWN. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN [presiding.] The gentlelady yields back.

I now recognize the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. Kelly, for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY. Madam Secretary, thank you for your time today and a sincere thank you to President Trump and your team at USDA

for putting American farmers back at the heart of our national agriculture policy. Under President Trump's leadership, we no longer focus on empty rhetoric. We are advancing policies that actually deliver real results for producers like mine in Mississippi.

And I hope that when you visit Mississippi in the very near future, you will have a chance to go to Mississippi State University, which is our great land-grant university, which also has a great veterinary program and a lot of ag research there.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. KELLY. We are trying to make sure we get you up there so—

Secretary ROLLINS. I met with your President yesterday.

Mr. KELLY. I know.

Secretary ROLLINS. Okay. So yes, we will be there.

Mr. KELLY. He told me I better put that in or he would not support me anymore.

Secretary ROLLINS. I have a cowbell to prove it for the record, a very loud one.

Mr. KELLY. I really appreciate—last year, we fought real hard on this Committee to get \$10 billion, to get it to our farmers, to keep many of them from going under this year. I really appreciate your rapid response to getting that money out and having policy to make sure that our farmers and the lenders for our farmers can actually lend.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. KELLY. There is another \$21 billion in economic assistance that is coming through the emergency disaster relief. What are your plans to quickly distribute that money? Because we are still in dire need in farm country.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, that is going to be, well, we have already started moving that. The first \$1 billion moved about a week ago through the livestock program. The block grants are moving right now. Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia will be in the next 8 or so weeks. The rest of those we are negotiating with. Of course, the \$220 million on the New England States, as our friends on the Democratic side have brought up a couple of times, I am in constant communication with those ag commissioners.

If you see something, though, Congressman, that you don't believe we are moving quickly enough, you are hearing that it is too complicated, please just let me know. We are solving for that every day.

Mr. KELLY. And then I know you have talked plenty about this, but unfortunately, I have another Secretary and another hearing at the same time, the Secretary of the Navy.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. KELLY. But on the screwworm—

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. KELLY.—what are we doing to make sure—it is going to devastate. I am in Mississippi, and especially in south Mississippi, it is rapidly moving. What are we doing to ensure that it does not get to our shores? Because we need to stop it before it gets here because it would devastate herds if it gets here.

Secretary ROLLINS. No, there is no doubt. And as you may or may not know, but good for the entire Committee to hear, we shut down the ports of entry about 2 to 3 weeks ago, much to the chagrin of my counterpart in Mexico, Secretary Berdegué, and their Administration. We had call after call after call of them really asking us to reconsider, reconsider, reconsider.

But that screwworm had moved from within 1,100 miles of our border to 700 miles of our border within a matter of weeks. As you know, in the 1950s when it hit, it took 30 years for the livestock community to recover from that. I will have a major announcement next week on the very next step on putting the resources, the time, and the effort into continuing to push it back.

Mr. KELLY. I always say I represent the one percenters, the one percent who serve this nation in uniform, and the one percent who feed the world, our farmers. And I truly believe that because I believe national security is farm security and our ability to produce.

That being said, Madam Secretary, I really appreciate you getting after the fraud and abuse in the SNAP programs to kick people off who shouldn't be on there that are taking away from people who should be, not cutting benefits, but cutting the people who shouldn't be getting to start with.

One thing I hope that you will help us on is our H-2A and our H-2B workers are critical to our farms.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. KELLY. The process makes it harder than it should be.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. KELLY. We get them notice that they are going to get these workers long after they can use them, especially when you are talking about sweet potatoes or planting or harvesting anything.

What are you going to do to expedite the process so people who are legally coming here on H-2As or H-2Bs can get here quicker, stay longer, and help our farmers? What are you going to do in that area?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, and I would say the fourth thing is the expense of it, right? I mean, in Texas, the citrus producers who even get the H-2A workers are averaging \$23 an hour, and a mile across the border, it is \$2 an hour. So that is a big part of it too.

But listen, we talked about this a little bit earlier. I talked to the President about this, this morning, again yesterday. He is acutely aware of the challenges, understanding that the leadership from this Committee must continue, that Congress has to move forward on a solution, but working with Lori Chavez—

Mr. KELLY. Let me stop real quick, because I have one more comment I want to make.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. KELLY. This deal where a guy who drives a pickup truck, and they made a regulation that he drove a pickup truck, so now he is a truck driver and gets a different wage, you need to put a stop to all these stupid regulations we got in the last Administration.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. KELLY. And with that, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. We are working on it. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has—

Secretary ROLLINS. I will be in Mississippi soon, for the record.
The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentlelady from Kansas, Ms. Davids, for 5 minutes.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to Secretary Rollins for being here today.

The USDA plays a vital role in Kansas and across the country, supporting our rural producers, ensuring affordable food, and protecting the safety of our food systems. Americans rely on USDA every single day, whether they realize it or not, when they fill their grocery carts, when they grab milk from the fridge or drive past farmland that feeds their communities.

And this is why I am deeply alarmed by what I consider to be reckless and unjust firings carried out by DOGE and the ripple effects that we are seeing in our communities because these firings don't just affect Federal workers. They threaten food safety, they stall critical research at places like Kansas State University, and they leave farmers and ranchers without the support that they depend on.

And we can't talk about shared values of improving government efficiency while simultaneously pulling the rug out from the very people who keep our food supply running. You can't eliminate good-paying skilled jobs in Kansas City at the same time that our producers are already facing droughts, volatile markets from reckless tariffs, and rising costs.

And this is not just a policy issue. It is very personal to the folks at home. The Kansas City metro is home to about 30,000 Federal workers, including many of the USDA's Economic Research Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture. These are neighbors, they are families, friends, and certainly they deserve better than chaos.

Meanwhile, we are seeing new emerging threats. We have already discussed today a bit about the New World screwworm, which poses a serious risk to Kansas livestock and even to human health. And I am very proud to cosponsor the bipartisan STOP Screwworms Act (H.R. 3392, Strengthening Tactics to Obstruct the Population of Screwworms Act) because we definitely need to be proactive on this.

And at the same time, I am deeply concerned about the USDA staffing cuts at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas. It is the nation's first biosafety level 4 lab for livestock. It was built to protect us from the worst animal diseases. And I understand that 28 employees were fired on a single day. Then later, some of those firings were walked back. A similar situation unfolded at the Food Safety and Inspection Service. That kind of instability certainly shakes the foundation of the USDA's mission and puts our food supply, our economy, and the public trust at risk.

So Secretary Rollins, I am curious, were the firings a clerical mistake, or did someone have second thoughts about the initial decision to fire these specific people at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, there was a lot there, but let me answer that last question first. There were no firings. There was a

probation period. They were all brought back. I worked with the Senators from your state to ensure that was the case. So if you were hearing differently, will you please let our office know? But it is my understanding that all of that was unfrozen almost immediately and put back into place.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. So I guess the concern is that we have heard about the New World screwworm already.

Secretary ROLLINS. Right.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. During that time, I think the bird flu was one of the bigger concerns that was being kind of mainstream talked about spreading throughout the country. There are other potential animal diseases. How could the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility or even like our Food Safety and Inspection Service even be part of the chopping block in the first place? Was there not any discussion about how those decisions were going to be made? The fact that people were at the facility on one day, told to leave, and then told to come back, especially at these specific facilities that are meant to protect us from some of the worst animal diseases that could spread to humans, I am just curious how that even happened.

Secretary ROLLINS. It clearly was an imperfect process but one that we moved to rectify within hours, if not days. One thing I want to make sure you understand, though, is when President Trump—when we left in the first Administration, USDA had about 90,000 employees. When we came back 4 years later, we had 112,000 employees, so working again to realign and refocus and understanding what the priorities are.

There is no question that the priority of whether New World screwworm or HPAI, keeping our food supply safe and secure for the world, ensuring our farmers are put first continues to be a priority, and my commitment is to ensure that is so. So if you are hearing anything differently, please reach out to me directly, and we will work to rectify it, as we have been doing.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Thank you. And Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentlelady. She yields back.

I now recognize Mr. Baird for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member.

And Secretary Rollins, we really appreciate you being here. It is exciting. It is really exciting to see the things you are doing for agriculture.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. BAIRD. And I want to tell you, too, it was great to see you yesterday, and thank you for allowing me to be with Secretary Kennedy and you and Governor Braun from Indiana and Governor Huckabee Sanders from Arkansas. So I really feel the work that you are doing, and I appreciate the hard work you are doing to make America healthy again.

But in order to get to the questions that I am interested in, one of the areas that I am going to start with—and it was mentioned yesterday—later this month, your Department will publish the Fiscal Year 2024 SNAP payment error rates. And I know for 2023, \$13 billion in SNAP payments went out the door erroneously. In fact,

\$1 in every \$10 in SNAP that year was in an overpayment. So it is unacceptable to this body and to the taxpayers, and this behavior should not continue. So I would like to have what you are doing and what you can do to help alleviate this kind of behavior.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, it was great to have you in my office at USDA as well. I would like to invite anyone, Republican and Democratic, to come visit any time.

I think that the error rate, you say \$1 in \$10, that is what we know of. We think it is probably much higher than that. That is why these efforts are so important. We just have had three stings in just the last couple of weeks, counting for tens of millions of dollars, working in concert with the Secret Service and other key investigative agencies, including our team at USDA. We will not stop until this is rooted out.

But I think it goes to the bigger question, and that is when, again, the last time we had 42 million people—or the last time we had this unemployment number in America, which is low, the last time we had 17 million people on SNAP. Today, with the same unemployment number, we have 42 million people on SNAP. So the exponential growth of this program, especially over the last 4 years, a 40 percent increase in the last 4 years is going to bring with it the fraud and the waste and the abuse that we have to counter. So I look forward to working with you, continuing to work across the U.S. Government to root that out.

Mr. BAIRD. Well, thank you for that effort. And then my other area goes to another area that is of interest to me in agriculture, and that is agricultural biotechnology. And in that, I include this artificial intelligence, as well as quantum computing. But nonetheless, that is really the forefront of innovation. It enables farmers and ranchers to produce more using less resources. The USDA, through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Biotechnology Regulatory Service, plays a key role in enabling the innovation to come to market.

So how do we see USDA—how do you feel about helping get this kind of innovation quickly to our farmers and producers?

Secretary ROLLINS. There is no group of people that have been more innovative than our farmers and ranchers over 249 years, none. And as we have gone and seen this firsthand from basically feeding ourselves to now feeding the world, we should be so proud and continue to work so hard to lift up and to elevate these incredible men and women.

There is no doubt, and what I have seen firsthand in terms of the innovation in agriculture is absolutely mind-blowing. So we will continue to work and find partners in that across the country, and to ensure that our farmers and ranchers have everything they need to continue to be the leaders in agriculture around the world.

Mr. BAIRD. Thank you very much for that perspective and that answer. And, I share the view that you have. Agriculture is the foundation of this country and it has been from its very beginning, the 249 years you mentioned.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. BAIRD. I really appreciate your perspective and your work in the agricultural arena.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. BAIRD. Thank you. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I am pleased to recognize the gentlelady from Oregon, Congresswoman Salinas, for 5 minutes.

Ms. SALINAS. Thank you, Chairman Thompson, and thank you, Ranking Member Craig, and thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here today.

Madam Secretary, food banks across the country are responding to consistently increasing demand, and Oregon is no exception. Right now, one in eight Oregonians and, even more troubling, one in six children, are experiencing food insecurity. Last year alone, visits to Oregon food bank sites surged to a record 2.5 million. This was a 31 percent increase over the previous year. Despite this overwhelming need, USDA recently canceled \$500 million in funding to The Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP. That decision led to the cancellation of about 30 full truckloads of food meant to be distributed across our state.

I recently introduced a piece of legislation, the Farmers Feeding America Act of 2025 (H.R. 3784), to provide a significant increase to TEFAP. And as the title implies, it is critical to remember that Federal nutrition programs also benefit our agricultural sector by providing additional revenue streams that they may not otherwise be able to attain from producers.

So this is, or was, true of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program and the Local Food for Schools and Child Care Programs as well, just as it is for SNAP. These are very simple questions, just require a yes or no answer. First, do you acknowledge that the demand at food banks is increasing year over year, or at least it did over last year?

Secretary ROLLINS. I haven't seen the numbers, but I will take you at your word.

Ms. SALINAS. Okay. Thank you. And then, do you agree that Federal nutrition programs provide an important stream of revenue for America's farmers?

Secretary ROLLINS. When executed correctly, yes.

Ms. SALINAS. Okay. Thank you. Well, I appreciate your acknowledgement of these basic realities. I am puzzled, though, why this Administration and my Republican colleagues still seek to cancel and defund these programs, despite understanding the critical needs for both those who are hungry, as well as for our agricultural sector. But again, I do thank you.

So we have heard a great deal from this Administration about mass deportation plans and workplace immigration raids, and we are already seeing the chaos these actions cause across the country. These operations have swept up not only undocumented individuals, but also legal residents, work visa holders, and even some U.S. citizens. There have been well-documented cases of individuals with legal protections being wrongly detained or deported, sowing fear throughout farmworker and immigrant communities, including those in Oregon.

At a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing, the President of the American Farm Bureau, Zippy Duvall, warned that these mass deportation plans could put farms out of business and disrupt the

food supply at a scale comparable to what we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Similarly, this Committee also held a hearing earlier this year on the state of the economy, and I asked the witnesses, most of which were called to testify by the Majority, whether they thought mass deportations would have the same impact that Mr. Duvall outlined, and they agreed.

In Oregon, we know how real this threat is. Our state's agricultural sector, from berries to nursery crops to wineries, relies heavily on immigrant labor. And in fact, approximately 73 percent of Oregon's crop farm workers, the workers who actually pick crops, are foreign-born, which mirrors the national average. Further, almost half of these workers are undocumented, which is also close to the national average. Without these workers, Oregon's farms and farms across this nation simply cannot function.

So, given these realities, do you agree with the assessment by Mr. Duvall and the witnesses who testified before this Committee that mass deportations could upend America's agricultural sector?

Secretary ROLLINS. The President himself, in a Cabinet meeting, discussed this. I talked to him about it this morning. There is a recognition that there has to be a balance. He remains committed to ensuring that no laws are broken, but while realizing that our agriculture community, specifically our dairy farmers, a lot of our row croppers, our specialty crops, there is a massive labor issue that we have to work to solve in partnership with Congress.

Ms. SALINAS. Thank you. All right. The Rural Energy for America Program, commonly known as REAP, offers grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems. Since its inception in the bipartisan farm bill in 2008, REAP has provided grants and loans that have helped more than 21,000 farms and 32,710 rural small businesses. I have personally toured multiple operations in my district that have benefited from this program.

Unfortunately, these beneficiaries, like Oregon Flowers, Inc., in Aurora, Oregon, reported that they saw their REAP grant funding delayed as part of this Administration's ill-advised funding freeze. Fortunately, I have heard that Oregon Flowers' grant has been unfrozen, as have those for other recipients in the district.

Given I have seen the impact of these projects in my district, I do have a couple of questions. I know Ranking Member Craig and her Senate counterpart sent you a letter asking for an update on REAP funds at the end of April, but you have yet to respond. Are any REAP grants still frozen?

Secretary ROLLINS. I am proud to say I think we are completely caught up in all the letters, which is sort of unprecedented, so that should be solved for. There should be a letter on their desks at least as of last night.

Ms. SALINAS. Okay. All right.

Secretary ROLLINS. So it may be late. But yes, we have fully unfrozen all of those programs. Again, in a commitment to the American taxpayer to understand the efficiency, the efficacy of all of these programs, we undertook a lot of review. But it is important, and those are important to local communities and worked

with some of the leaders in your state, specifically. I remember some phone calls and found them to be very valid.

Ms. SALINAS. Thank you. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, Congresswoman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Bacon, for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am an equal opportunity critic of Secretary Rollins, as people maybe share, but I want to commend you. You have done a great job today. I think you are doing a great job as Secretary. I think the Administration made a great choice in you for Secretary of Agriculture.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. BACON. The first question I want to ask is, it is not your doing, the problem, but you can have a hand in helping us here. Canada is Nebraska's largest trading partner. It is the cornerstone of our agriculture economy. And we have this agreement, USMCA, that the President negotiated in his first term. They were in compliance. And we talk about tariffs with dairy, but that was written into the USMCA deal, and then they gave us tariffs on wood. It was meant to be equal. But the tariffs are hurting us with Canada.

Also, the talk of the 51st state from the Administration has angered so many Canadians. And I hear from our business leaders in Omaha that they are losing business from Canada, that they are saying, "Hey, we don't want to do business with you right now." So we are paying for this, at least in Nebraska, I am sure other states as well. I hope you can help. I hope you have a kind of timeline that maybe we can get an agreement so we can get trade back going, and we need to repair this relationship that is important to not just Nebraska, all of the United States.

I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, sir, I appreciate that. Clearly, as I mentioned a little bit earlier, it is an uncertain time. Our farmers and producers are the most affected by the uncertainty. Remarkably, they have remained very committed. In fact, the latest poll shows that the community is actually higher in support today than they were even before what we call Liberation Day when the President enacted the reciprocal tariffs.

Having said that, I hear you. If you would send specific examples, I think that would really help me fully understand as these conversations are ongoing and I am at the table.

Mr. BACON. Really, I have talked to business leaders in Omaha. We have Fortune 500 companies. Canadians are calling them saying, we don't want to do business with you right now. But I don't really understand the reason for tariffs on Canada to begin with when they have been in compliance with an agreement that was negotiated by this President. For many of us, it doesn't make sense.

But let me go to question number two. You and I spoke on the phone, and I really appreciate you taking my call regarding staffing and funding cuts with the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska. Do you have any update on efforts to restore these critical research positions and sustainable funding?

Secretary ROLLINS. I don't right in front of me, but I will before we conclude today so we will get right back to you.

Mr. BACON. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS. I am grateful. It is important to us, and we have some great universities trying to work with you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Mr. BACON. You have already addressed my third question, but I just want to say thanks for your candor on the Make America Healthy Again and the impacts on farmers. I appreciate your feedback and your candor.

My final question is this. On March 20, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service distributed a directive restricting the use of more than 100 terms in the evaluation agreements. Among these prohibited were ethanol, sustainable aviation fuel, water conservation, and groundwater pollution. All these things are important to Nebraska. Why do we do that? Because a lot of these research areas are important to the Midwest. And can you provide an update or a rationale?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, of course. That was fixed almost immediately.

Mr. BACON. Okay, good.

Secretary ROLLINS. So unless you hear differently, we have not heard any other issues with that. We solved for that right away.

Mr. BACON. Okay. Thank you so much. Those are my four questions.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. BACON. I will give you back a minute 40.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentlelady from Hawaii, Representative Tokuda, for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to follow up on your response to Ranking Member Craig. The USDA did, in fact, fire nearly 6,000 probationary employees as part of a government-wide reduction in force. This was in addition to the deferred resignations that were received. The courts did, in fact, force you to reinstate these employees. Do you agree with the court's decision, then, and regret your initial decision to DOGE 6,000 of your employees? Just a simple yes or no, please.

Secretary ROLLINS. I believe that was before I was sworn in, but we are undertaking every—

Ms. TOKUDA. Do you believe that the Administration regrets a decision, then, to DOGE 6,000 employees?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, I am not going to talk for the entire Administration. I think the effort to ensure that every tax dollar is spent is a really worthy effort—

Ms. TOKUDA. Okay. One—

I want to move on because I have a lot of questions.

Secretary ROLLINS.—even if it is imperfect.

Ms. TOKUDA. If the courts had not stopped your Administration, would you have stood by the firings, and would you have pushed for more firings?

Secretary ROLLINS. If you and I had had the discussion, you would know that I have been so open to these discussions, no mat-

ter Republican or Democratic, in ensuring that we are doing everything we need to do to basically effectuate the USDA's mission.

Ms. TOKUDA. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS. So I don't want to speculate in hypotheticals.

Ms. TOKUDA. All right. Well, I will just say that there were 6,000 firings, of which the courts did have to then make you reverse the decision. And I am curious as to how much were actually brought back.

But I do want to move on along this line. In April, Secretary Rollins, you stated that the USDA will be optimizing and reducing the size of the workforce to become more efficient. USDA employees have been told the goal is to cut back the workforce to fiscal 2019 levels, which would lead to a reduction of around 23 percent of the agency's workforce. Is this still your goal, to get to Fiscal Year 2019 staffing levels, yes or no?

Secretary ROLLINS. Is this not unbelievable, though, to you, that USDA under your Administration—

Ms. TOKUDA. Just a simple yes or no answer, please.

Secretary ROLLINS.—increased 25 percent by 20,000 people?

Ms. TOKUDA. I have a number of questions. Mr. Chairman if you can ask the witness to answer.

Okay. So I am going to—

Secretary ROLLINS. I don't—I mean—

Ms. TOKUDA.—assume your answer is yes, that that is in fact still your cut goal. If not, please submit it for you.

Now, the 15,000 who took the deferred resignation is less than 15 percent. So even as we are trying to recruit people back, and we have seen this recently because we are vacant in certain areas we need, are you still trying to cut by 23 percent, yes or no? I feel you are not—

Secretary ROLLINS. We are working every day—

Ms. TOKUDA.—going to answer this.

Secretary ROLLINS.—on behalf of the American people to put farmers first and make sure these programs are done with the utmost integrity.

Ms. TOKUDA. Farmers need people to help them answer the questions they have and provide—

Secretary ROLLINS. They don't need 25,000—

Ms. TOKUDA.—the technical assistance they need.

Secretary ROLLINS.—new employees based on a crazy infusion—

Ms. TOKUDA. Do you think—

Secretary ROLLINS.—of spending from the last Administration—

Ms. TOKUDA. Okay. Here is a simple question for you—

Secretary ROLLINS.—and the American people agree with that.

Ms. TOKUDA. Do you feel you are adequately staffed to meet your mission?

Secretary ROLLINS. We are—

Ms. TOKUDA. Yes or no?

Secretary ROLLINS.—adequately staffed to meet our mission.

Ms. TOKUDA. Okay. Well, then this is a question I think you need to talk to farmers about as to whether or not they think they have staffing at USDA to actually support the programs they need.

Secretary Rollins, you are from Texas, which currently leads the nation in rates of food insecurity and hunger. In Dallas-Fort Worth, the metropolitan area encompassing where you live, childhood hunger, food insecurity rates are at 20.9 percent. One in five children go to bed hungry. You have been an advisor to Governor Rick Perry, cutting the local food purchase assistance and Local Food for Schools funding.

Secretary ROLLINS. That was 20 years ago.

Ms. TOKUDA. I agree, but you have instinct and knowledge of what it is like to have to take care of a state. You cut LFP and LFS by \$1 billion. Central Texas lost 40 loads of food within weeks of the decision. That is 913,000 pounds of food, or 716,000 meals. You also cut TEFAP by \$500 million.

Texas is a top recipient of all of these particular funds, and with the combined cuts, the Houston Food Bank alone lost about 15 percent of their funding from these cuts. That is \$11 million or 500 tractor-trailer loads of food.

My question is, just even thinking about Texas because you have an intimate knowledge and understanding of this area, do you think Texan children and families don't need these meals?

Secretary ROLLINS. I think that a wholesale review of all of these programs is necessary. I don't know if you heard, but—

Ms. TOKUDA. But while we review it, are people hungry?

Secretary ROLLINS.—the last time we had this number of—

Ms. TOKUDA. Six containers of protein and food—

Secretary ROLLINS.—unemployment, we had 17 million people—

Ms. TOKUDA.—were turned away from Hawaii.

Secretary ROLLINS.—on the SNAP program. Today, we have 42 million. We spend \$400 million—

Ms. TOKUDA. Are you done?

Secretary ROLLINS.—a day—

Ms. TOKUDA. Secretary, are you then—

Secretary ROLLINS.—\$400 million a day—

Ms. TOKUDA.—saying that the food you cut was not needed—

Secretary ROLLINS.—on nutrition programs.

Ms. TOKUDA.—by the people who were going to eat them? It is a simple question.

Secretary ROLLINS. Texas has half the poverty of California by having lower taxes and less government programs. We are moving people into real jobs and real prosperity—

Ms. TOKUDA. You are then implying that people who are receiving—

Secretary ROLLINS.—at a rate that states that don't move forward—

Ms. TOKUDA.—those food—again—

Secretary ROLLINS.—with freedom have.

Ms. TOKUDA.—these are redundant—

Secretary ROLLINS. So I will not let you denigrate my state that has become the model in the country for the American dream, for prosperity—

Ms. TOKUDA. Your state is leading the country—

Secretary ROLLINS.—for good jobs, for good health care—

Ms. TOKUDA.—in hunger and food insecurity right now.

Secretary ROLLINS.—*et cetera*. Thank you.

Ms. TOKUDA. And we are talking about the fact that your state alone has lost tens of millions, if not more, dollars' worth of funding under your lead of this particular department.

Secretary ROLLINS. Four hundred million dollars a day—

Ms. TOKUDA. And it is a question—

Secretary ROLLINS. —should be plenty—

Ms. TOKUDA. You must ask yourself—

Secretary ROLLINS.—to support these programs.

Ms. TOKUDA.—for every dollar you cut, who goes hungry throughout this country? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary ROLLINS. In America—

Ms. TOKUDA. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS.—there will not be a hungry child.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady yields back.

I now recognize the gentlelady from Illinois, Mrs. Miller, for 5 minutes.

Secretary ROLLINS. Hello.

Mrs. MILLER. Hello, Secretary Rollins. It is a pleasure to have you join us today, and I am looking forward to working with you and President Trump in making American farmers great again.

As you are well aware, we are seeing taxpayer-subsidized Chinese solar covering some of the best farm ground in the world, class A and class B farm ground. I was proud to reintroduce the No Solar Panels on Fertile Farmland Act of 2025 (H.R. 1080) this Congress, which bans taxpayer funding for solar panels, especially those made in China, from being installed on America's fertile farm ground.

I want to publicly applaud your leadership in taking action to stop Chinese Communist Party from buying up American farmland. Hostile foreign powers should never be allowed to control critical American assets like our food production.

Recently, organizations like the Bezos Earth Fund have spent millions of dollars to paint the livestock and agriculture industries as drivers of climate change. These grants have sparked significant concerns among cattle producers because foreign countries who seek to undermine the integrity of the Angus breed and our beef industry often target cattle as major environmental culprits.

But I know we are in good hands with you as our Secretary. Secretary Rollins, what measures is the USDA taking to ensure that fertile farmland remains dedicated to food production and isn't repurposed for large-scale renewable energy projects?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, first of all, thank you, Congresswoman. Can I note that three of my four kids just arrived? Jake Rollins, Anna Rollins, and Lily Rollins, part of the government process here, and what a joy to have them.

Mrs. MILLER. That is great.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. So you and I have discussed this a lot. Your leadership on the solar panels and on the Chinese threat is so appreciated and so inspiring. We rolled out our Small Family Farm Initiative about 3 weeks ago. The solar panel piece of that is part of it. We are actually moving regs through our system right now. So hopefully, in partnership with you and with this Congress

as we move this forward, I have spoken with the President about it specifically. He too is very interested in it.

Regarding the Angus beef, I would love more information on that.

Mrs. MILLER. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS. This is the first time I have actually heard of that, but remain acutely aware of the threats at stake and what we need to do to begin to solve for that. I have been in a lot of meetings about that at the White House.

Mrs. MILLER. Thank you very much. And I would like to say that solar and wind is not only taxpayer-subsidized Chinese energy, but it is unreliable, and it is increasingly unaffordable. And by covering rural America with it, they are driving people out of rural America and ruining our beautiful landscape. And we know President Trump loves beautiful things so—

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, he does. That is exactly right.

Mrs. MILLER. Given the concerns about foreign entities acquiring U.S. farmland, how is the USDA collaborating with other agencies to monitor and regulate such transactions, especially those involving nations hostile to the U.S.?

Secretary ROLLINS. We have 400,000 acres of farmland in the last decade that has been purchased by the CCCP, 400,000. This happened without much because I don't think we knew it was happening. Now that we realize what a significant problem it is, we are working across the Federal Government. I was, again, in a meeting just yesterday about this issue, and we will continue to build out the plan to ensure that we are addressing this extreme threat to not only our farmland and our American way of life, but to our national security.

Mrs. MILLER. Thank you. And in light of the significant spending by Bezos Earth Fund and other similar groups, what is USDA doing to ensure Federal dollars are not being spent to push this radical anti-agriculture ideology?

Secretary ROLLINS. Obviously, we have been talking about this for the last few hours, but every single dollar we are spending is under review to ensure that it is being spent with the taxpayers in mind, with the President's vision in mind, and what he was elected to do last November. And we are making a lot of progress.

But having said that, and I ask this from both sides of the aisle, anything that you see or hear differently, please let me know. We are not going to be able to do this alone with just our staff.

Mrs. MILLER. Thank you. I am so grateful for you, and I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, Congresswoman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady yields back.

I am now pleased to recognize Mr. Vindman for 5 minutes.

Mr. VINDMAN. Thank you, Secretary Rollins, for testifying today. Do you support farmers?

Secretary ROLLINS. Of course. Yes.

Mr. VINDMAN. And how about the families that go to grocery stores, do you support them as well?

Secretary ROLLINS. I do. I have four children. Three of them are here who eat groceries too.

Mr. VINDMAN. Wonderful. Glad to see them. Let's talk about the trade war. Yes or no, are you aware that farmers need inputs that we typically import to grow the crops?

Secretary ROLLINS. Which input? Yes, in general, but which ones specifically are you talking about?

Mr. VINDMAN. Oh, just in general, I am talking about it, and yes is the right answer.

Yes or no, will higher costs of inputs force farmers to increase prices for their goods, resulting in higher costs for families at the grocery store?

Secretary ROLLINS. Mr. Vindman, under the last Administration, inputs went up 30 percent here in America, so that is the bigger question—

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Secretary—

Secretary ROLLINS.—not the trade war.

Mr. VINDMAN. We are not talking about the previous Administration. We are talking about this Administration.

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, but that is really important. I mean, that is 100 days *versus* 4 years. That is a 30 percent increase in inputs. Under the Biden Administration, a \$50 billion trade deficit that wasn't there—

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Secretary, I am aware of that—

Secretary ROLLINS.—when the first Trump Administration left.

Mr. VINDMAN.—but I am asking this—

Secretary ROLLINS.—I mean, if you want to talk about—

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming—

Secretary ROLLINS.—the driving cost of groceries—

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming my time.

Secretary ROLLINS.—that is where that is coming from.

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming my time.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir. Please continue.

Mr. VINDMAN. So yes or no, will higher costs of inputs force farmers to increase their prices?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes—

Mr. VINDMAN. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS.—as evidenced under the Biden Administration.

Mr. VINDMAN. I am glad you agree, and I would like to submit for the record an article titled, *How Tariffs on Steel and Aluminum Could Show Up on Your Grocery Store Bill*.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The article referred to is located on p. 154.]

Mr. VINDMAN. Trump doubled tariffs on steel and aluminum, and so the cost can go up to ten percent more. How much is the SNAP benefit per person per day?

Secretary ROLLINS. Six dollars is, I believe, the latest number.

Mr. VINDMAN. Actually, it is \$6.20, which when you are talking about \$6, that 20¢ actually is meaningful.

Secretary ROLLINS. Agreed.

Mr. VINDMAN. Yes or no, do you think food being more expensive makes life more difficult for families on SNAP?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, I think that is right. That is exactly the President's bringing it down. We have a lower inflation than we have had since the last time Trump was here.

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Secretary, actually——

Secretary ROLLINS. The cost of eggs went up 237 percent——

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Secretary——

Secretary ROLLINS.—under Joe Biden. They are down 65 percent now so——

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Reclaiming my time.

Secretary ROLLINS.—I don't know if this is the right discussion you want to have, but clearly, we are——

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming my time.

Secretary ROLLINS.—solving for that. Okay.

Mr. VINDMAN. So we just discussed tariffs and the fact that tariffs—and we already have this article that I have entered into the record—are going to increase the costs.

So food being more expensive makes life more difficult. We already agreed to that. And in only the first 6 months, it sounds like this Administration is heading in the opposite direction with the tariffs, and your Administration is pushing a bill that would tighten people's SNAP benefits even more. Are you aware that SNAP recipients shop at the same grocery stores as every other American?

Secretary ROLLINS. I am aware that we all use the same grocery stores, yes. I do believe there is a food desert out there in some of rural America that we are working to solve.

Mr. VINDMAN. And I agree with that as well, given that——

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VINDMAN.—I have significant rural parts in my district. Yes or no, do you know that in rural counties, retailers that have SNAP shoppers will lose income if those folks lose their benefits?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, again, \$42 million *versus* \$17 million the last time we were at this unemployment number so——

Mr. VINDMAN. It is a straightforward, simple question, Secretary. In rural counties, if retailers lose SNAP shoppers, will they lose income for these folks?

Secretary ROLLINS. Just yesterday, we signed three more SNAP waivers of the \$111 billion we spend every year on SNAP, \$27 billion is on sugary drinks and junk food.

Mr. VINDMAN. All right.

Secretary ROLLINS. We are reforming the SNAP program to allow more nutritious foods.

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming my time. I am sorry.

Secretary ROLLINS. Please.

Mr. VINDMAN. I only have 5 minutes, so I need to move through this.

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, hopefully, I have a chance to answer the questions, but I understand.

Mr. VINDMAN. Yes or no, do you know that 27,000 retailers in rural areas might have to shut down if SNAP benefits are cut, creating even bigger food deserts, the deserts that you just referenced, in our country?

Secretary ROLLINS. Clearly, that will not be happening as we continue to move away from processed foods and sugary drinks to a more nutritious menu——

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Secretary——

Secretary ROLLINS.—for all of our recipients.

Mr. VINDMAN.—that sounds like a no, that maybe you don't know that, subject to—

Secretary ROLLINS. We spend \$400 million a day, sir—

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming my time.

Secretary ROLLINS.—on these programs, \$400 million a day.

Mr. VINDMAN. Reclaiming my time. So I would like to submit for the record an article titled, *SNAP Cuts Are Likely to Harm More than 27,000 Retailers Nationwide*, from the Center for American Progress.

Secretary Rollins, did you know or did you or did you not—

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The article referred to is located on p. 108.]

Mr. VINDMAN. Thank you—that the state of the ag economy is perhaps the worst it has been in 100 years?

Secretary ROLLINS. The state of the ag economy is indeed under a massive challenge, but 30 percent input costs from the Biden Administration, a \$50 billion—

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Secretary—

Secretary ROLLINS.—trade deficit that was not there, that is the reason—

Mr. VINDMAN. That sounds like a yes.

Secretary ROLLINS.—for the farm economy.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. VINDMAN. Thank you. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I will now recognize the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. Feenstra, for 5 minutes.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I want to thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here today. I am so impressed with what you have done in the first several months of being in your Administration.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. FEENSTRA. I just think that you are delivering on Trump's America first farming agenda, and that is so important. I mean, promises made, promises kept by his Administration, and you are taking full advantage of what is happening there for our families and our communities.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. FEENSTRA. I want to talk about, you came to Iowa. Thank you very much.

Secretary ROLLINS. I did. It was wonderful.

Mr. FEENSTRA. I have the second largest ag district in the country. And you probably saw that we are very, very involved in biofuels, ethanol and biodiesel. And I would just love to ask, where do you see that going, and how can we continue to make sure ethanol and biodiesel is successful as we move forward? And what can USDA do in those arenas to make sure that we protect our farming community and create those markets for our farmers?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I had such a great day in Iowa. I mean, that part of the country is just so special. I had a little comment coming from behind. And it was really encouraging. I will note that this President has been, again, resolute in his support of the industry.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yep.

Secretary ROLLINS. But one thing I want to note, and Mr. Vindman brought up the trade war, but—trade recalibration/discussion, but the UK deal, the first deal that was just struck 3 weeks ago in the Oval Office, ethanol went to a 0 percent tariff under that deal.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yes, that is huge.

Secretary ROLLINS. Three days later, I was in the UK talking to the leaders there. They were so surprised, first of all, to have the Secretary of Ag there because they hadn't seen one in a long time.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yep.

Secretary ROLLINS. But second, the idea that we can move our ethanol around the world in an unprecedented way is so tremendously helpful to our farmers in the parts of the country that rely on that. So I think the future could not be brighter, sir, for your constituents in that part of the country, and I am really proud of that.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yes, thank you. I am really proud of it, too, and where this is going to go and how it is going to grow.

I do want to talk a little bit about SNAP benefits because I want you to answer the question, which is wonderful. I mean, what we are trying to do is simply reduce fraud, waste, and abuse, and error rates. And some of these states that have massive error rates, they don't care literally don't care. And that is wrong.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. We can't even get the data.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Right. And we can't even get the data. I mean, it is shameful. And that is the story that is never talked about.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. FEENSTRA. And I just want to say what we are doing in the Agriculture Committee here is just simple. It is just saying, hey, we want to protect the program and reduce ag fraud and abuse.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is exactly right. And again, I can't overstate the amount of money, of taxpayer dollars, that was just willy-nilly thrown into the wind in the last Administration.

Mr. FEENSTRA. That is right.

Secretary ROLLINS. It is stunning. And I don't say that as a political stunt. I am not trying to get in a back-and-forth with the Democrats on this, but it is absolutely astounding without really any regard to the taxpayer and how their money is being spent in ensuring that these programs are meeting and reaching the people—

Mr. FEENSTRA. That is right.

Secretary ROLLINS.—that really need them, and so that is what we are working to do.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yes, and thank you for that. I really appreciate that. And we have just got to get these error rates under control. We absolutely have to. It is fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers. The taxpayers are the ones that are funding all this.

I just want to talk one more moment. On our export markets, we look at corn and soybeans and things that go bump in the night on the commodity prices and stuff like that. What can we do to open more markets? You just talked about the UK. Thank you very much. Where do you see other markets providing more at-market access to some of these commodities?

Secretary ROLLINS. I have been so far to UK and Italy, talked about those countries, but also the EU. In 2 weeks, 3 weeks, I am headed to Vietnam, Japan, and India. After that, I am headed to Peru and Brazil. I have been really surprised, but in the best way, at how excited these countries are for us to be there on the ground, how they understand that the 15 percent average tariff put on our American agriculture products *versus* the on-average five percent that we put on their products they understand that is not sustainable—

Mr. FEENSTRA. That is right.

Secretary ROLLINS.—that we have to do better in putting our American products forward.

As I mentioned, Italy imports \$75 billion in ag products every year. Only \$1.7 billion of that is from America. This is one of our best partners, more aligned—

Mr. FEENSTRA. Exactly.

Secretary ROLLINS.—with our values than most any other country.

So just being on the road—

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yep.

Secretary ROLLINS.—working around the clock—

Mr. FEENSTRA. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS.—sending the teams out into the world, the President being the chief negotiator, not allowing Americans to take a back seat ever again—

Mr. FEENSTRA. That is right.

Secretary ROLLINS.—this is going to be a gamechanger.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Yes. Well, I just want to say thank you, Secretary, and I also want to say thank you. I had the largest bird outbreak of avian bird flu in my district in the 4th District.

Secretary ROLLINS. You do.

Mr. FEENSTRA. It was awful.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FEENSTRA. And you stepped right up and you got it done. Thank you so much.

And finally, you have to come to the Iowa State Fair and do the governor's steer show. I hope you are there. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. I will be there.

Mr. FEENSTRA. All right.

Secretary ROLLINS. She and I are going to show steers against each other.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Absolutely.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I now recognize the gentlelady from Illinois, Ms. Budzinski, for 5 minutes.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I do want to thank our Ranking Member Craig. Secretary Rollins, thank you for taking time to appear before the Committee today.

My district in central and southern Illinois is home to some of the nation's most productive farmland, with some of the top corn and soybean-producing counties in the country, as well as a wide variety of specialty crops. It is also home to facilities for some big

names in agricultural industry—ADM, Primiant, Kraft, Tillamook—they just opened a factory in Decatur—plants like Corteva, Bayer, Nutrien, and a lot more. And, of course, it is home to a tremendous amount of agricultural research at my alma mater at the University of Illinois, but also Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, and many great community colleges throughout my district. So I am sure you can understand why I am so thrilled to serve on this Committee because the work we do here and the work done at USDA matters so much to the district that I represent.

Madam Secretary, can you tell me, do you agree that the primary function of the USDA is to serve farmers in our rural communities? Just yes or no.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Okay. Thank you. Madam Secretary, I do have some concerns about the way things have been going just over these last 6 months. Just to start, the President's budget for USDA was abysmal, in my opinion. It kneecaps agricultural research; threatens American dominance in international development; forces women, infants, and children to go hungry; and decimates NRCS.

Just last week in this Committee, we heard directly from farmers about the importance and success of conservation programs for their operations. The idea that we would take away opportunities to improve farmers' livelihoods and to completely eliminate conservation technical assistance, which farmers have told this Committee directly that they rely on, I think is ridiculous.

I urge you to be thoughtful about the impacts of the suggestions you have made. These are not inconsequential programs. There is no backstop. Please consider the farmers that you do claim to serve.

I also want to bring to your attention some changes that have been made that have serious issues within my district. The elimination of the Local Food Purchase Assistance and the Local Foods for Schools programs, they both were incredibly important, and it is distressing to my community that they have been eliminated, and across Illinois as well share in that concern. This program was an incredible opportunity to connect farmers with their neighbors in need, as well as local small businesses.

I am lucky to have a great relationship with Sola Gratia Farm in Urbana, a vegetable and fruit operation whose primary goal is to provide food to local residents, particularly for vulnerable populations. LFPA helped them accomplish this goal.

They also were connected to local small businesses through LFPA like Martinelli's Market in Champaign, Illinois. And Martinelli's is also dealing with the Administration's tariffs, driving up the prices of their ingredients. So the rug was pulled out from under them when USDA canceled the LFPA contracts, contracts which helped them to buy locally and feed our communities. Now tariffs are driving up Martinelli's overall prices, and Solo Gratia lost its purchasers.

This is just an example of the many concerns I have for my district, but I want to use my time to draw your attention to an opportunity—

Secretary ROLLINS. Can I respond to any of that?

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Let me get through my points, and if we have time, then I welcome your comments.

Secretary ROLLINS. Okay.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Attention to an opportunity. This is an opportunity that could be at USDA.

Secretary ROLLINS. Love opportunities.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. With this Administration—yes. So with this Administration's shuttering of USAID, Feed the Future labs across the country have closed with the exception of one at Kansas State University, the Climate Resilient Cereals Lab.

One lab that was impacted and therefore closed was in my district. The Soybean Innovation Lab, or SIL, at the University of Illinois, has been conducting critical research for over 12 years on new varieties of soybeans. This research not only supports developing nations, but it supports domestic growers. Development of soybean genetics in the United States helps us to maintain our global dominance in the soy market, which is critical for the farmers in the heartland. It also introduces brand new international markets to American products, which I know is a mission of this Administration.

I understand that the majority of USAID activity has been moved to the State Department, including programming for the Feed our Future Lab at Kansas State. Madam Secretary, I ask you to please look into the importance of the Soybean Innovation Lab for American agriculture. Is that something that you would be willing to take a look at?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I would be very willing to do that and follow up that conversation.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. That would be wonderful.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Thank you, Secretary.

Thank you. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Rouzer, for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Madam Secretary, for being here. We have had the occasion to meet briefly on a couple of occasions.

Secretary ROLLINS. There you are.

Mr. ROUZER. Yep.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. ROUZER. And I appreciate your work. USDA is near and dear to me. During Bush 43, I was an SES political appointee over at USDA Rural Development.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. ROUZER. I have great appreciation for the variety of missions of the Department and appreciate your service.

First, I want to begin by thanking you for your work with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on their state block grant application for losses from Hurricane Helene, obviously a very, very devastating storm. And, as you know, this devastation was far beyond just crop loss, affecting a broad

range of our more than \$111 billion agriculture economy, including timber, infrastructure, agritourism, and aquaculture losses.

And it is my understanding that our staffs have been communicating, and I know you are working really, really closely with the state to address these issues and just really appreciate your work in that regard, if you want to provide a little update on that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. We have been in close contact with your state and the leaders in your state. I visited North Carolina, one of the first states I went to. I think we have had five formal meetings, but almost daily conversations. Those funds are close to contract and should be released very soon.

Mr. ROUZER. And you may have mentioned this while I was out at another committee meeting, and so my apologies if it is redundant. North Carolina is the third most agriculturally diverse state in the country, and so we have a lot of specialty crops. If you can touch base or just bring us up to date real quickly on the Marketing Assistance Specialty Crop rollout for economic assistance for specialty crops, I would be most interested in that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, as you may remember, that is a significant investment on our end at USDA, about \$2.65 billion we have announced. Those are moving but still under review. It is a significant number that we are working with our partners over at the White House on. The first tranche is moved, the second tranche is shortly behind. I don't have a specific date in front of me, but we will reply back to your office and make sure you are fully aware of that.

Mr. ROUZER. Thank you very much. One other quick item, the H-2A program, I know the Chairman made reference to this in his opening statement. I can't stress enough how critical it is to have a good workable program, and that AEWR, the adverse effect wage rate, is a real issue for our growers.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. ROUZER. In fact, we had a bipartisan working group that the Chairman put together. We had a whole list of areas of unanimity between Republicans and Democrats, and one of them was the need to freeze that AEWR. We have a great Secretary of Labor in place. And I remember during the first Trump Administration, there were a variety of departments that were working together to make some good reforms administratively to the H-2A program.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. ROUZER. So I just want to underscore just how important that is and give you an opportunity to talk about that just a minute, if you can.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I am fully aware. In fact, in Texas, I went and visited some citrus growers in south Texas, and we could look across the border where the average hourly rate was \$2 in Mexico to produce the same or to basically move the same produce through in Texas at \$23 an hour. This is unsustainable. I have talked to Lori Chavez-DeRemer, our Secretary of Labor, about it. I have also spoken to the President about it. We remain fully committed to working with—obviously, you all are going to be the main movers and shakers for real change, but whatever we can do through the government, the Executive Branch, please, please,

please let us know because we realize what a huge problem this is.

Mr. ROUZER. Well, we look forward to working with you very closely on that because it is probably one of the greatest needs American agriculture has.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. ROUZER. You can't harvest a crop in many cases, particularly specialty crops, if you don't have labor.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is exactly right.

Mr. ROUZER. All right. In my remaining time, I want to put in a plug for our food assistance programs. A lot of them are administered at USAID, but they really belong under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in my opinion. One in particular, the McGovern-Dole Food Aid Program, I used to work for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole in a previous life. I grew very close to Senator Dole from Kansas. And when you travel overseas and you see—you go in these schools, and the only reason why these kids are in school in these third-world countries is basically because of the McGovern-Dole food program. It is the only nutrition they get during the day. And it provides not only a humanitarian aspect, but there is also a diplomatic, long-term America-first aspect as well.

Secretary ROLLINS. Very quickly, 30 of those programs are still moving, and we opened up funding for the next round on May 9, just a few weeks ago, understanding it is realigning around the President's vision and the countries that help America, but we are aware and tracking that.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

At the Minority's request, I am going to recognize Mr. Jackson from Illinois for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield to Congresswoman Hayes. They wanted us to switch orders.

The CHAIRMAN. Then I don't recognize the gentleman from Illinois as Mr. Jackson, okay?

I recognize the gentlelady from Connecticut, Mrs. Hayes, for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HAYES. I am not sure what is going on. Don't I get my own 5 minutes? Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here today.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mrs. HAYES. It is no secret that I am in opposition to the Republican bill and the deep cuts to SNAP, and I have been vociferous and clear about that. I just want to add, as we are talking about the Republican proposals in the Department of Agriculture, there are serious concerns that many of the actions being taken threaten the bipartisan coalition that has helped pass multiple farm bills, and we would be hard pressed to get the full Congress to pass a bill that guts billions of dollars from our most vulnerable communities.

But today, my questions are going to be focused on small farms in my district. Between 2017 and 2022, Connecticut lost roughly 460 farms. Projections by the American Farmland Trust estimate that my state will lose 55,000 acres of farmland if we do not step in to preserve what remains.

There are many factors contributing to the loss of farmland in New England, as we heard Mr. McGovern talk about earlier. One of the most consistent is the failure of farm safety net programs. Guardians Farms, a small, first-generation farm in Southbury, Connecticut, in my district, began operation in 2020, and they sell dairy products at farmers' markets on the weekends. Two years of heavy rain have resulted in fewer visitors to the farm and damage to the pasture, barn, and chicken coops. Earlier this year, they requested \$50,000 from USDA to help make up for lost revenue and to help with repairs. As of today, they still have not received any disaster assistance.

Last year, Congress funded two disaster relief programs and designed them to work together to ensure all impacted farms receive some type of assistance. The Supplemental Disaster Relief Program would fund larger operations, and the Farm Recovery and Support Block Grant would provide targeted relief to smaller farms in smaller states.

Secretary Rollins, it is my understanding that USDA has directed Connecticut to choose between one of two of those programs and a small farm block grant, rather than assessing both, as Congress intended. What is the justification for denying Connecticut farmers the ability to access the relief Congress has voted to provide for them?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, first of all, thank you. That is a great question. I have been in a lot of conversations on this. In fact, my next one is with your colleague, Rosa DeLauro, at 4 o'clock, once I leave here. We are continuing to assess what this means, understanding that this \$220 million block grant to New England that you all put in the Relief Act at the end of last year is different. It is different than Georgia, North Carolina, some of the bigger farming communities with the bigger farms.

So we are continuing to look at this. The decision has not been released yet, but will be soon. We remain very committed and have been working with your ag commissioner from Connecticut and across New England for the last few months and will continue to do so.

Mrs. HAYES. Well, I appreciate you explaining what USDA is doing as a whole, but my question was about why Connecticut is being denied access to both programs. I know that there has been concern about double dipping, but there are audit processes in place, certification processes in place. And what ends up happening is exactly what we anticipated. The smallest farmers are left out because they don't have access to these programs. And my fear is that Connecticut will be kept waiting for relief because the program is not being implemented properly.

Your budget proposal would cut funding for the Farm Service Agency by an additional \$250 million. I am concerned that Connecticut farmers, again, will see diminished capacity from USDA to address their needs. How will the USDA deliver payments to farmers in a more efficient manner when you are cutting resources and the staff who do the work?

Secretary ROLLINS. So ma'am, the \$10 billion that moved out very quickly, the ECAP, you all passed it around Christmas, maybe December 20. We moved it out \$10 billion in a matter of 6 to 8

weeks. The longest waiting time was 3 days once that was moved out. We have sent the money to 500,000 farmers across America. This is months and months and months ahead of where a normal USDA moves it out. So I think our track record hopefully speaks for itself.

Mrs. HAYES. Well, again, I hope that there is some consideration for the smallest farmers—

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree.

Mrs. HAYES.—who don't have grant writers or access to these programs or the ability to reach out and get a response.

Secretary ROLLINS. One hundred percent.

Mrs. HAYES. I appreciate the fact that money is getting out the door. My concern, once again, is that it is going to the largest farmers in the largest agricultural communities and leaving behind the farmers who literally have less than 100 acres and are doing this work and it is their family business.

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree.

And Congresswoman, what I would ask is when you hear those stories and you are called, to call me specifically and say this is what is happening in my district, and this is who is not getting the attention that they deserve, and that will help us solve for that.

Mrs. HAYES. I appreciate that. I will follow up and make sure you have the information on Guardians Farm in Southbury, Connecticut.

Secretary ROLLINS. That would be great.

Mrs. HAYES. It is a veteran-owned farm, and they are struggling right now.

Thank you, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. What was the name again?

Mrs. HAYES. Guardians Farm.

Secretary ROLLINS. Guardians Farm.

Mrs. HAYES. I will make sure you get the information.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

At the request of the Secretary and in consultation with the Minority, we are going to do two more questions and then take a 20 minute break and then reconvene. And I will keep an order of those in the room at the time of the break so that that will be the order when we come back, and I will announce what time that is when we see when these next two individuals are done.

So at this point, I recognize Mr. Johnson from South Dakota and then in the direction of the Minority, Mr. Jackson from Illinois.

So Mr. Johnson is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Secretary, I feel like we are talking to a member of your team every week on something or other, so I am—

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. JOHNSON.—going to walk through six issues, and then you can comment on any of them that you like.

First off, I want to thank you for working with us to provide some relief to that South Dakota ranching couple, the Mauds.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. It should never have gotten to the point it did, and thank you to your team for seeing the wisdom forward, common sense.

Number two, I want to affiliate myself with Mr. Costa's remarks about high-path avian influenza, still a tremendous threat, and as he said, not just to poultry but also to our herds as well.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. And then I was grateful to see your five-prong plan had vaccines as an important part of it. I think there has been some concern that maybe the priority in USDA shifted around a little bit, and so I just want to highlight the incredible work that a number of companies, including Medgene, are doing in developing some really powerful vaccines that I think are the long-term solution to this problem.

Secretary ROLLINS. Good.

Mr. JOHNSON. Not even long-term, I mean just the solution here I think sooner than we realize.

Number three, forestry, Mr. LaMalfa said it well. I mean, we have a lot we need to do out in the forest. I mean, a managed forest is a healthy forest. We have a million acres of National Forest land in the Black Hills, and it has been a long time since we have been able to hit the data-driven harvest targets.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. We have had mills close, lots of jobs lost. When we lose that infrastructure, it is almost impossible to ever get it back, which means the forest turns into a tinderbox.

I have confidence in your team. Mr. Schultz, Mr. French, I enjoy working with them. So I just want to thank you and ask you to continue to back their efforts to approach this issue with some real urgency. I think we are making progress, but we have a ways to go yet.

Number four, I want to thank your team for the incredible responsiveness they have shown in working with South Dakota State University in making some alterations to what is now known as the Producers First program. This is going to show us the way forward on some resiliency in how we feed and make sure that the bison and the cattle can get to market and that nutrition is a key part of what they do because we still want to discover some research and how to do better.

Number five, I met with a few dozen dairy producers. And ma'am, this is not going to come as any surprise to you. They have a real anxiety in farm labor.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. And some folks are not sure how they are going to hang on. They view you as a huge leader. They view you as a critical—I mean, this problem will not get solved without Brooke Rollins. And they believe in you, ma'am. And if there is anything I can do to help in developing solutions so we can—not just in dairy, of course. This is a bigger problem. But, we have to find a solution.

Secretary ROLLINS. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. And finally, number six, and then I will shut up, trade, just little old South Dakota, we export almost \$6 billion a year overseas in ag. That is \$6,000 a year for every single South

Dakotan every single year. Clearly, this Committee, strong believers in MAP, FMD. And I know you are a strong believer, and I would just ask you to continue to be a strong voice for more trade, which will make America stronger. And I know that is where the Administration's headed.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I think—

Mr. JOHNSON. What am I missing, ma'am?

Secretary ROLLINS. No, I think you covered it very well. I just want to start with the last one first on the trade. And I am not sure if you were in the room, Congressman, but the encouragement that I have received just in these first few international trips has been remarkable, in fact, stunning. I think that the world is ready to recalibrate. I think that the President has been such an effective leader on this. I know the uncertain times our producers are feeling. There is no one who is operating more on the margins than our farmers and ranchers, understand this. The President certainly understands it.

But I do believe with every fiber of my being that this era of unlimited or unprecedented prosperity for our ag community is just around the corner because of these trade renegotiations. I am just really, really sure of that.

I also want to comment on the timber piece of this. I was just in the Oval Office yesterday with the President talking about timber, talking about the firefighting because they are, as you know, interwoven inextricably. And I think that we are going to have another meeting tomorrow in the Oval Office on the issue. The President has been resolute in the increase of 25 percent in timber production, which, by the way, that will be the same number we had 30 years ago in 1994. Since then, our entire timber industry, as you know from your state and others, has been decimated.

So the focus, the investment, the putting our timber industry back at the front of the line to ensure they are able to do and thrive, but also on the back end to mitigate against more and unnecessary fires, it continues to be a priority of this Administration, and I am really, really proud of that.

Mr. JOHNSON. With that, Mr. Chairman, the Secretary and I have solved all the problems, and I would yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. I think we are done here.

Mr. JOHNSON. And by the way, you are unflappable. I did not know that my mean comment about Iowa and Jess would be picked up by you. It was mostly for your staff's benefit, but you are unflappable. You kept rolling, so thank you. I yield.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I did. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman. The gentleman's time has expired. Now I recognize the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Jackson, for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Thank you, Honorable Chairman Thompson. Thank you, Ranking Member Craig and distinguished Members of this Committee. Thank you, Secretary Rollins. I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

Secretary ROLLINS. Me too.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. You are head of a Department with a budget of hundreds of billions of dollars, over 100,000 employees, 4,500 offices, 29 different agencies, and so the job is enormous.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. And I come here not to affix blame but to seek solutions.

Madam Secretary, your Department proudly announced in a May 1 press release that it has terminated over 3,500 contracts and grants, totaling over \$5.5 billion, and canceled nearly 1,000 trainings to eliminate “woke” DEI initiatives. For the record, does the United States Department of Agriculture under your leadership have an official written definition of *DEI*—I am a bit confused—one that would withstand legal scrutiny under the Administrative Procedures Act that you used as a specific uniform standard to justify these cancellations?

Secretary ROLLINS. I believe that we do, sir, but let me check on that, and I will circle back to your office, and we can talk directly.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Okay. Thank you. I have not been able to find one. I reached out to the office starting in February, so I would simply just assume at this point, for the record, that the answer would be written no.

Under the Administrative Procedures Act, codified in section 5, U.S. Code 551, agencies’ actions cannot be arbitrary and capricious, yet we see some of the terminations of these programs without a single written guiding principle, so we have to make sure that this is codified into law.

Under the previous Secretary of Agriculture, we had a blueprint, an outline of where the Department was going. I hope in the weeks and months to come, this is on the thing. The Department of Agriculture has operated consistently by giving us a blueprint.

The second question I would have for you, your department has canceled outreach and recruitment in the name of eliminating DEI, so I don’t know what it is that is being eliminated, that is being cut because DEI is very vague. It means many things to many people. And so if you exclude the longstanding Federal hiring initiatives like the Veterans’ Recruitment Appointment, authority of the Schedule A hiring, or authority for people with disabilities, both of which are designed to create a more diverse and inclusive Federal workforce, would you agree that is a noble goal?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, the first thing I will say—and I really actually appreciate the conversation—is that the President clearly has been very clear in his directive. We are operating under his Executive Order—

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS.—on all of the above—

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Reclaim my time. I appreciate that because I fundamentally disagree with the President—

Secretary ROLLINS. I understand.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.—and I can appreciate your integrity, but the President is simply wrong on this, and I hope more people in the Administration can speak up to him. He can make a mistake, but it seems like people get very confused around him.

The Federal definition of *diversity* explicitly includes these groups, the disabled, the rural Americans, which are all groups that have faced barriers to Federal employment in the past. By canceling many of these programs unintentionally, they become col-

lateral damage, and so I would like to make sure that we continue to broaden the workforce and pull as many people in.

Also, we have talked about now, I see in this declaration, about meritocracy. You say your Department now operates on meritocracy.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Are you aware that the nine merit system principles codified in section 5 of the U.S. Code 2301 already exist to ensure fair and merit-based hiring, free from political influence? That is already baked into this. I don't know why there is new emphasis on saying there is *meritocracy*.

Does USDA, under your leadership, have an official written policy defining what constitutes *merit* that supersedes or replaces these Congressionally mandated principles? We already have them in the documents.

Secretary ROLLINS. I am not aware of that, but I am really glad, again, for this conversation. My commitment is to look at that very closely. Obviously, I am a big believer in the President's vision on this and the meritocracy approach, but it is a fair question. How do we define that and what does that look like?

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Okay. And that will be on section 5. So these terms that mean *woke* and so forth, there is another term that they have on your website regarding color-blindness as a goal that you have. Did someone put into the record that color-blindness is a physical impairment, or is there a new definition of what *color-blindness* means? Is that an asset? Can you help me define what is *color-blindness* and the values or merits of it?

Secretary ROLLINS. My understanding is this is from the Executive Order, the President's directive, and that we are looking at merit and the best possible employees for the American farmers.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I got you.

Reclaiming my time. So color-blindness, are we talking about having a lack of racial equity, racial justice? Is that the code word for it?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Okay. Well, the President, again, is wrong because you know the case of *Pigford v. Glickman*. It has already been documented that there has been a history of racial discrimination, prejudice, and racism. It has already had lawsuits filed and settled by farmers—African American, Latino, and indigenous—that did not have fair access to the resources of our agency. So I don't want to fix the blame, I want to fix the problem. But if some people are willfully blind, if he wants people going around the Department of Agriculture with mismatched clothes because he is now championing blindness, I think that is wrong, and that should not be classified.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back, and thank you for your time.

Secretary ROLLINS. I look forward to continuing that conversation.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

The Committee will stand in recess for 20 minutes, gaveling back in at 12:55. And at that time, the Members who have been in the room here, I will share with you what I have for order. Mann,

Davis, Moore, Sorensen, Harris, Vasquez, Taylor, Riley, De La Cruz, and Mannion.

We stand in recess.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee shall come to order. I note that there is a quorum present for the purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

I now recognize the gentleman from Kansas, Mr. Mann, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Welcome back, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. MANN. Thank you for being here today, and thank you for your leadership in supporting farmers, ranchers, and ag producers across the country.

It was an honor to have you visit the Big First District of Kansas during your first week on the job back in February right after you were confirmed, and we had a chance, as you recall, to participate in a roundtable discussion with ag producers, stakeholders. We toured Finney County Feedyard, the Ponderosa Dairy. We even met with some local FFAers, which was a huge highlight of mine. I know that is something that is near and dear to your heart as well.

One of my first meetings with President Trump, I distinctly remember him telling me of his love for the American farmer, and I very much appreciate that you also share that passion. Over the past few months, you and the President have led the way in supporting rural America, and I look forward to continuing to work with you for the next 4 years so that we make agriculture great again and everything that it possibly can be.

Secretary ROLLINS. Amen.

Mr. MANN. A couple questions. First one, Madam Secretary, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a major step forward in the future of American agriculture. We are able to strengthen crop insurance, raise reference prices, really help our producers. We also are able to include historic landmark investments in funding for trade promotion programs in the House version.

After the last Administration's failure to act on expanding international markets, I have been really encouraged at your efforts to rebalance trade to support the American farmer and rancher. In particular, I appreciate that you will be traveling on a trade mission to India here in the next few weeks where greater market access for crops like sorghum would be a gamechanger for our Kansas producers and a clear win for the U.S. and India.

With the significant upgrade in trade promotion resources, can you share what you and Ambassador Greer will be pursuing to unlock opportunities for U.S. exports commodities like sorghum as part of our discussion specifically with India?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, specific to India—and I will absolutely, Congressman, circle back to you with a little more detail. I have about three countries ahead of India so I haven't focused on India just yet even though we are headed there very soon.

Mr. MANN. Yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. But I think that India is reflective—to your point on sorghum and a lot of our row crops, there is just so much opportunity there. We talked a lot this morning about national security, agricultural security is national security. A lot of that is opening up markets with our friends like India and moving away from other markets that clearly are not aligned with us on a value-by-value basis.

What I have found with Ambassador Greer, with Secretary Lutnick, with Secretary Bessent, and the ultimate sort of dealmaker, President Donald Trump, is they are, we are relentless, relentless. And again, I think I mentioned this a couple of times, but it is worth repeating, the few countries I have already visited, the countries that have already visited me, everyone is so anxious to support this vision of opening up more American products and decreasing the tariffs while working on the non-tariff trade barriers.

So there is a lot more to come, would love to work with you, though, as we are prepping for India and other countries, specific to sorghum and other row crops.

Mr. MANN. Would love to. I think India is a huge opportunity for sorghum and other commodities as well.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MANN. Thank you for that.

Second question, earlier this year, I introduced legislation to move back to USDA a program that is not only dear to the people of Kansas, but also vital to our ag producers in the country. Food for Peace was a program that I have long supported, and it has supported American agriculture in helping feed millions of people around the world. It was originally housed with the USDA when it was created over 70 years ago. A Kansan came up with the idea years ago. My bill would return it back to us, or return it home to the USDA, ensuring its long-term sustainability.

I am optimistic that Congress will soon act to codify this move, realigning Food for Peace with USDA where it began. If and when that transition takes place, can you commit that the Department will continue to fund and operate Food for Peace as robustly as it currently has been administered? And welcome any thoughts about Food for Peace.

Secretary ROLLINS. Sure. And understanding that is moving through the system, not wanting to get ahead of President Trump specifically, but we stand ready. If that is the Congressional direction, we will work with you and your partners to ensure the contained sustainability—continued, I should say, sustainability and success and changes if necessary.

Mr. MANN. And great program, right?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MANN. We are shipping commodities grown here in bags that say a free gift from the American people. It is good for our farmers good for our shippers, good for the mouths that receive it.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MANN. I think someone asked you about Food for Progress earlier. I might loop back in with your office on that as well. But just really appreciate you being here.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. MANN. Thank you for all that you are doing for agriculture.
Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you so much. Good to see you, Congressman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognized gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Davis, for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Rollins, thank you so much for being with us today.

Secretary ROLLINS. Good to see you.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. I was looking forward to the Committee, I am sure, as we have been excited about you coming.

I want to share a picture, the best that I can reflect from so many conversations, what is taking place in eastern North Carolina back home. Farmers are absolutely getting pounded. These are, without any doubt, tough times, and they are facing many challenges. And between increased labor costs, low reference prices, increased input costs, so much uncertainty, double-duty drawback for tobacco growers, trade, just uncertainty, and in the midst of it all, we still, regardless of how we got here, have no farm bill. And let's be clear, reconciliation is no substitute for a farm bill.

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. In North Carolina, we have out west, which I traveled a little over a week ago to the western part of the state, and it is a dire situation that is still on the ground there as people are trying to pick up the pieces in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. But then out east, which I am honored to represent, we have had our fair share of challenges as we have been crushed with drought. There is so much going on.

And by the way, I would like to personally welcome you to eastern North Carolina.

Secretary ROLLINS. I would love that.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. But what we are leaving farmers now, we are leaving farmers these options. Option A, more debt, take on more debt; or option B, I am going to throw my hands up in the air and call it quits.

Here is the reality. I grew up cropping tobacco and doing a lot of hard work that we enjoyed doing as kids, and this is part of our heritage. And when you talk in particular, family farmers, they want to continue and pass it on to the children, the next generation. But how many children want to take on all of this right now?

So my first question is, what is the timeline for getting the disaster and economic agriculture assistance out the door that is going to help us in North Carolina?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I appreciate the question. God bless you. You are welcome. First of all—

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. You took up 5 seconds of my time.

Secretary ROLLINS. I know.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. That was a big one.

Secretary ROLLINS. That was an amazing sneeze.

The first thing I will say is with ECAP in North Carolina, 6,389 of your producers received \$118 million over the last month or 2, so hopefully, that is at least a step in the right direction.

On the emergency livestock relief, which we just released in the last week or 2, there is significant numbers going that way, 599

producers for 2023, another 423 producers for 2024, a total of \$1.4 billion, I believe, on that.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. And Madam Secretary, let me acknowledge the work that is taking place. I just want to really paint the picture. There is still a lot more work to be done.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. And if I can shift, can you speak on whether you are working with RMA, the Risk Management Agency, Administrator Swanson, to defer interest charges on crop insurance premiums for the current year?

Secretary ROLLINS. I don't have that answer, but by the end of the next question, we will have that for you. I am not 100 percent sure, so I don't want to answer wrongly, but we will get that to you right away.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Okay. Super. Thank you. And I want to really thank the Chairman because we have really been knee-deep in the H-2A program. This is so far an antiquated policy that is still out there, and we just got to come together and get this done. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the task force, the working group that we advanced.

But I want to come in particular with AEWWR because I hear so much about AEWWR, and this is a real legitimate concern. My question is, what has been the communication from USDA with DOL, as well as DHS, in relation to ensuring there are enough workers available to continue to feed, fuel, clothe the American people so they can continue to keep the operations going?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, as we discussed this morning, although, sir, I don't think you were in the room, there is obviously a very understandable concern in the agriculture market on labor. I spoke with the President about it this morning. I had a meeting with both Secretary Noem and Secretary Chavez-DeRemer on Monday night. The President, in an April 10 Cabinet meeting on his own, talked about it.

There is no doubt that, first of all, significant reform needs to happen to the H-2A, H-2B, *et cetera*, which I know you all are leading on in a bipartisan effort, but also the importance of our Administration and this President, which he does, recognizing that we have a major gap in the labor market for our dairy farmers, a lot of our row croppers, and how you balance that, obviously, with his commitment to America and to the American voters, which we don't all agree on, but to address illegal immigration. So please know I am committed to working around the clock to solve for that.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Thank you so much.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I now recognize the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. Moore, for 5 minutes.

Secretary ROLLINS. Hello.

Mr. MOORE. Over here, Secretary Rollins. How are you? Welcome.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. MOORE. Thank you for being here today, and thank you for all your work you are doing on negotiating with countries. I think

reference prices, input costs have been mentioned by Mr. Davis. Obviously, that is an issue. We have lost a lot of farms, and I think as a result of inflation, obviously. We have printed money like drunk sailors in D.C. for the last 4 years, and in some cases, that is an insult to drunk sailors. But inflation has really caught our producers in a tough, tough spot with fuel costs and energy costs, those sort of things.

But one of the issues I want to kind of breach with you and talk a little bit about is we recently have noticed there has been some SNAP fraud and card scamming. And just a few weeks ago, the DOJ charged a USDA employee and five others in a \$66 million SNAP fraud and bribery scheme in New York. And shockingly, this criminal scheme went on for years under the prior Administration.

So Madam Secretary, what action is the Department taking to ensure that these sort of egregious levels of fraud are being addressed?

Secretary ROLLINS. This is at the very top of the list. Currently, we can prove \$1 of every \$10, which is about \$34 million a day is paid out in taxpayer money that is fraudulently paid. We have an across-the-government, whole-of-government approach right now. The New York case that you mentioned is just one of many. There was a sting operation led by our Secret Service, interestingly enough, on the West Coast within the last month. Many more are coming, working alongside Pam Bondi at the DOJ.

But part of that, sir—and we have talked about it a little bit this morning—is the reluctance or refusal of many states to turn their data over to us, so it is hard for us to even know where that money is going and who it is being paid to. We are now directing it, and if they are not willing to do it, we are going to start moving through litigation. So we are going to force the issue, but it has to stop, and we can't continue to pay taxpayer dollars in such a fraudulent way.

Mr. MOORE. Yes, you said earlier, it contains sustainability. In some ways, I think you changed how you said it, but I think in many ways, with SNAP, that is what we have do.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MOORE. We want it for the families that need it, right? But the fraud is a big issue. And my concern—and I have been on Agriculture Committee for 4 years now—is there is a supply and demand curve. And, as SNAP, more and more money goes into the SNAP programs, yet the producers, the suppliers themselves are limited in their resources. Often, when you see that, what happens at the grocery stores, the prices go up because the demand goes higher and higher with government dollars going on SNAP programs, yet we are not securing producers in the market. And so, ultimately, the price goes up, and then the tax dollars on those SNAP cards don't go nearly as far as they could have.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. MOORE. So I think, coupled with the fraud, increasing production, certainly, and getting government spending, runaway waste under control, helping with inflation, I think there is an opportunity for us to certainly help our producers. And I appreciate—

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. MOORE. Again, I have the second largest peanut-producing district in the nation, and I know that my farmers would appreciate that, and we actually were peanut producers until 1980. The drought and the armyworms kind of put us out.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MOORE. So it is one of those things, I think we have lost 150,000 farms. And so I appreciate the work you are doing, the President is doing to try to help food security in this country and make sure that we are competing with other nations and certainly negotiating with other countries to buy our products. And so thank you so much for your work on that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Mr. MOORE. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I am going to save a little time and yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, Congressman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Sorensen, for 5 minutes.

Mr. SORENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I love the milk that is in front of you, just saying. Love that it is whole milk, it is good.

Also, let it be known that we had a lunch break. I love that.

Thank you to the Secretary for being with us on one of the greatest, if not the greatest, Committee that we have on Capitol Hill.

Secretary ROLLINS. Amen.

Mr. SORENSEN. Just over the weekend, I drove through Winnebago County, Illinois. We are at the very top of Illinois. I noticed, being a kid that grew up in a small town, that a lot of the fields aren't planted. It is June 11. Some farmers have given up on seeing any profit this year. Mr. Davis and Mr. Moore touched on input costs going up, just general costs going up, but it is also costing our farmers when the USDA extension services are reduced or canceled.

We are failing to open up foreign markets for export. The USDA is cutting programs like conservation, rural development, technical support. And the result, our smaller hometowns are not doing better today, and they are losing faith. Farmers are being hit really hard. And back home, those family farmers, they don't want a handout from the Administration.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. SORENSEN. They want agriculture to work.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. SORENSEN. I am also struck that the Administration—in your testimony, you have omitted any mention of changing climate. It is no surprise here. I have studied meteorology for the better part of the majority of my life. It is one of my life's loves to communicate how our environment is changing. And you can't tell farmers that climate change is a hoax because they know you are lying to them.

I have seen the weather records on family farms. It is harder to farm today than it ever was before because the game is changing for them. So when you fail to acknowledge what they are dealing with, and the Administration says it is a hoax, too many of our farmers, they can't quit their jobs like I did to come to Congress.

They quit their life. We are failing to meet their needs. And it is not politics, it is science. And you can't make farmers stronger or make America healthy by slashing the very systems that produce healthy food and homegrown clean energy.

I did want to touch on, and I am very concerned that producers may not get their harvest to local schools and food banks through the LFPA. This improves our domestic food supply chain resilience. It generates revenue for our farmers at a time when they can't make a profit. A program that ensures healthy food gets to those who need it most.

The Midwest Food Bank in the heart of Illinois provides fresh local food to 288 organizations. The Northern Illinois Food Bank provides more than 900,000 meals through their program. This Administration's decision to cancel LFPA is a blow to local farmers, to families in need, and the institutions that serve them.

In your testimony to Congress, you have mentioned repeatedly that this is COVID era. But while the pandemic is largely over, we still have this uncertainty in middle America. And now rural America is given more uncertainty as farmers see these beneficial programs go away.

Kids nowadays say they get "the feels" when something feels good. Farmers grow corn and soybeans back home. They raise cattle. They are proud of their livelihood, but what gives them "the feels" is when they provide food for our neighbors, helping lift people out of hunger and out of poverty through the LFPA.

So Madam Secretary, yes or no, will you commit to establishing a similar program that connects local farmers and local schools to food banks to provide healthier meals to students, improve food access for families, and reinvest in our economy?

Secretary ROLLINS. We are really—I know yes or no, but forgive me. We are really focused on getting healthy produce and local farming into the schools. But very quickly, in Illinois, your local food for schools, you all still have \$5.5 million out of \$7 million sitting in a bank that has not been distributed. And that was one of the reasons why the money couldn't move fast enough into the food banks. So I understand—

Mr. SORENSEN. Let's put it into a program that works. I am all for that.

I have deep concerns about Make America Healthy Again. As you move the President's agenda forward, will you make sure that there is a seat at the table for farmers, for ranchers? The Agriculture Committee wants to be able to express what they support, what they don't.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. SORENSEN. We need to meet the need for food production, nutrition access, and rural economies. Can we get farmers at the table?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. SORENSEN. Thank you. Also, I have very limited time left, but last question. How committed are you to making sure that our research, like the Peoria Ag Lab, our ag labs across the country are fulfilled and that the money is going to them?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, of course. As we have refocused and realigned, but we have ensured, other than a handful, that they are

continuing, they are strong, and that they are doing really good work. The ones that we pulled back, we had major deferred maintenance issues and a significant cost, so if you are hearing differently, though, please call me and let us focus on that.

Mr. SORENSEN. Okay. Great.

Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Mr. SORENSEN. I appreciate you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I now recognize Mr. Harris for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And Madam Secretary, what a joy it is to have you here today and we are certainly honored to have you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. HARRIS. And I thank you for your time and your patience and endurance through such a long hearing.

But Madam Secretary, the ongoing avian flu outbreak has led to the loss of over 174 million birds since 2022. It has been a plague on the industry for too long, and I frankly have heard positive feedback from the broilers and layers in my district in regards to your five-point plan. In fact, one of the things I have heard here from my colleagues, and this being my freshman term, is that you are probably the most qualified individual to serve as Secretary of Agriculture that we have had in the last generation.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. HARRIS. So USDA has outlined \$1 billion plan with \$500 million for farm biosecurity and \$400 million for producer relief. Can you elaborate more on how these funds are being targeted to strengthen farm-level preparedness?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I really appreciate that. Thank you for those really nice words.

Since we rolled out the plan, we have done almost 850 biosecurity assessments, so meaning we go onto the farms and help the farmers ensure that the barns are locked down. That is clearly the number one and best and most effective way to stop the HPAI is the biosecurity. So we have done about 830 of those. We have spent a lot of money on indemnity, about \$70 million to repopulate the barns to get the chickens back into laying form very, very quickly. We have been importing some eggs while we repopulate, which has allowed the prices to come down. And then, of course, the \$100 million focused on a long-term solution, which hopefully we can get to in the short-term.

I am not sure that there has been anything more heartbreaking to me in the 118 days since I was confirmed than visiting with some of these egg farmers who have lost their life. And I know there is this narrative that, "Oh, they just want the money and the depopulation." That is not it. These farmers who basically have generational egg-laying farms have lost everything.

And so I remain committed to them. I have visited with a lot of them around the country over the last 100+ days. And anything they are seeing that is not working, we would love to know, but we are proud of the work so far.

Mr. HARRIS. Great. Can you share more about how efforts to right-size the U.S. agriculture trade imbalance will actually aid the industry's recovery and stabilize the egg supply we have talked about?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I think that with specifics to trade, I was in the first Trump Administration. I was in the West Wing with the President every day for the second, third, and fourth year. I ran the domestic policy agenda. I obviously have always believed in his vision of realigning the world and that America has been taken advantage of.

What I didn't realize until this job is just how big the disparity is and how our country has been so taken advantage of year after year, decade after decade. And so the President's focus for us in the ag community, as, again, uncertain as this time is and as hard as it is, especially on some of our row croppers, at the end of the day, just around the corner, is a new day.

And when we left the first Trump Administration, there was a trade surplus for ag. After 4 years of Joe Biden, it is a \$50 billion trade deficit, money directly out of our farmers' pockets. We are going to fix that. When we do, that will significantly help all of our ag producers, but certainly the ones in your district and the broiler and chicken industry hopefully will be just as helped as everybody else.

Mr. HARRIS. Got you. And one final question. As you know, timely access to credit is essential for producers, especially during a downturn in the farm economy. I oftentimes hear from both lenders and producers about the length of time it takes to process loans. And given the President's strong commitment to reducing the size of government and reducing regulations, can you share any efforts that the Department is making to kind of speed up this process?

Secretary ROLLINS. I talk about how the 118 days have been filled with a lot of surprises both good and bad.

Mr. HARRIS. Right.

Secretary ROLLINS. And on the second part of that, the bad side is just how stunningly bad this agency has been at reacting, at helping, at supporting, and moving out some of these programs. Some of those loan programs are at the very top of the list. We have brought in a team of formerly private, very successful industry bankers, *et cetera*, that can help us recalibrate the whole program. And I think that is really, really important. We can't do our job, and we can't do right by these farmers under the current situation that we inherited.

Mr. HARRIS. Well, thank you again. And again from the 8th District of North Carolina, we hear great things and a lot of excitement about things moving forward.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I am now pleased to recognize Mr. Riley for 5 minutes.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Secretary, for being here. I see your kids made an escape during the break. Is that right?

Secretary ROLLINS. They are so happy.

Mr. RILEY. I am sure they are.

Secretary ROLLINS. They are like, I think it is time for us to go now, Mom.

Mr. RILEY. They looked very engaged.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. Yes.

Mr. RILEY. I will tell you—

Secretary ROLLINS. Eighteen, 17, and 15, yes.

Mr. RILEY. So mine are 5 and 2, about to be 5 and 2, and my 5 year old—everybody here knows this already. My 5 year old is my most senior chief advisor.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. RILEY. I am new here. And when I asked him what committees I should get on, I read him the list of all the committees in Congress, tried explaining to a 5 year old what Ways and Means does. And at the end of it, he said, you have to get on the one with the tractors and the farm animals, and so here we are.

Secretary ROLLINS. So here you are. Congratulations.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you. When I came here a few months ago, I promised that I would work with anyone from any party who wants to do right by upstate New York. And I am going to fight anybody who is hurting us.

I think this Committee, one of the things I do like about it, there are a lot of opportunities for bipartisanship.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. RILEY. Earlier today, I was working with my friend Zach Nunn on the PLANT Act (H.R. 4014, Preventing Lethal Agricultural and National Threats (PLANT) Act) to crack down on China. There was some conversation here about cracking down on China buying farmland. I think there is room for bipartisan agreement on that.

One of the things I would really like to work on with you is lowering grocery bills, and particularly egg prices, which I know has been a priority of yours. Back during the Obama Administration, they enacted some regulations that are still on the books, and they are keeping hundreds of millions of perfectly good American eggs off the market. And when you are suppressing supply, that is part of what is driving up the prices. So Dusty Johnson and I have a bipartisan bill. There are ten Republicans, six Democrats on it, and I think eight of us on this Committee, evenly divided, are doing that bill. We were very creative in naming it the Lowering Egg Prices Act of 2025 (H.R. 2222). And I was just hoping to get your commitment that you will work with us to get that bill done, get it to the President's desk, and do some bipartisan relief on grocery bills.

Secretary ROLLINS. I would love to do that. In fact, if we could maybe next week jump on the phone and you could walk me through it, that would be great.

Mr. RILEY. Sure.

Great, I will take you up on that.

Secretary ROLLINS. What is the bill number?

Mr. RILEY. That I don't know, but we can find—

Secretary ROLLINS. Okay.

No worries.

Mr. RILEY. Yes. Yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. We will find it.

Mr. RILEY. Yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you. I have a follow-up on some questions I have asked you in writing previously. I sent you a letter on May 20 in which I asked you if you could get me a list of the farmers in my district in New York 19, in upstate New York whose contracts had been suspended because I want to be able to reach out to each of them individually to make sure they are getting what they need. I followed up with you on Monday because I still had not received the list. And then about 20 minutes before today's hearing, I got a response from your office. It didn't answer my question. It actually raised even more questions for me.

And so, just what do I need to do to get—what I am asking for is just a list of the farmers in my district whose contracts have been suspended so that I can reach out to them and make sure they are getting everything they need.

Secretary ROLLINS. They are confirming. It is our understanding there is no list because everything is moving at this point.

Mr. RILEY. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS. So if you are hearing differently or you have someone saying we are not moving here, would you let us know?

Mr. RILEY. Well, this—

Secretary ROLLINS. But there should be no one that is frozen.

Mr. RILEY. No, no, but this is the problem is you are putting the burden on farmers who are working 20 hours a day.

Secretary ROLLINS. But we don't think there is—

Mr. RILEY. No, no, let me finish.

Secretary ROLLINS. But we don't think there is anyone—

Mr. RILEY. Let me finish.

Secretary ROLLINS.—that has been frozen.

Mr. RILEY. To come to me and say, I have a problem—

Secretary ROLLINS. There is no list.

Mr. RILEY.—whereas our job should be—so you haven't kept track—

Secretary ROLLINS. No—

Mr. RILEY. You have—

Secretary ROLLINS.—we have.

Mr. RILEY. You suspended—

Secretary ROLLINS. There is no one that is frozen in your district.

Mr. RILEY. That is what I am trying to get at and confirm.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. RILEY. You are telling me today, every contract that had been suspended with a farmer in my district has since been unfrozen.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is our understanding.

Mr. RILEY. Okay. That is what I am trying to get at.

And then the last thing I wanted to talk with you about, I would love for you to come visit Chobani with me. They are in New Berlin in Chenango County doing incredible work. It is an all-natural food company. I went and I took a tour a week or 2 ago. They are hiring thousands of upstate New Yorkers, buying millions of gallons of upstate New York milk from upstate New York farmers. They have this incredibly exciting expansion that is happening across upstate

New York. Whether you are a Democratic or Republican, regardless of political party, it is the thing that like everybody should be excited about, and I would love to have you come with me, see it for yourself.

Secretary ROLLINS. It is incredible.

Mr. RILEY. A tour—

Secretary ROLLINS. I haven't been there, but I have been in contact with the CEO a couple of different times now so I am very aware.

Mr. RILEY. Good.

Secretary ROLLINS. I actually committed to him to come visit. I didn't realize that was in your district, but that is great.

Mr. RILEY. Good.

Secretary ROLLINS. I will be there.

Mr. RILEY. Terrific. Well, he is above my pay grade, so since you gave him the commitment, I will just add mine onto it and would love to host you.

Secretary ROLLINS. We will just follow up. That sounds great.

Mr. RILEY. All right.

Secretary ROLLINS. That sounds great. Thank you.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize Mr. Taylor from Ohio for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for holding this hearing today, and thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here. It is great to see you again. I appreciate all the hard work—

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, you too.

Mr. TAYLOR.—you are doing on behalf of the agriculture community.

Across rural America, including in southern Ohio, solar panels are being put on some of the best farmland in the world. As you pointed out in a recent op-ed, the acquisition of land for new farmers has also become increasingly difficult amid high costs in real estate development. It is expected that 50 percent of all farmland will transfer hands in the next 20 years, and it is essential that that land goes to our next generation of family farmers.

I believe farmers should have every right to do what they want with their land, but the Federal Government should not be incentivizing the most productive land being taken out of production. That is why I introduced the Protecting American Farmland Act (H.R. 3313) to prohibit all Federal funds, grants, loans, tax credits, you name it, from going towards solar panels converting prime farmland, and I have been thrilled to see your proactiveness on this issue.

Could you talk a little bit about how solar panels on prime farmland are making it more difficult for the next generation of farmers to get started in the business, and for the peace of mind of new farmers, can you commit that USDA funding won't go towards putting solar panels on prime farmland in the future?

Secretary ROLLINS. One hundred percent, I can commit to that. I will also say that I have spoken to the President about this. I will also say that we are moving regulations through USDA relative to this as much as we can within the Executive Branch. Obviously,

you all have the lead on that, and I will support you in whatever way I can.

The final thing I will say is I spent my summers on our family's row crop farm in Minnesota, and we would fly from Texas to St. Paul every summer when I was growing up, working up there, take the hour drive from St. Paul up to Clear Lake, Minnesota, through the most beautiful farmland you have ever seen. And in the, well, 53 years that I have been making that drive, watching the solar panels take over all of that farmland in that 72 mile drive is heart-breaking.

And so not only is it important for national security, not only is it important for the preservation of our smaller family farms, not only is it important for our row croppers where that land is being taken off, but it is important for the fabric of America that we are not selling away this farmland for solar panels funded by some interesting things. So yes, I am 100 percent on board. Anything I can do to help on that, I am at your beck and call.

Mr. TAYLOR. Thank you very much. As I travel around southern Ohio, the most common thing I hear from farmers is the need to protect the farm safety net, specifically crop insurance and commodity programs. That is why in the One Big Beautiful Bill that the House recently passed, we included the much-needed investment in our farm safety net. These provisions are one of the many reasons we need to put this bill on the President's desk as quickly as possible. Secretary Rollins, could you talk a little bit about the importance of including farm safety net provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill to our farmers and rural communities?

Secretary ROLLINS. I got the call for this job from President Trump on Saturday, November 23rd. I was the last Cabinet, one of at least the larger spots left. He called me Saturday morning. We were driving in our motorhome from Fort Worth to Auburn, Alabama, for a football game, and hung up the phone, obviously extremely honored, the honor of a lifetime. And then the very next thought in my head was how are we going to get a farm bill passed? And the reason is understanding the margins that these farmers have been operating under and understanding that the few times that we tried to get—we—I should say I wasn't part of the last 4 years, but it was tried to move a farm bill that was unsuccessful for a lot of reasons. A lot of people were hurting because of that, but no one hurt more by that than our farmers and those who rely on these reference prices.

So I can't say enough and have been making this case to anyone that will listen that this Big Beautiful Bill is important for a lot of reasons, the President's tax cuts being permanent, creating more jobs, keeping the death tax out of our family farms, *et cetera, et cetera*. But I am not sure from my perspective and this job that there is anything more important than updating those reference prices, so I am very proud of that. And hopefully, it goes to the finish line.

Mr. TAYLOR. Amen. Your lips to God's ears. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I am now pleased to recognize the gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. Vasquez, for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Secretary, for being here today. And I am up here next to the Chairman.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, okay, I see you. Bad eyes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Secretary, I am glad that you have come before our Committee today. I represent one of the largest and most rural districts in the country, a district that elected both me and President Trump. Farmers, ranchers, food banks, and wildfire crews in my district rely on a properly staffed and functioning USDA, not just for support, but for survival.

But right now, many of them feel that the USDA is failing them. As an example, in Silver City, New Mexico, the Frontier Food Hub, which is the only food pantry for hundreds of miles, had its Community Food Project grant abruptly frozen halfway through its 4 year term. Frontier Food Hub isn't just feeding families. It is an organization that is supporting small-scale rural producers in the region. Now, they spent those funds in good faith, built partnerships, and hired local workers. But when USDA turned off their contract with no warning and no explanation and no opportunity to appeal or correct course, it put their entire operation and the food security of the region in jeopardy.

Secretary Rollins, as you can see, this is a critical program in a place like Silver City, New Mexico. Would you commit to upholding funding for rural communities in places like Silver City that provide these services?

Secretary ROLLINS. Are you talking about the local food, the LFPA, or the Local Food for Schools, the local food purchases? There are so many. I have a couple different thoughts, but depending on which one you are talking about.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Yes, it is the Community Food Project.

Secretary ROLLINS. The Community Food Project. Okay. Okay. I understand. So our commitment, and continues to be, that we ensure that we are using taxpayer dollars, that the producers around those areas, understanding some of the food insecurity, continues to be a priority.

What I would really appreciate—and I have actually been talking to Senator Heinrich from New Mexico about a couple of other key issues—is that you let us know specifics in what that looks like and how it has compromised, potentially, the goals of that community in New Mexico.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Thank you, Madam Secretary. I appreciate that, and we will follow up.

Now, I also represent the Gila and the Lincoln National Forest, and we are heading into peak wildfire season.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. New Mexico experienced two of its largest wildfires just 2 years ago. Yet dozens of our seasoned Forest Service firefighters and trail crews have been fired and sidelined. In fact, I met with a group of seven members of a trail crew who actually are the ones who maintain the trails and cut fire lines in the wilderness areas of the forest who are just 1 week away from being fired. These are the very people that we rely on to protect our com-

munities, to clear our trails, and to manage our forests. And without them, this wildfire season could be more dangerous, deadly, and disastrous than the one we recently saw.

We are now in fire season. Has the USDA done any analysis on how these cuts impact public safety in fire-prone rural communities?

Secretary ROLLINS. We have. We are 96 percent operational. We are way ahead—not way ahead, we are ahead of where the Biden Administration was a year ago in preparation for fire season. We have more firefighters on the ground and ready to go. I actually have been in conversations about this also with your Senator from New Mexico, specifically talking about the New Mexico challenges. So we are aware and leaned in, but again, please send any information to me that you see that is different from what I am understanding for New Mexico.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Thank you, Madam Secretary. I appreciate that. And where a lot of the work happens, again, is with the trail crews who have a function within the larger preventative control of these forest fires, and so we definitely need firefighters to respond to a fire incident, but we also need the folks who are out there cutting those trails that allow those firefighters in, so I would suggest that we continue to look at those positions as very valuable to the entire firefighting ecosystem.

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree. And we have invested a lot of money in the clearing, so let me get my arms around exactly what that looks like for New Mexico and we will follow up.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Thank you so much, Madam Secretary.

Now, every Member of this Committee has shared similar stories involving food pantries left in the dark, trail crews cast aside, producers that the USDA has promised to support. I introduced the Honor Farmer Contracts Act (H.R. 2396), which is a bill essentially that would allow USDA to fully pay those contracts that have already been executed, some dealing back all the way to last year because constituents are holding up their end of the deal, but they feel USDA isn't. So I would love for you to take a look at that bill and see if it is something that you would support.

Now, I listen to the people on the ground in my district, and so I created an agriculture advisory group. Now, in my district, we grow pecans, chili, cotton, beef, and so many other specialty crops as well. And those local leaders that make up my Ag Advisory Committee, which the Chairman here has been gracious enough to talk to, would love the opportunity to talk with you and even more so to see you in the district. And in order to understand these impacts in my local community, would you be willing to visit the 2nd district of New Mexico in the near future?

Secretary ROLLINS. I would. I would.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Thank you so much, Madam Secretary.

And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. De La Cruz, for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Secretary, for being here today.

I sit before you with immense gratitude and a profound sense of hope for our farmers, especially in deep south Texas. We are indebted to you for not only focusing and visiting our Rio Grande Valley and our deep south Texas, but talking about what was the number one issue for us, which was the water deliveries that came from Mexico that they were obligated to give us due to the 1944 Water Treaty (Treaty Series 994, *Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande*).

Your tireless effort in putting that at the front of the national stage and sitting in the Oval Office many times with President Trump and being the voice for south Texas farmers who had really lost hope, many of which lost their farms. In fact, as you know, we lost our sugarcane industry due to Mexico not delivering that water.

Secretary ROLLINS. We did.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. So thank you from the bottom of my heart and from all of south Texas.

Not only that, but you quickly pushed forward the \$280 million that went to our farms that were affected by the 1944 Water Treaty. Yesterday, I had one of my farming constituents here that I took to dinner, and she said, "Monica, we received our money from the \$280 million that were allocated to us, and it saved our farm family. Had we waited even a moment longer, I would not be able to sit with you today as a farming family."

Secretary ROLLINS. That is amazing.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. So I know that it made a profound impact. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your tireless effort has been noticed and recognized, and you made a difference in our family community and our farming community.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. That being said, I also want to say that the next step for us with the 1944 water treaty is that we work together with you, with Secretary Rubio, as well as the Trade Secretary to make sure that we get the 1944 water treaty as part of the discussion into the USMCA agreement. That will be our goal, that the treaty become part of the USMCA agreement so that it has teeth for further discussions should Mexico not comply again with the 1944 Water Treaty.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. So can I have your commitment to work with us in getting the 1944 water treaty into the USMCA agreement?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Thank you so much. I appreciate that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. So now that we have made big strides in getting water delivered to our farmers, the next thing is the screwworm. That is something that is of great importance to our farmers, our ranchers, our cattlemen are very, very worried about the screwworm. It is a devastating pest that poses a severe risk to our livestock and our wildlife and is threatening generational farms and farming families. It could have catastrophic consequences to our agricultural economy and to our natural ecosystem.

Recognizing the urgency of this threat, I was proud to introduce the New World Screwworm Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 3806) and believe that this legislation will help bolster our defenses and enhance surveillance and ensure that we have the necessary resources and infrastructure to prevent and respond to potential outbreaks.

With this in mind, I would like to encourage you to consider a sterile fly facility is established here in the United States, but consider Moore Air Base in Hidalgo County as its potential sites. Would that be something that you would consider?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, and we will be in touch on that very soon. But you are 100 percent right, Congresswoman, and it continues to be my great honor to partner with you. You are relentless and just such a great advocate, and I am just really honored, first on the water, now working together on the screwworm. I know you know this. I am in constant communication with my counterpart in Mexico, Secretary Berdegué and the Mexican Government. We have to move the screwworm back, and if we don't, we will have another 3 decades of trying to recover from it. So we will have an announcement very, very soon, and you will be hearing from our office on that.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Excellent. Well, thank you. I hope that Moore Air Base will be considered since it does have the infrastructure available to combat this.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Thank you. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

I will be recognizing Mr. Mannion next, and then that will finish up the kind of special order of those who were here when we recessed, and then we will resume the regular order on the list here.

So Mr. Mannion is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANNION. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Secretary, thank you for appearing today and for your service to America's farmers. Earlier this year, I wrote a letter expressing deep concern about USDA's plan to close dozens of FSA and NRCS offices nationwide. In May, I also joined a delegation letter about the proposed lease termination of the Syracuse, New York, field office that serves my district.

I appreciate receiving USDA's response to that letter this morning, but I remain worried that shutting these front door offices will leave rural producers without the help and assistance they rely on. So just where are you in terms of USDA reorganization and potential office moves?

Secretary ROLLINS. And sir, I am sorry, I missed it. Which specific offices?

Mr. MANNION. It was Syracuse, New York.

Secretary ROLLINS. The Syracuse, New York, FSA office or Rural Development? Do you know which one?

Mr. MANNION. It is a USDA office, yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. Okay. Well, we are going through the reorganization. So for example, in some buildings, we have four different leases. Our GSA is the one managing all of that. I am not aware of any office that is closing. We shouldn't in terms of our inter-

facing with the farmers. But again, if you could get more specifics, we can dig into that.

Mr. MANNION. Sure. Yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. And in fact, the team maybe can look at that right now.

Mr. MANNION. I appreciate that.

Mr. Riley is adjacent to my district. He mentioned our dairy community in my conversations with representatives from USDA and our farmers, how essential these offices are.

Secretary ROLLINS. They are.

Mr. MANNION. And they appreciate having that easy access and can problem solve and assist those that need it.

Secretary ROLLINS. I agree.

Mr. MANNION. I appreciate you looking into that and certainly understand that there is a lot going on at these points, and I will give more details on the specific division that you had requested. We will follow up with your team.

Just finally, as far as dairy, New York is the fifth largest dairy state in the country. I do not have that Chobani plant in my district, nor do I have the new proposed \$1.2 billion Chobani plant that will be in Representative Stefanik's district.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. That is right.

Mr. MANNION. But I share many concerns that have been expressed in this hearing. There will need just themselves upwards of 180,000 more cows many of whom do exist or will exist in my district and neighboring.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MANNION. So I thank you. I ask that you, I am sure, will continue to work with the Secretary of Labor and other members of this Administration and the legislature to work towards a year-round dairy farmer visa.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right. And understanding that labor H-2A needs so much work, and this Committee has done hero's work on it, but no one is more affected and needs reform more than our dairy industry. And so working very closely and in concert, I have to try to get that done is of utmost priority for me.

Mr. MANNION. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. MANNION. I yield back.

Mr. FINSTAD [presiding.] All right. There is a new sheriff in town, so I am going to recognize myself.

Secretary ROLLINS. I am so sorry. The lease cancellation you are talking about was rescinded so that should be solved.

Mr. MANNION. Yes. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. The Syracuse, New York. You are welcome. I am so sorry, sir.

Mr. FINSTAD. Already off the rails. Perfect.

Secretary ROLLINS. Already breaking the rules.

Mr. FINSTAD. Madam Secretary, it is great to have you here. I just have to start out by saying you are a breath of fresh air, your optimism, your excitement, and the fact that you were essentially born and raised just about an hour and a half north of where my row crop farm is brings a smile to my face.

I want to talk a little bit about really the family farm and the future of the family farm. I am a fourth-generation farmer. I am a farm kid and a product of the 1980s when we had some really tough times, and the message to farm country was, this is no life for you, get off the farm, we can't make it. Interest rates are too high. Commodity prices were too risky. You know the routine. And now we fast forward, and I am raising the fifth generation.

And I look at egg trade deficit. I look at the inputs that continue to cripple us. I look at a stagnant market. And so as I look to what we were able to do in the reconciliation package, the Big Beautiful Bill, there are some things that I would like to hear your thoughts on. And specifically to me, as I get closer to 50 and further away from 40, I start thinking about things like what does passing the farm on look like?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FINSTAD. And farmers of my size really are crippled with the fact that if we were to gift or to, God forbid, hit the pearly gates early and our kids are left with our farm, do they sell land just to pay the tax bill?

Secretary ROLLINS. Right.

Mr. FINSTAD. And so in the reconciliation package, I am really proud of the fact that we were able to take a look at the death tax, the estate tax, but more specifically the 199A, the 45Z, the 179 deductions, and the permanency that we were able to make in that. So I would like to hear your thoughts on maybe the business side of farming and what we were able to accomplish in the Big Beautiful Bill through the House here and maybe give a message of hope to the fifth generation of my farm and what it looks like to be a farmer in Minnesota in the future.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you for that. And the best part about my job in the last 118 days, we have been nonstop on the road, been to your amazing state, been to I think 17 or 18 states at this point, two countries, we will continue, but just meeting with the farmers and hearing from them specifically. Everywhere I go, I will do two or three roundtables so I can, it is not one or two. It is a 15, 20, 25 person roundtable and just hearing from people just like you who are third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh generation farmers. And the number one concern that always comes up is how do I preserve this way of life for my children and my children's children?

And that has really struck me as perhaps when I leave, hopefully in 3½ years, but perhaps when I leave, if there is one thing I could have done, it would have been to make the road smoother for the generations coming behind you and coming behind me to stay in this way of life. And so about a month ago, I told the team, I said, we have to come up with a—I am a policy person at heart. We have to come up with a slate of policy that allows this to continue indefinitely.

And as we hit year 250 for the American dream and the American birthday, a country that was founded on farming and farmers, that was fought by farmers in the original revolution, that the entire fabric of our nation is based on that discipline and hard work and love of country, I just can't underscore how important this is.

And so the work that you all did in the Big Beautiful Bill: whether it was protecting two million family farms from the death tax, whether it was making sure we have \$10 billion in tax cuts going to our family farmers, whether it was a \$3.8 billion increase in income to our family farmers, whether to your point, the 45Z and extending that to 2031, these are gamechangers. And I will do whatever I can all day, every day to ensure that it moves forward in a significant way.

Having said all of that, if we don't open up these world markets, if we don't bring down the cost of inputs, if we don't ensure that our family farms have a prosperous future where they are not reliant or mostly reliant on the government payout, then we won't get to the next 250 years and be the America that we are today. That is how seriously I take this. So thank you for your work, and thank you for the opportunity to partner on that.

Mr. FINSTAD. I appreciate that. And in the few seconds that I have left, I mean, I will just tell you that the farmers that I have the honor of representing southern Minnesota tell me all the time that they want to farm for a market. They don't want to farm for the mailbox.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. FINSTAD. They don't want the government to have to step in because they want a market that produces, and they want to run their business as a business. So I really appreciate your thoughts and appreciate the passion that you bring to this role and looking forward to your continued leadership.

Secretary ROLLINS. Oh, thank you, Congressman.

Mr. FINSTAD. You bet. All right. With that, we will go to Mr. Gray.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Craig. Secretary Rollins, thank you for appearing here today. It is nice to see you again. We met at your first day on the job.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, we did.

Mr. GRAY. I came over with the Chairman. You were nice enough to give me your cell phone number so we could keep in touch.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. Good to see you.

Mr. GRAY. Nice to see you again. Next time, we will make sure we invite.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. Don't take it personally.

Mr. GRAY. So my district lies in the heart of California's Central Valley, a region that feeds the nation and much of the world. We produce over \$59 billion in agricultural output each year, accounting for one in every four bites of food consumed by Americans daily. We grow almonds, dairy, citrus, tomatoes, cotton, you name it, and we do it with less water, less margin for error, and more climate risk than just about anywhere else in the country.

What keeps us competitive and what keeps us resilient is research and innovation. My district is home to both UC Merced and Merced College, both institutions that are leading the country in that respect. At Merced College, the Ag Tech Workforce Initiative is redefining how we train and up-skill the next generation of agricultural professionals. Complementing this effort, we have a 22,000 square foot Ag Innovation Center. UC Merced is home to one of the most cutting-edge smart farms in the country, all of this supported

through Federal and state investments, including the \$65 million F3 award benefiting both those institutions and those programs.

These institutions produce the science that allows agriculture in the valley to stay ahead of diseases, water scarcity, global competitors, and we are not talking about the ivory tower theory here. We are talking about cutting-edge, applicable, and exciting research happening every day in our universities and, more importantly, on our farms. This leads to better irrigation systems that stretch every drop of water, pest and drought resilient crop varieties, carbon-smart techniques that boost soil health and reduce emissions. These are the very tools that will shape the future of agriculture, not just in California, but throughout the country.

And yet, the USDA's 2025 budget proposal slashes millions in agricultural research and farmer support. While we are reducing our investment in American ag research, countries like China and Brazil are doubling down. They are building new research stations, funding climate-resilient agriculture, dominating global markets with lower costs and higher volume. If we want American agriculture to remain the global gold standard, we cannot afford to fall behind in innovation.

And let's be clear, food security is national security. When USDA cuts research funding, it is not just scientists who lose out, it is farmers trying to manage water shortages, it is dairy producers investing in affordable feed alternatives or methane digesters and other technologies to help them remain competitive.

So Madam Secretary, these cuts send the wrong message that rural America is expected to do more with less, that we will figure it out without the resources or tools our competitors are using to leap ahead. I know budgets are tight, but cutting research is both short-sighted and fiscally irresponsible.

So Secretary Rollins, my question is two-part. One, how do you and I collaborate and how do we collaborate here in Congress as a body to ensure that this Administration starts to prioritize these critical investments that will be the foundation of agriculture and farming over this next 100 years? And two, can I get a commitment from you that you will come to my district and let me show you firsthand the innovation and breadth of production that makes up the greatest and largest farming valley in the world?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, the last question first, I would be honored to come visit. If I could provide a little context though because I do think your points are salient and they are important, but in the budget, we only cut about seven percent, and that went from \$2.1 billion with ARS to \$1.9 billion, and I understand what you are saying, that is still seven percent or 7.6 percent I think, but that was very specific to some outdated facilities that weren't online and weren't producing the research that was necessary.

We remain wholly committed to the research that you mentioned, the university that you mentioned. I am a product of a land-grant, Texas A&M out of Texas, really believe in the work that is being done. And to your point about national security, it is more important today than ever before that we continue that.

Mr. GRAY. Well, Madam Secretary, I appreciate that response, and I look forward to hosting you in Merced and throughout the San Joaquin Valley. It is a beautiful place, and we do some incred-

ible things there. And, you have said this Administration supports agriculture, you have said you want to level the playing field for rural producers. I would certainly like to work with you—

The CHAIRMAN [presiding.] The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. I look forward to that, thank you.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I am now pleased to recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Jackson, for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam Secretary, for being here today. We appreciate your time. I just want to tell you, start off by saying the great State of Texas is really proud of you. You did a wonderful job. We really appreciate it.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. I will say that, during the Biden Administration, the USDA was weaponized to push identity politics, green energy scams, and lots of other things that were the detriment of rural America and our agricultural producers. Once again, on behalf of myself and the hardworking farmers and ranchers of Texas' 13th Congressional District, I want to thank you, Madam Secretary, for returning the USDA to its original mission of taking care of all of these that feed and clothe our country.

I have the pleasure, as you know, of representing the largest fed cattle district in the United States, and my feeders rely on imports of live cattle from Mexico to supplement their feedyards and remain competitive in what they do.

I understand that the restriction on live animals was not an easy choice and that the USDA made that to protect America's herd health. But every day that imports are suspended, my constituents, their businesses are severely impacted.

Madam Secretary, I just wanted to ask you, as you mentioned in your testimony, the USDA is currently reviewing the import suspension every 30 days. Could you please describe to us, what are the metrics the agency would like to reach before resuming reentry of live cattle, and what can this Committee do to enhance inspection activities at U.S. ports of entry along the southern border once the suspension is lifted? We want to do everything we can to get this over as quickly as possible.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I hear you, and realize this is a significant, significant decision with big, big, big consequences for not just Mexico, but for us, for Texans and for the industry. The 30 days is our benchmark, but we are assessing every single day. The metric that we are looking for is to watch the screwworm retreat south. It basically moved from about 1,100 miles from the border to 700 miles from the border within just a matter of weeks, which again, we hadn't seen that kind of movement in decades. I can't underscore enough what a dire situation this is. We have put tens of millions of dollars into additional sterile fly production south of the border. We will have a significant announcement in a couple days to continue expanding on that.

I am in almost daily touch with Secretary Berdegué of Mexico. The challenge is that the sophistication of their data collection, not

surprisingly, south of the border is not up to our standards. So they have, I will give them credit, more than ever before, at least in our team's partnership, have been more open and more willing to allow our team on the ground to ourselves assess the situation. But please know, please know, that every day we are on this and we understand the consequence of this decision and are working so hard to be able to open those ports back up.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Thank you. I appreciate that. And obviously, the sterile fly facility is going to help with dealing with this from the long-term so that we don't get, like you said, in a situation where it plagues us for the next 30 years.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. But yes, anything we can do on the short-term, that is going to be key for the folks that I represent right now.

I also wanted to applaud your leadership in quickly and effectively delivering desperately needed economic assistance for America's farmers and ranchers. While the last Administration delayed critical disaster assistance to promote identity politics, which, just was unthinkable, your agency is working to swiftly deliver support to producers that will help them remain in operation. As we continue to move towards the implementation of the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program, how are you ensuring that our farmers who suffered from indemnified losses and shallow losses are compensated in a timely fashion?

Secretary ROLLINS. I am really proud of this. I think relative to—and not to throw the last Administration completely under the bus, I think this is true of many of the Administrations before us, but we have moved more quickly than even most people thought possible. The ECAP, of course, went out ahead of time, and you send your paperwork in. Within 3 days, we turn the funding around. The next tranche is the \$20 billion. The \$10 billion was the first tranche. The \$21 billion, we have already begun to move that out. You probably are tracking the livestock piece was the first piece.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. In Texas alone, 41,000 producers, 2023 losses; 13,000 producers, 2024 losses. That money is moving. We have already begun distribution and should be finished in the next 30 to 60 days with all of it. There are some hangups with the Northeast block grant, but for Texas and the livestock, it is moving very quickly.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Well, thank you. I appreciate it. I think you are doing a great job. It is much faster than it used to be, and it hasn't been so much the ability to get the relief approved, but to get it delivered to those who need it, so thank you for what you are doing.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

I am now pleased to recognize the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. Figures, for 5 minutes.

Mr. FIGURES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary Rollins, pleasure to meet you. My feelings are hurt that I was not one of the cool kids that got to come over in the early days of you coming on board.

Secretary ROLLINS. We will fix that.

Mr. FIGURES. But I appreciate you being here, also appreciate your staff getting you ready for this. I have been in their shoes before in preparing an Executive Branch official, a Cabinet agency head for this sort of testimony.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. It is a lot of work.

Mr. FIGURES. It is.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FIGURES. It is indeed. I represent Alabama, the 2nd Congressional District of Alabama, which includes Mobile, Montgomery, Tuskegee, Troy, Phoenix City, and a bunch of other places I am sure you have never heard of. But within it is Tuskegee, formerly the Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University, one of the land-grant colleges.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FIGURES. We also have Alabama A&M University in the State of Alabama, another land-grant college. And given USDA's history, particularly in the State of Alabama, one of my colleagues earlier mentioned how about 50 percent of the Black farmer litigation settlement money is coming to Alabama. There is a sensitivity there—

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FIGURES.—just given historical race relations with USDA—obviously, that predated you, in how USDA treats minority communities, particularly in the State of Alabama. And so through that lens, the suspension of the land-grant scholars program was something that resonated a little bit differently for us in Alabama. And just in looking at a timeline—look, trust me, I want to grill you on the things that I think you are fully responsible for and praise you for things as well.

Secretary ROLLINS. I appreciate that.

Mr. FIGURES. But looking at the timeline, I kind of doubt it was you that made that full decision and pushed that full process, just given when you were confirmed, when the suspension was announced, when the suspension was reversed. And so I want to get to a little bit of the bottom of how we got there because that really impacted a lot of students across the country, especially at Tuskegee University. And that university has done a lot in terms of ag. We know the history of George Washington Carver and what they have meant.

So my question to you is, first, twofold. One, the 1862 schools also have the same land-grant scholar program. Is that correct?

Secretary ROLLINS. I believe that is correct, but I want to confirm that.

Mr. FIGURES. All right. Thank you. And it is also my understanding that when the 1890 land-grant scholar program was paused, that funding was paused, that it was not paused for the 1862 schools. Is that your understanding of it?

Secretary ROLLINS. I need to research that. I am so sorry. I don't have that off the top of my head.

Mr. FIGURES. Got it, no problem. Media reports and what was uploaded on the website indicates as much.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FIGURES. And so given that history that I just alluded to, it feels bad. We have had some people talk about identity politics, but it feels that, when you have the 1862 schools, which are the Texas A&Ms and the LSUs, historically White—

Secretary ROLLINS. Auburn.

Mr. FIGURES.—when they were established, segregated institutions, their funding is not touched. But then you have the 1890s, which were all historically Black colleges that are post-Civil War. Their funding was stopped. That feels problematic based on identity. And that was something that we, obviously, took issue with, and it was reversed within 5 days. But I feel like looking at that timeline, that that was something that was already in motion before you were confirmed. And so my question is, was that a product of DOGE, or was that the product of—like how did we get there, I guess, is the first question.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, and I wish I knew the answer to that because it was before my time. But I will say this, that I was in the first Trump Administration. We were the first Administration to guarantee full funding for the HBCUs.

Mr. FIGURES. And I am not questioning your commitment to them.

Secretary ROLLINS. No, but I want—

Mr. FIGURES. I just want to make sure—

Secretary ROLLINS. I think it—

Mr. FIGURES.—that we don't end up there with some future funding—

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes—

Mr. FIGURES.—that—

Secretary ROLLINS. No, sir, I appreciate that, and I take it to heart. And I understand the optics. I do. And I think it is important to note that this Administration is very committed to those universities and have been unequivocal in saying so.

Mr. FIGURES. I appreciate it. And I don't want to cut you off.

Secretary ROLLINS. The early days were imperfect.

Mr. FIGURES. I just want to capitalize on my last 45 seconds here.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, sorry.

Mr. FIGURES. But thank you for that, and definitely want to work towards making sure that that does not happen again because it feels very racially motivated when the—

Secretary ROLLINS. I can promise you it was not racially motivated. I think it was just an imperfect process that was happening.

Mr. FIGURES. Well, I can appreciate that. I can appreciate that.

Last thing that I have time for, and I will follow up with you on some other things because I would love to sit down with you is rural hospitals in my district are among the worst in the country.

Secretary ROLLINS. I would welcome that.

Mr. FIGURES. We have 26 rural hospitals in the State of Alabama that have been rated at risk of closure. We have 22 that are rated at immediate risk of closure. We have several in my district that are month to month. They have to go borrow money or get money

from the city council or county commission every single month just to be able to make payroll.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. FIGURES. We need help with that to keep these communities open. They support our farmers. They support the industries that are left in our rural communities. And I really want to sit down with you and figure out ways we can leverage the programs that you guys have to support rural hospitals to keep them open in my district and across the state in this country.

Secretary ROLLINS. I can't tell you how important I think that is. And we talk a lot about farming and agriculture that is the driver, but the rural piece of this and having thriving rural communities, you can't do that without the hospitals, the housing, the childcare, *et cetera*, so I am very focused on this for the long term.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired. I now recognize the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. Rose, for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Thank you, Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig, for holding this vital hearing today. And thank you, Secretary Rollins, for your testimony and joining us today.

I want to begin by applauding the Trump-Vance Administration on the nomination of now-Secretary Rollins to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture and guide the backbone industry of our country.

Secretary Rollins, I appreciate your diligent work thus far delivering on a new and empowering era for our farmers and look forward to working with you to secure a prosperous future for all of rural America. As a fellow former State FFA officer and a former commissioner of agriculture and a fierce conservative, I am confident the Department will continue to thrive under your leadership. And I would be remiss if I didn't say I was not excited about your newly confirmed deputy secretary, Stephen Vaden—

Secretary ROLLINS. From Tennessee, yes.

Mr. ROSE.—from our own State of Tennessee. He is a dear friend and I know will be a capable ally and—

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, he will.

Mr. ROSE.—assistant to you.

Secretary Rollins, thank you for your swift action in suspending the implementation of the previous Administration's overreaching and impractical rule, the Horse Protection Act amendments. As the Department engages with qualified individuals to restructure the rule, can you highlight details of the Administration's plan to ensure a new rule has not only longevity and remains practical for equestrian industries, specifically the Tennessee Walking Horse industry?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, I think the first conversation I ever had with Stephen Vaden, who I did not know before this process began about 6 months ago, was about this rule. So you have no greater advocate. I would like to say I am going to be the greatest advocate. I am a horse girl. I grew up showing horses, but I don't think I beat Stephen Vaden. So listen, our commitment is that we are here for 4 years. We are going to do everything we can to do right by our agriculture community, including our horse community. But if it all whiplashes back the day that we leave, then it perhaps is for naught. And so ensuring that we can do this in an intentional

way with longevity is of utmost importance, so we really look forward to your partnership in that.

Mr. ROSE. Well, thank you, Secretary Rollins. And I don't want to speak too much for the Chairman, but he has enjoyed riding a Tennessee Walking Horse himself—

Secretary ROLLINS. I love it.

Mr. ROSE.—and invite Ranking Member Craig to come down and experience that. And I think anyone who rides a Tennessee Walking Horse will understand what has made them so popular through the years, so thank you for that commitment.

I am proud of the investments in production agriculture Republicans secured in the House version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that passed recently on the House side. However, we are still on the clock, you might say, to pass a farm bill with robust provisions that strengthen rural America.

Madam Secretary, as we turn our focus to passing a new farm bill, can you highlight some of the titles and programs Congress should prioritize from your perspective to ensure that this legislation provides the necessary tools to bolster farmers and landowners?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, I think that a lot of that, obviously, is in the Big Beautiful Bill hopefully will stay in to the finish line. But if not, or if so, the continued effort on reference prices is so important for the viability and continuing work.

Obviously, the rural prosperity part of this, we will see what that looks like, but I will be rolling something out on that very soon in partnership.

The lot of what we are already talking about, of course, SNAP reform is a major, major issue. We have talked a lot about that today. Of course, that is 85 percent of the farm bill depending on how you slice the cheese. So there is a lot that we can prioritize, but ultimately, continuing to put our farmers first, moving toward a new era of prosperity, opening up markets, bringing down inflation and the cost of inputs, ensuring we have the crop protection tools that we need, all of the above is important. I am not sure there is, frankly, a more important effort once we get through this reconciliation bill and effort than the farm bill will be in just a little while.

Mr. ROSE. Well, thank you. And you mentioned opening markets. In my lifetime—and we are not that far apart in age—thankfully, for most of my lifetime, the U.S. has enjoyed a trade surplus with respect to agricultural products. But we saw during the prior Administration that change to a considerable trade deficit. And I think that is driven by a number of factors, but first among them is the lack of focus by the prior Administration on opening markets. So in the last 20 seconds, if you could speak to what you can do as Secretary and what the Administration will do to open markets for U.S. agricultural products abroad.

Secretary ROLLINS. We will be relentless, and we will not sleep until those markets are open. And I think you see an all-of-government approach. And I have mentioned this, but let me repeat quickly because I know we are out of time. Just in my first two trips, first to the UK, second to Italy, headed to Vietnam, Japan, and India in a couple of weeks, then down to Peru and Brazil and

others, the encouragement, the meetings I have had, not just with the government, the important piece of this is with the private-sector as well. In Italy, a week and a half ago, I was meeting with the soybean buyers, the Italian soybean buyers. And they are so excited. I am meeting with them again in a week. They are coming to America to talk about this, that the sky, I believe, is the limit for this new era for our farmers and ranchers.

Mr. ROSE. Thank you, Madam Secretary. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I am now pleased to recognize the gentlelady from Maryland, Mrs. McClain Delaney for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. So thank you, Secretary Rollins. I really appreciate your deep preparation today. You are diving into the figures and really having the ability and receptivity to following up with each of our offices.

It really makes a difference.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. I did watch your children. They were very patiently waiting. And I, too, have an 18 year old daughter, and she is headed to Texas for college in the fall.

Secretary ROLLINS. Oh, that is—well, where in Texas?

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. TCU.

Secretary ROLLINS. Oh, that is my hometown. At least you didn't say Texas. If you said the University of Texas, that would have been tough. But no, that is great.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Oh, my gosh.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is a great place.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. I have four daughters. So anyway—

Secretary ROLLINS. Oh, congratulations.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.—I grew up in a farming family in Buhl, Idaho. I would have been a fourth-generation farmer had I not moved to Maryland. But I really appreciate farm country and rural America.

But I represent the 6th District of Maryland, and it stretches from the tech hubs of Montgomery County to the orchards and farms of Frederick and Allegany and Garrett and Washington Counties. And I love the conversation about the dairy farmers because we have a lot of dairy farms in Washington County.

But Maryland has over 12,000 farms, and we support over 83,000 jobs, and it generates billions a year. But when I spoke with all of our five farm bureaus and our farmers and our ranchers, they are really very concerned about cuts to agricultural education and research, the tariffs, obviously, and unstable markets. And it is a tsunami of challenges.

I will follow up with some questions at the end because I won't get through to all of them, but I have two key concerns from my constituents. One is about rural broadband access, and one is about staffing challenges at the Farm Service agencies. And they just really want kind of a roadmap on what is ahead.

So I did listen to your confirmation hearing, and you were very articulate. But you did say, when farmers prosper, rural America prospers. And I so agree with that because you pledged to do every-

thing in your power to help farmers, ranchers, and our communities thrive. But I believe that access to affordable, high-speed broadband ensures that rural America thrives. And I had the privilege of serving at NTIA and helping roll out the broadband.

The President's budget slashes rural broadband funding at USDA and freezes the ReConnect Program entirely. And I also saw the NTIA budget would be cut by 19 percent. This is really concerning to me. If broadband is the backbone of economic opportunity, as I believe it is, how do you intend to ensure that our farmers and ranchers aren't left behind? And do you have a clear roadmap or strategy about coordination of USDA funds with other funding streams? Because it is really important that we get this done.

Secretary ROLLINS. I couldn't agree with you more. I will look into—I am going to make a note to myself—that specific program you mentioned, the ReConnect. The President has been, again, resolute in his commitment to ensuring that all of rural America is connected. In the last Administration that I served with him, this was a big part of our effort. So let me look into that specifically and get back to you. I think that is really important.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. The USDA freezes too, as well.

Secretary ROLLINS. The USDA freezes specifically. And then, of course, as innovation changes with satellite and others, there may be better ways for that connectivity, but would really look forward to working with you and potentially identifying what that looks like.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Yes, and I would love to follow up on that because I did a lot in the satellite and fiber arena. There are a lot of challenges along that area.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. And then the second is really something that was brought up by our five farm bureaus, and it is a pressing problem. There are ongoing staff shortages at Maryland's Farm Service Agency, and it is really risking delays in services for our farmers. Right now, the state office lacks a state executive director, and filling this leadership role is really urgent. Maryland already has a qualified candidate ready to step into the role and provide this assistance. And, obviously, with 15 percent of USDA having left, it is really important to have expertise within the states and fill these. I just wanted to know if we could follow up with you and if you had any insights into that.

Secretary ROLLINS. That would be great. I know we have moved out a lot of those state directors. Obviously, you would know—if you haven't heard we have done Maryland, then we probably haven't, but let me check on that and get back to you. I honestly am really looking forward in this next sort of month or 2 to lean into this FSA question.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Really important.

Secretary ROLLINS. I want to understand where all the states are, where the offices are, the 4 hour wait times I keep hearing about from people calling in. They are only open Tuesday and Thursday until noon.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Yes, I am hearing about it too, so yes, that would be great.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, that is unacceptable. And so whatever we need to do, we will solve for that. I have not had the time yet to do it, but that is next so—

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Great. Okay. And I will just say, in closing, I will be submitting a couple of questions for the record, including about our Maryland University research and ag innovation research, nutrition assistance, and then your Supplemental Disaster Relief Program because we had historic flooding in Allegany County. So thank you.

Secretary ROLLINS. Okay. I would welcome that. You got a good basketball coach from Texas A&M, by the way.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. He is very good. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady's time has expired.

I now recognize Mr. Nunn from Iowa.

Mr. NUNN. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Secretary Rollins, again, for joining us here. You came as one of the first states to the great State of Iowa, which is a large leader in corn, soybean, hogs, and eggs, and thank you for bringing down the price of eggs. It seems like a small thing, but when you are a dad of six kids, it matters, and to this country, it matters. Your leadership made that happen. Thank you very much.

While you are there, I want to say thanks, first and foremost, for learning about biofuels in a really meaningful way and what this Committee and this team on both sides of the aisle have done to make this a priority. You came to the Mann Family Farm and you saw what it means to be able to have a generational family farm.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. NUNN. You are a daughter of the farmland, as it were, and you helped make it a priority for other families to have the same success.

I also want to say thank you for your quick work. When we looked at actions here in D.C. having consequences, we were in danger of Iowa State losing some of those frontline folks who were providing treatments and vaccines and protection for turkey flocks that were culled by ½ million. And because of your work, we were able to save not only those jobs that were important, but they were critical for USDA security on the frontline of agricultural health.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. NUNN. Last, I want to talk about one of the things that was a top issue for so many of our farmers when you came to our farm forums. It is about finding new markets.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. NUNN. Challengingly, for the last 4 years, the Biden Administration left us with zero new trade deals. We went from trade equity in ag to a \$50 billion deficit. That is real money out of family farms, and that is real hardship going forward for every one of us who enjoys paying a reasonable price at the grocery store.

I am so proud that with our Chairman, we were able to move forward \$285 million for permanent, mandatory, year-over-year funding for trade promotion that this Committee on both sides secured in the reconciliation bill. Now, funding is critical, but so is follow-through.

You heard from farmers at our roundtable that they don't want a handout. They want to be able to sell their product. And I want to say thank you so much for the trade work that you have already taken because when you left Iowa, you took the leadership role to go see the world. And we have heard about trips to Europe, trips to Southeast Asia. You will be working with India and Brazil. These are all great and important opportunities for America to not only help feed and fuel the world, but to make sure we are strong right here at home, so a salute to you, Secretary Rollins.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Mr. NUNN. I do want to raise a concern that we have experienced. In Iowa, we have seen Chinese theft of intellectual property, literally Chinese nationals coming into Iowa and taking corn seed out of the ground to take back to China. Now, the FBI caught them, but that was in 2011.

Just this week, we have seen three different scenarios of Chinese nationals who have pledged loyalty to the Chinese Government bringing pathogens into the United States, including fungus, that could decimate our crops. Had these biological actions been taken, it would have devastated—

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. NUNN.—not only our ability to grow, but potentially loss of life here in the U.S.

That is why I am proud to be working with Mr. Riley here from New York on a bipartisan bill. It is called the PLANT Act, Prevent Lethal Agriculture and National Threats Act. The reality here is that we have a very high standard, and I am asking for USDA's help in this in making sure that our Federal agents close these dangerous loopholes that allow things like this to enter our country. As it stands now, Federal prosecutors must prove an intent to commit terrorism to bring charges, and the reality is these guys are a clear threat today.

Madam Secretary, would you agree that we need to strengthen our legal tools to hold these individuals accountable for the threats they are bringing to the United States?

Secretary ROLLINS. Absolutely, yes. And as we look to release, build, implement, execute a national security plan in the agriculture world, this is going to be a very important part of that.

Mr. NUNN. One of the things that we would like to do is also encourage you not only to identify the threat that is coming in, but what they potentially could do here. We have a real scenario in which the bioterrorism and the agroterrorism that is coming in here will have impact far greater, so I appreciate not only your support in that, but your leadership.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Mr. NUNN. Madam Secretary, we just want to also say thank you so much for taking time in Iowa. I am going to be showing cattle this year at the Iowa Charity Steers.

Secretary ROLLINS. I think we are going to be competitors, aren't we?

Mr. NUNN. I think you are going to be competitors with me.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. NUNN. I encourage you, you can take on my daughters, they are showing sheep, and the youngest one is showing a Persian cat, so if you want to bring it to the field you are welcome.

Secretary ROLLINS. Of course, the Persian cat.

Mr. NUNN. You are welcome to the Iowa State Fair any time.

Secretary ROLLINS. My steer showers have now left, but yes, they are all Hereford cattle showers too.

Mr. NUNN. Well, we are very grateful for the work you have done on both sides of the aisle here.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. NUNN. This is a bright future for Iowa's farm families and they have you to really thank for opening up those new markets.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I yield my time back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Carabajal, for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome, Secretary Rollins.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. CARBAJAL. First of all, let me just say thank you for seeing the light and reopening the eight out of the nine USDA offices in California that you closed and then realized it was creating a lot of chaos for many of our farmers and would have a really negative impact. You have reopened those, and I want to thank you for that.

I represent the Central Coast of California where agriculture is the number one industry, and a wide range of specialty crops are grown. When I meet with growers back in my district, one of the major issues they mention is the labor shortage. I am sure you are aware the Administration has intensified its deportation efforts, which have created significant fear and uncertainty within California's agriculture labor force. In fact, yesterday, a Farm Bureau in my district publicly voiced concerns over the impact of these enforcement actions.

And Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to submit for the record the Ventura County Farm Bureau statement if I may do so.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The press release referred to is located on p. 156.]

Mr. CARBAJAL. I am going to give you that.

Madam Secretary, given the uncertainty of this immigration climate as it relates to agriculture labor, what specific steps is the Department of Agriculture taking to support both farmers and the workforce?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, thank you, and let me be clear. I think it was a lease confusion with GSA. I don't think it was a USDA question, but neither here nor there. I am glad those offices are open for our farmers again.

The labor question is a significant one. It is one that is perhaps maybe not the very top of the list, but for some they would say the very top of the list. We feel it. I mentioned earlier that in Texas, the citrus producers on the Texas side of the border on average pay labor \$23 if they can even get the labor. On the other side at the Mexican border, it is \$2 an hour. This is unsustainable, and our

ag community cannot continue to do what they need to do under the current effort.

Clearly, the President has a vision that I support of ensuring that we have legal immigrants in this country, but he also recognizes—I spoke with him this morning and yesterday—the shortages in the labor market, especially in the agriculture community. On April the 10th, at our second or third Cabinet meeting, he spoke in front of the cameras on this and said to Lori Chavez-DeRemer, also herself from a farming background from Oregon, but also California farming roots, our Labor Secretary, in concert and partnership with this Committee and Congress, we have to fix the H-2A program and ensure that we can make certain that these producers have the labor that they need to feed not only America, but the world.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Thank you. Well, they are creating a lot of fear and uncertainty, and a lot of this limited workforce is quite frankly not showing up to harvest on our farms. Just yesterday, we had some immigration raids on some of the farms that are within my district, thus the statement that I just submitted.

Secretary, I know some of my colleagues here today have brought up the issue with H-2A, and during your testimony before the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee last month, you mentioned that you were working with the Department of Labor and the White House to reform the H-2A program. Can you provide an update on the progress of those efforts, and would the Administration support the bipartisan legislation such as the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2023 (H.R. 4319, 118th Congress), which is one bipartisan, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer was one of the coauthors of that, and I want to just draw that to your attention.

One, would you support that? And for your awareness, current Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, again, is a cosponsor, and I would appreciate your response to that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, clearly, the real reform has to come from Congress. I mean, I don't mean to pass the buck, that is not it at all, but I have had lots of conversations, can we do this, can we do that, can we do this, without Congressional authorization. To your point, I think that the leadership currently, our Administration realizes these significant challenges and are open and welcome to trying to help however we can to solve that, including the President, so I will continue that effort.

Now, within the Labor Department, with Lori Chavez-DeRemer, she is very focused on this issue. We have met about it multiples of times. I think you will be hearing more about that very, very soon. But you have our commitment. We are doing everything we can to work to solve for that as much as we can.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Thank you. Can you explain how proposed cuts to nutrition programs like TEFAP and SNAP benefit growers, especially when it is farmers who produce the fruits and vegetables for these programs?

Secretary ROLLINS. Well, so on the one hand, you are talking about the food bank programs, on the other, you are talking about SNAP, so I will talk about SNAP first. We spend, at just USDA, across 16 nutrition programs, about \$400 million a day on those nutrition programs. That is just alone. By any given number, up

to 30 percent of that is fraud, waste, and abuse. At this time of unemployment, we were at 17 million, we are now at 42 million people on the SNAP program, so there is a lot of room to do better, and that is what we are going to do.

Mr. CARBAJAL. I am out of time, but let me just say, fraud is one percent or less.

Secretary ROLLINS. There——

Mr. CARBAJAL. There is other—that is——

Secretary ROLLINS. Sir, that is not the case.

Mr. CARBAJAL. That is absolutely false, so I just want you to know——

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Secretary ROLLINS. We can't even get the data——

Mr. CARBAJAL. You are falsifying information.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is not—that is—please send what you have, and then let me compare it to what we have because that is——

Mr. CARBAJAL. Well, you could send me what you have, and we will both compare what we have.

Secretary ROLLINS. Okay.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS. I will be happy to do that.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentleman——

Secretary ROLLINS. But one percent is—yes, okay. We will do that. We will keep the conversation going.

The CHAIRMAN. I recognize the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Wied, for 5 minutes.

Mr. WIED. Well, Madam Secretary, thank you so much for your willingness to be here today and answer questions about the ongoings of the USDA. And, well, happy National Dairy Month as well.

Secretary ROLLINS. That is right.

Mr. WIED. As you most certainly know, as America's dairy land, it cannot be overstated how important agriculture and the entire dairy industry is to my constituents, which is Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District. We rank fourth in the country in dairy production, and the entirety of the industry, from milk to our world-famous cheeses, provides a \$14 billion economic impact. It is a priority of me to support this strong tradition that we have in Wisconsin.

So despite strong growing demand from international consumers, certain trading partners refuse to allow our products to compete in their markets by erecting unfounded barriers to trade. One of the worst offenders is our neighbor to the north. Canada has continued to ignore its obligations under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement to provide the dairy market access that they had agreed to in 2020.

Since then, the Canadian Government has administered their dairy import quotas in a manner that intentionally limits our ability to reach Canadian consumers, leaving many of the quotas largely unfilled at the end of the year. So Wisconsin dairy exporters have an easier time exporting to countries on the other side of the world than to our next-door neighbor.

To add insult to injury, Canada continues to offload its nonfat milk solids at artificially low prices on the global market, undercut-

ting our producers and circumventing its USMCA commitments on dairy protein exports, of course, in the process.

So Secretary Rollins, with the USMCA review coming up next year, will you commit to working with your interagency partners to ensure that Wisconsin dairy farmers receive the full benefits of the trade deal as the negotiators intended?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I really look forward to that. I think it is such a—the dynamic is so different in the best way this time with this Administration, not that we weren't getting a lot of good things done in the first Trump Administration, but this Cabinet is so aligned and so hand-in-glove together that my partners, Lutnick, Bessent, Greer, all of the above, the President as the negotiator-in-chief, I think that we are going to see some really big wins. And yes, so putting cheese and our dairy farmers at the top of the list is great.

Mr. WIED. Well, that is refreshing. Thank you.

So in Wisconsin, many multi-generational farms are at a crossroads. Aging farmers are ready to retire, but younger or beginning farmers often face steep barriers, as we know, limited access to capital, limited land availability, and economic uncertainty. Without meaningful support, farmland risks being lost to non-agriculture uses. What is USDA doing to support successful farm transitions, particularly in dairy, which is a big part of our district, where high capital costs, narrow margins, and labor challenges make it difficult for the next generation to take over?

Secretary ROLLINS. And I mentioned this earlier, so forgive me for those who are having to hear it again, but in the 17 states that I have visited so far, more states coming, Wisconsin being right there, the best part, but also the most challenging part, has been meeting with the farmers, and sitting in a barn or a warehouse, at a roundtable with 20 or 30, hearing from them their biggest challenges and what we can do to help that. And almost every one of them is a second or third or fourth or fifth generation, some new farmers, too, and that is a different discussion. And all of them say, "I am just so scared I am not going to be able to pass this on to my kids and my kids to their kids."

And so, about a month ago, we launched our Small Family Farm Initiative, a slate of policy items that we can work alongside states, ag commissioners, with you all in Congress, that the executive can do himself through EOs, *et cetera*, to ensure that we have just that.

I think what is in the Big Beautiful Bill is really important. I think the work that you all did is just—you should be so commended. The death tax now not applying to the two million smaller farms, the additional tax cuts to our farmers, the \$3.8 billion in additional income to our farmers, these are things that make a difference. But ultimately, expanding the market, bringing down the cost of inputs, protecting our crop protectants, *et cetera*, is just going to continue to be at the top of the list, and we have just got to do better, and that is what I am hoping to do.

Mr. WIED. So I know farmers and processors often have different opinions on milk pricing, but one area of agreement relates to having better data across the board. So in that context, I have cosponsored a bipartisan bill to require USDA to conduct dairy manufacturing cost surveys every 2 years to help make sure that all stake-

holders have the same data going forward. I am thrilled that we are able to include funding, of course, in this Big Beautiful Bill, in this reconciliation package to implement this process. So when and if this is enacted, will you work with us on this Committee to help get this up and running as quickly as possible?

Secretary ROLLINS. One hundred percent, I will look forward to that.

Mr. WIED. Okay, great. Well, thank you again for your leadership.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. WIED. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back.

I now recognize the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Messmer, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MESSMER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here this afternoon.

Madam Secretary, let me start by thanking you for your timely response to the avian influenza and screwworm issues. Each have been of particular concern to the producers in my district, and I am pleased to see mitigation efforts quickly implemented.

With that said, I want to pivot on our focus to the tremendous opportunity of biobased products industries. This sector is quickly becoming a new, strong market for the farmers in my district, but as the industry continues to grow, it is important we clarify terminology. The inconsistent and sometimes interchangeable use of terms like *biobased*, *plant-based*, and *bio-attributed* creates customer confusion that can undermine innovation in these markets. Would you and your staff at USDA commit to partnering with me as I work to establish clear, uniform definitions to provide clarity to farmers, bio-manufacturers, and consumers, along with the bio-preferred value chain?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, we would look forward to doing that.

Mr. MESSMER. Thank you. We will be in touch.

Madam Secretary, farmers in my district were hit hard during 2020 and 2021. When the USDA provided emergency relief assistance, they applied and were accepted, but due to incredible delays and programmatic errors, the agency failed to hold up its end of the deal, leaving farmers that were reliant on this lifeline high and dry without the aid they were rightfully due. I have spoken to your team, and if there is a solution to that problem, but unfortunately, those funds have been completely depleted.

Now, that was a previous Administration, and I am very pleased with the efforts you have put forth to ensure aid is going to our farmers, real farmers, in a timely manner and efficient manner. I know you have shared success stories today, but can you specifically explain how you are working to ensure that relief distributed under your leadership is free of the flaws that plagued the last Administration and that the USDA holds true to the promises it makes to our farmers?

Secretary ROLLINS. I appreciate that. And while we are not going to be perfect, I do believe, based on what I have seen, not just from the past Administration, but previous ones as well, that we moved more quickly and with great intentionality. Part of that was it was important to me to bring back some of the team from the first

Trump Administration who had lived this before under Secretary Perdue and knew what they were doing. And so as they built the ECAP program out and moving that money, again, within 3 days, within just a couple months of the appropriation from you all I think was record speed. We are now into the second tranche. I believe that is record speed as well. We have already moved \$1 billion out on that second piece, and we have more coming in the next days.

This next tranche is more complicated because it requires a state-by-state agreement that has to be negotiated, *versus* ECAP was just data, you plug into a formula, and you move the money, but I am really proud of the team. If you hear differently, please let us know, but we have the smartest people working on, again, both politicals and careers. I don't want to take all the credit. Our team sitting here is incredible, but we have some amazing careers back at USDA, too, that are working 7 days a week to move that out. I mentioned we had a 6:00 a.m. conference call this morning. I was on the phone at 10:00 last night on these issues just to ensure that we are moving as quickly as we can for these farmers.

Mr. MESSMER. Thank you. The farmers in my district will appreciate that.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. MESSMER. And pardon me, I know you have heard this many times today, but it is important to the farmers in my district, and so allow me to beat the drum one more time for fixes to the ag labor issue.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MESSMER. One of the issues I have been completely flooded with in my inbox since getting here is farm labor. Right now, Hoosiers pay just under \$20 an hour for H-2A labor, and on top of that is housing and transportation.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MESSMER. But the wage isn't just unworkable, it is inequitable. The only thing separating farmers in Mount Vernon, Indiana, from farmers in Uniontown, Kentucky, is a river that is less than a mile wide apart, and our Kentuckian neighbors pay \$3 an hour less in farm labor than those in Indiana. With farm input costs skyrocketing, margins aren't nearly wide enough to allow for this flawed wage calculation system.

Secretary, can we look at the USDA as a partner with myself and the colleagues in Congress to seek a wage freeze in that ag labor rate and enact expansive functional improvements to the H-2A program?

Secretary ROLLINS. I would really welcome that partnership and look forward to hopefully solving this for our ag community.

Mr. MESSMER. Well, love to be—

Secretary ROLLINS. It is a beast, yes.

Mr. MESSMER. Love to be part of those discussions if possible.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. MESSMER. Well, thank you, Madam Secretary.

Got to get our Indiana plugs in here. Indiana ranks number one in the nation in commercial duck production, number two in tomato and pumpkin production, number three in egg production and spearmint production, number four in soybean and turkey produc-

tion—and probably the bulk of that turkey production happens in my county—number five in corn production, and number six in watermelon production. Each of those activities combined contribute \$35 billion to the economy of Indiana. But to remain an incubator for ag innovations, these industries need reliable and affordable access to labor.

Thank you, Chairman. I yield back my time.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you. Thank you so much.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

I now recognize the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Van Orden, for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Secretary, thank you for being here.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. I mean, you are truly a breath of fresh air.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. It is just, your optimism is electric.

Secretary ROLLINS. Oh, thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. I want to take a second before I get into this to apologize for one of my colleagues who was sitting here berating you. So I am just going to ask you a few questions in the vein that took place here.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Are rocks heavy? Are trees made of wood? Is gravity real? Yes? Okay.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes. Thank you, yes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Did the radical out-of-control government spending by Joe Biden, who increased a massive amount of liquidity to a market with scarcity, cause inflation to spike and input costs to spike?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Those are all true statements. Okay. Thanks.

Hey, I want to thank you. I am done with that. That is just silly. Badger you like that in front of your kids?

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Your kids need to know you are a baller. Tell them to watch this. A *baller* is a word that old people use, and it means awesome.

Secretary ROLLINS. I will.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Thank you for getting the Dairy Business Initiative back online.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Incredibly important. I know that when we got this stuff going on and there is like a big hand, little map taking place and we are going to skip a couple of beats, I got that, but I think—I sent you a note, and you got that turned back around like 94 hours later.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. And it is right into my farmers and they are so excited about it.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. You are welcome, ma'am.

So I do want to talk to you about agriculture labor because I think we have an 80 percent solution. My office has been working

on this really since we started our Agricultural Labor Working Group. And what we are going to do is just acknowledge reality. The fact that the agriculture industry, the construction industry, and hospitality industry are really being floated by a lot of people that are here unlawfully. And we are going to just say it out loud, and we are going to address it in the most meaningful way.

It is not a pathway to citizenship. These people are going to have to pay a fine. They are going to have to leave the United States of America to return to send the message across the world, if you are going to get a job here in the United States, you are going to enter this country legally. The employer's going to have to pay a fine, and they are going to be able to come back here. And when they enter the United States again, that is their born-again date. They are not skipping anybody. It doesn't matter if they are here for 50 years. And we want to make sure that our farmers have a continuous flow for agriculture labor. More to follow on that. I am not even looking at H-2A because it is a broken, horrible program.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. So we are going to put that over here, and if I can work with you on that I would love that.

Secretary ROLLINS. That sounds great.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. The last thing that I want to talk to you about really is milk labeling. Like what is milk, right? And this is going to have a profound effect on my dairy farmers. Here is what milk is according to you, ma'am. Milk is—on my phone and I am over 50. Okay. There you go. Milk is the lacteal secretion practically free from colostrum obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows. Milk that is in its final package form for beverage use shall have been pasteurized or ultra-pasteurized and shall contain not less than 8.25 percent milk solid, not fat, and not less than 3.25 percent milk-fat. None of that comes from an almond or an oat. So yes, go ahead. Messmer, I will give you a dollar if you can milk an oat, right? So all I am asking is that the USDA follow their own definition.

And I spoke to Secretary Kennedy about this, and he is all on board.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Milk, whole milk is one of the most nutritious things that our young people and aging people such as myself could consume. But if you go to the store and you buy almond milk, it ain't milk, bunch of sugars and stuff in there and oats. So I really would like to talk to you about this to get this done. We introduced a bill in the last Congress that didn't get through the Senate. But, I am all for doing this through initial executive action following up with some type of legislation because it will have a profound effect on our dairy industry.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes, I hear you, and I couldn't agree more. And, one of the vehicles that is coming soon is the *Dietary Guidelines* which Secretary Kennedy and I are working on together.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Oh, yes.

Secretary ROLLINS. And that is not due until October, but you will see that way before October. And hopefully we can continue the momentum toward the vision that you have that I agree with.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Yes, ma'am. And so we can label milk skim milk, one percent milk, two percent milk, and then we call it whole milk. The whole milk, the fat content in whole milk is 3.25 percent, and people think they are drinking butter. And I asked the person in the previous Administration who was responsible for drawing up these *Dietary Guidelines*, I asked her what the milk-fat content of whole milk was, and she said, I don't know, six percent. That ain't it. So I am super excited once again to be working with you hand in glove. I am very proud of your work.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Your kids need to know you are awesome.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you so much.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Before we adjourn today, I invite the Ranking Member to share any closing comments that she might have.

Ms. CRAIG. Well, thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Secretary Rollins, for being here, for testifying in front of us and giving us so much of your time.

There was a lot of talk today about how the Trump Administration is putting America's farmers first. But as I go around my state and I ask many of the farmers, ranchers, and producers, I think at this point, they would say that they are a little bit less certain than that. The farmers I know and speak to talk to me about uncertainty. They say they are not sure whether they can make it another season. They are worried about handing the farm over to their children, something America's family farmers strive for and take pride in, but are struggling to do under these economic conditions and uncertainty. They tell me they want us to help develop markets, not more government handouts or government income.

Since January, farm country has been dealt one blow after another: trade wars that increase cost and eliminate markets; USDA layoffs that impact farm program enrollment; the elimination of oversubscribed USDA programs that farmers rely on to help their bottom lines; contracts they have signed, ignored; catering to an HHS Secretary who cites, believes, and promotes fake science.

And Secretary Rollins, what my farmers would love to see is you to stand up for them and against his fake science. You will have to excuse me and my colleagues if we don't quite believe the putting-farmers-first rhetoric. There is no doubt in my mind that you are working hard. What I just said about the problems in farm country I heard you say over and over again today. But we shouldn't be pushing trade partners away from America's soybean farmers and toward soy-grown products in Brazil and Argentina. We should be working to increase market access rather than watching our competitors eat into ours.

You have mentioned China agreed to a trade deal a few times today. But if you look under the hood, it is not more market access. It appears we have just re-agreed to move forward with the previous tentative framework that was agreed to last month in Geneva. So as we still sit here today, we still have the concepts of a plan.

In addition, we shouldn't be signing onto and lending what is left of USDA's credibility to MAHA Commission reports that aim to take away the tools our American farmers use to grow our food. We shouldn't be going along with the mismanagement of USDA programs and personnel that Elon Musk and his DOGE kids raided during the agency's early days. We have heard near silence from the Cabinet during that period of time.

The current course on reconciliation is threatening the farm bill coalition. And we should have been here trying to pass a 5 year, 12 title farm bill rather than cutting SNAP by \$300 billion, putting the stability and income it provides to family farmers in jeopardy.

When I became the Ranking Member of this Committee, I promised to go anywhere and talk to anyone to improve life for our family farmers. I have always called it like I see it. You can ask the Biden Administration about that. I thought they ought to be out there looking for more trade deals. And today, as I look under the hood, this Administration so far is creating the chaos that is failing them.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady yields back.

Madam Secretary, I just want to thank you. Thank you for your leadership, your vision, your partnership. You are the one that described our relationship as a partnership, and it truly is. One hundred and eighteen days on the job, and to step in when we have had 4 years that our farm country was abandoned under the previous Administration, where 2 years of those 4 years it took until the Biden Administration named two of the top key trade individuals for agriculture trade, Assistant Secretary for Foreign Agriculture and Trade at USDA left open for 2 years, half the term. At USTR, 2 years where they didn't name somebody as a Chief Agriculture Negotiator. So American farmers were left in a hole. They were paid no attention to.

The previous Secretary, who I worked very hard to develop a good relationship with, had no use for the Legislative Branch, and took and used money, created programs that they clearly said were temporary, and now my colleagues are complaining that a temporary program created by the previous Administration obviously ceases. Temporary is temporary.

Now, I see value in some of that. If Secretary Vilsack would have come to us and really wanted to work with the Legislative Branch, we could have worked on that. I think we are looking at those things as we move forward. We can find the monies to be able to fund it. We don't have jurisdiction over the farmers to schools. That is a different Committee. But the farmers to the food banks makes a lot of sense to me. I wish he would have come to me. We could have legislated it, and then it would still be in place. But that is on the previous Administration. That is not on you, and that is not on President Trump.

Again, that number I come back to is 118 days. I am so impressed. In 118 days, this Committee, it was very partisan, unfortunately, and I get it, reconciliation, no matter what party is in the Majority, it is always partisan.

Secretary ROLLINS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. But, some of my colleagues missed the opportunity to vote for all the things that we put together under the Farm, Food, and National Security Act in terms of the safety net. In 118 days, we have actually incorporated into legislation the investments in Title I, which is the reference prices. Doing that, and our Senate counterparts, Senate Republicans are working on this, but a 10 to 20 percent increase based on what they need, now not exactly maybe what they wanted because there is a difference there. We did our due diligence and looked at what they needed. Adding base acres for the first time in generations, modernizing the Dairy Margin Coverage Program, making investments in crop insurance but also include specialty crops, all of that.

And some people call it the One Big Beautiful Bill, and that is the official name of it. It is a little odd, but that is okay. I call it Farm Bill 1.0. It really is Farm Bill 1.0. With making crop insurance more affordable for everyone because it is the most popular program that we found traveling the country of 42 states, one Territory, about 115 listening sessions, that is what we heard.

Making investments, as you heard today, in trade, in research, in animal health, in Secure Rural Schools, which expires for those school districts that are located within National Forests. And so much more that is there.

So I am really proud of what we did with Farm Bill 1.0. I like what I am hearing, actually, over on the Senate side. I also like the fact that we, wherever it winds up in terms of state share, the problem has not been what Congress has passed in terms of our nutrition programs. Those are really good. The problems have been in the states' execution and administration of them.

It is the old adage, "If you are spending somebody else's money, you don't care, you are reckless." Well, we are not asking much over there, and that number might even go down, we will see. But I expect that results will go up. The error rates are unacceptable. They hurt the people that those programs are designed for.

So there is so much more I can't—I am really excited about where we are at in 118 days. We have done that part with the Agriculture Committee. We have a Farm Bill 2.0 we need to finish up. We know that. That price tag will be much less. But there are important—and the pieces of legislation that are pending that didn't fit in reconciliation, most of those fit in the category of—I mean, I think that the Farm, Food, and National Security Act overall had 40 measures that were just introduced by a Democratic, 140 measures were introduced by a Republican and a Democratic, and then a fair amount that were introduced by just a Republican. So it is a basis for a great bipartisan, very affordable Farm Bill 2.0.

And then I am just so impressed with your written testimony. The support for American poultry and egg producers, addressing the avian flu, bold action to respond to foreign disease outbreaks like the New World screwworm, launching that new web portal for potential victims of ongoing lawfare, fighting for fair trade for our farmers and ranchers, unleashing American dominance, which includes biofuels, which is so important as a market, but even more than that because farming is energy-intensive, the cost of that diesel fuel, the cost of that propane.

Streamlining unnecessary regulations, cutting you used to have red tape. We are cutting red and green tape, actually. So working with Secretary Burgum on wildfire preparedness, deploying resources for wildfire responses, just a long list of the outcomes in just 118 days.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. So I am looking forward to continuing that partnership. Quite frankly, I think we are well on our way to making agriculture great again in this country.

Secretary ROLLINS. Let's go.

The CHAIRMAN. So thank you so much.

Secretary ROLLINS. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the Rules of the Committee, the record of today's hearing will remain open for 10 calendar days to receive additional material and supplementary written responses from the witness to any questions posed by a Member.

This hearing of the Committee on Agriculture is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:01 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

[Material submitted for inclusion in the record follows:]

SUBMITTED LETTERS BY HON. JIM COSTA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM CALIFORNIA

LETTER 1

ON BEHALF OF AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA, ET AL.

March 17th, 2025

Hon. BROOKE ROLLINS,
Secretary,
 U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 Washington D.C.

Re: Unified CA Bird Flu Strategy

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We want to begin by expressing our appreciation for the priority the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has placed on reducing the impacts of H5N1 Bird Flu on our food supply. This virus poses a threat to American farming that requires a united front to overcome. The work currently addressing prevention, response, recovery, and research is showing tangible results and actionable findings.

There is one issue, however, that we would like to bring to your attention for further discussion. Many states, including California, are just emerging from the most devastating outbreak of bird flu in poultry and livestock in our country's history. There is a national desire to enhance readiness so that the 2024–2025 outbreak is not repeated. If this virus circulates long enough in dairies without additional mitigation, leading to impacts on beef breeds as well as dairy breeds, the stakes will get even higher.

The points outlined in the current USDA plan will go a long way toward prevention, but we encourage USDA to continue work that supports **dairy herd immunity through dairy vaccination, only to be used when the benefits outweigh the costs**. We know that even the best poultry or dairy biosecurity may not work if the amount of bird flu virus in the surrounding area is too high. Both migrating waterfowl and infected dairies contribute to the threat to poultry. In major dairy production states like California, this past year most poultry introductions came from dairies, not wild birds. These high viral loads occur when bird flu exponentially multiplies in herds without immunity for weeks to months, as is currently the case with most dairy infections. We also know that cattle must move between herds and states daily, resulting in constant introduction of animals without immunity that may perpetuate infection. Finally, when it comes to continuing dairy exposure to virus, the role of wild birds is still not fully understood. Bird flu devastates dairy families struggling with infected herds, but it is a death sentence to neighboring poultry flocks who will die from this virus and are therefore euthanized before further spread can occur.

For these reasons, while we support a cautious approach to vaccine use, we strongly encourage continued Federal efforts to develop avian influenza H5N1 vaccines for dairy cows, including research and development support, safety and efficacy evaluations, use strategies, export market management and consumer outreach. We recognize that use of vaccination in dairy cows will require careful consideration and may not come to pass if shown to be unnecessary, but we strongly urge USDA to support vaccine development now because immunity through viral exposure as experienced in 2024 carries unsustainable negative consequences, and these initial preparation steps take time. We cannot afford to delay preparedness.

The undersigned livestock community in California support the continued prioritization of this next preparedness step related to establishing herd immunity and reducing virus on dairy farms, recognizing that actual use of vaccine will depend on the result of these activities and real-time evaluation of costs and benefits.



[Agricultural Council of
California]



[Milk Producers Council]



[California Grain and
Feed Association]



[California Dairy Campaign]



[California Farm Bureau]

Western States Dairy Producers Association

[Western States Dairy Producers Association]



[California Veterinary Medical Association]



[California Cattlemen's Association]



[Pacific Egg and Poultry Association]



[Association of California Egg Farmers]



[Western United Dairies]



[Dairy Institute of California]

LETTER 2

June 11, 2025

Hon. BROOKE ROLLINS,
Secretary,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington D.C.

Dear Secretary Rollins:

As Members representing the Central Valley of California, we write to express our appreciation for the ongoing collaboration between United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) towards combating H5N1, or bird flu. The spread of this virus continues to pose a threat to our nation's protein supply chain and agriculture industry across the nation. Combating this virus will continue to require a united front. The nonstop work by our dedicated researchers and veterinarians throughout the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) continues to demonstrate tangible results, presenting opportunities to take further action.

The State of California is ground zero for conducting research to understand the impacts of this disease. It is only in 2025 that our constituents are starting to emerge from the most devastating outbreak of bird flu in poultry and livestock in our nation's history. Our producers, both dairy and poultry, are in unison and prepared to enhance readiness to avoid another 2024–2025-style outbreak. As our producers continue to monitor the situation, research has shown the longer the virus circulates in dairies without additional mitigation, there could be devastating impacts on dairy cattle, and the stakes will continue to rise on impacts to beef cattle.

We appreciate the continued progress on USDA's Five-Pronged Strategy, and we encourage USDA to also prioritize the important work that must be completed before adding dairy vaccination for H5N1 as a food defense option in the United States. Dairy vaccination may be the most effective way to protect cattle and consequently protect poultry in many regions of the country, including California. Creating and sustaining dairy herd immunity will lessen the amount virus generated by infected cows without the negative impacts of disease. We know that H5N1 disease impacts are severe for dairy cows without any immunity, but when the virus spreads from cows to poultry, the impacts are catastrophic. Poultry biosecurity is a critical tool within the Five-Pronged Strategy, however without sustained dairy herd immunity, infected cows may continue to exponentially generate high viral loads in environments often surrounding poultry flocks, rendering the best biosecurity ineffective. The unknowns around wild birds and other mechanisms of viral spread remain as research continues, but many suspected disease vectors know no boundaries, making the potential for reintroduction or spread to unaffected flocks and herds a significant risk. Finally, dairy cattle and calves must move between farms and often across state lines daily to optimize care and sustain food production, and the risk of spreading virus with these movements will be reduced if sufficient numbers of dairy cows have some level of immunity to H5N1 via a vaccine option.

As Members of Congress representing the Central Valley of California, we support the unified message from our dairy, poultry, and livestock constituents in urging USDA to take a cautious approach towards an avian influenza H5N1 vaccine for dairy cattle, but with continued research and development support toward creation of a vaccine. We additionally support continued dedication of resources towards cooperative agreements between the state and Federal Government for human and animal health.

It is critical as well that our trading partners are kept apprised should any action be taken as California's dairy industry provides 20% of our nation's milk supply and exports \$3.2 billion in dairy products. Thank you for your consideration of this letter and we stand ready to work with you on this important health and food security matter.

Sincerely,



Hon. JIM COSTA,
Member of Congress



Hon. DAVID G. VALADAO,
Member of Congress



Hon. JOSH HARDER,
Member of Congress



Hon. VINCE FONG,
Member of Congress



Hon. ADAM GRAY,
Member of Congress

SUBMITTED LETTER BY HON. ALMA S. ADAMS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
NORTH CAROLINA

June 7, 2025

Hon. THOM TILLIS,
Senator,
Washington, D.C.

Re: SNAP Funding Reductions/Administrative Burden on Counties

Dear Senator Tillis,

I am writing on behalf of North Carolina's 100 counties to urge you to preserve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at its current level, to oppose funding cuts to SNAP, and to oppose changes to SNAP work requirements that would result in a financial shift of administrative functions to counties. To be clear, counties support ensuring that taxpayer-funded programs are operated with integrity and fiscal responsibility. What they oppose are unfunded mandates.

As you know, North Carolina is unique in that we are one of ten states where counties administer SNAP and Medicaid eligibility functions. Changes to application or redetermination processing for these programs will have a direct impact on county functions and further strain county budgets. Throughout your tenure of public service, you have cautioned against “shift and shaft” tactics from the Federal and state levels of government—sending unfunded mandates to local governments. The proposed changes included in H.R. 1—the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”—would have that effect, specifically related to the SNAP provision. These sections will double the work in our county social service offices but send no funding to pay for it.

Beyond the county impacts mentioned above, SNAP is an important program in our state, allowing low-income families with children, older adults, and people with disabilities to be able to afford nutritious food. The program is lean, with average benefits of about \$5.70 per person per day, and already includes work requirements plus stringent audit processes to combat waste, fraud, and abuse. SNAP improves health outcomes and decreases health care costs; recipients are admitted to hospitals and emergency rooms less frequently and save Medicaid over \$2,000 annually.

By reducing Federal funding and shifting administrative costs to state and local governments, Congress would force North Carolina and its counties to replace tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue, either by generating new funds through increased taxes or redirecting them from other essential programs. Should the state be unwilling or unable to replace the SNAP benefit reductions, individual counties will be forced to choose between diverting funds from their own programs, raising local taxes, or watching their residents go without this important safety net. Local governments are most disadvantaged to replace SNAP funding; the best way to ensure our residents receive this benefit is to preserve Federal funding.

Our state’s recovery efforts post-Helene are a vivid reminder of the external pressures that counties must face while still providing essential services. Twenty-five counties are still working to restore infrastructure and economic opportunities for their residents—cutting SNAP and implementing more stringent work requirements will drastically increase the workload on county staff, leading to higher turnover, missed deadlines, and more frequent errors, all of which will cause further delays in service. Adding further pressure on county staff reduces their ability to react in a timely manner during natural disasters or other unforeseen events.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and input. As always, we appreciate all you do for North Carolina, our counties, and the people who call North Carolina home.

Sincerely,



KEVIN LEONARD,
Executive Director,
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC)
CC:

NCACC Board of Directors
North Carolina County Commissioners
MATT CHASE, NACo *Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director*
SHARNESE RANSOME, NCACDSS *Executive Director*

SUBMITTED ARTICLES BY HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM VIRGINIA

ARTICLE 1



[<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/snap-cuts-are-likely-to-harm-more-than-27000-retailers-nationwide/>]

May 8, 2025

SNAP Cuts Are Likely To Harm More Than 27,000 Retailers Nationwide

By KYLE ROSS,¹ KENNEDY ANDARA²

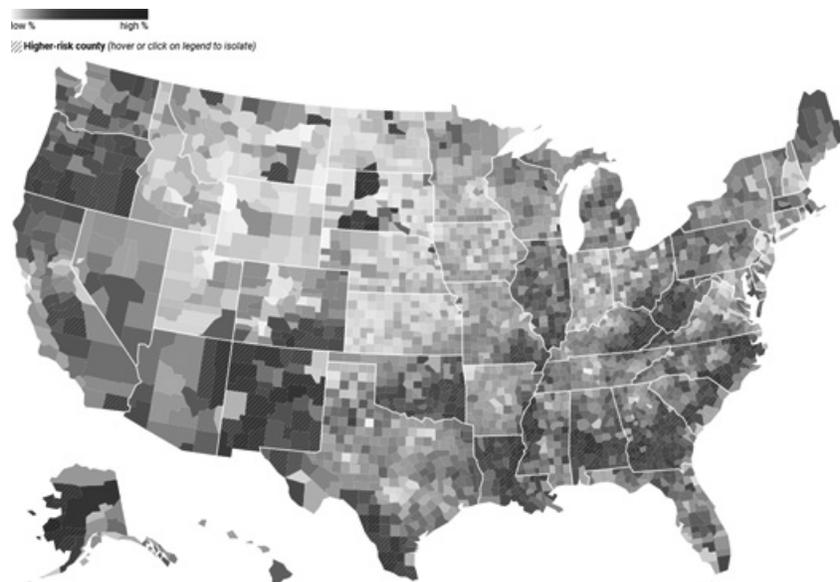
¹<https://www.americanprogress.org/people/ross-kyle/>.

²<https://www.americanprogress.org/people/kennedy-andara/>.

A new analysis shows that 27,000 retailers in areas with the highest shares of SNAP participants would be the most likely to bear the brunt of proposed drastic cuts to food assistance.

More than 27,000 retailers in largely rural counties have the highest risk of being harmed by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts

Percentage of people who received SNAP benefits, by county, 2022



Editor's note: this is an interactive graphic. It displays information concerning each county.

Notes: The authors measured the SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP participants ratio as an indicator of food access for people who receive assistance through SNAP. Retailers within counties that were below the median ratio and in the top ten percent of counties with the highest SNAP participation were marked as being most at risk of being harmed by cuts in food assistance. Because the SNAP retailers data does not account for Connecticut's transition from counties to planning regions, retailer addresses were crosswalked using ZIP codes. However, the crosswalk is not exact since some ZIP codes cross planning region boundaries.

Source: For a list of definitions for the included store types, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Store Type Definitions"³ (last accessed April 2025). U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Retailer Location Data"⁴ (last accessed April 2025); U.S. Census Bureau, "SAIPE Model Input Data: County SNAP Benefits Data,"⁵ December 16, 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Resident Population Estimates, Estimated Components of Resident Population Change, and Rates of the Components of Resident Population Change for States and Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024,"⁶ March 12, 2025; U.S. Department of Agriculture, "2023 Rural-Urban Con-

³ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/store-definitions>.

⁴ <https://usda-snap-retailers-usda-fns.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/USDA-FNS::snap-retailer-location-data/about>.

⁵ <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/saipe/model-tables.html>.

⁶ <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-total.html#v2024>.

*tinuum Codes*⁷ (last accessed April 2025); CT Data Collaborative, “*Connecticut ZIP to Planning Region Crosswalk*,”⁸ September 13, 2023.
Map: Center for American Progress.

Table 1
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Alabama	Autauga Co.	8,029	59,736	13.4%	Urban	48	6.0	
Alabama	Baldwin Co.	20,790	246,577	8.4%	Urban	226	10.9	
Alabama	Barbour Co.	6,082	24,722	24.6%	Rural	42	6.9	Higher-risk
Alabama	Bibb Co.	3,434	21,983	15.6%	Urban	23	6.7	
Alabama	Blount Co.	6,483	59,491	10.9%	Urban	49	7.6	
Alabama	Bullock Co.	2,738	10,126	27%	Rural	15	5.5	Higher-risk
Alabama	Butler Co.	5,062	18,652	27.1%	Rural	34	6.7	Higher-risk
Alabama	Calhoun Co.	20,707	115,744	17.9%	Urban	141	6.8	
Alabama	Chambers Co.	6,956	34,093	20.4%	Rural	45	6.5	
Alabama	Cherokee Co.	3,628	25,334	14.3%	Rural	29	8.0	
Alabama	Chilton Co.	7,672	45,856	16.7%	Urban	61	8.0	
Alabama	Choctaw Co.	3,199	12,420	25.8%	Rural	17	5.3	Higher-risk
Alabama	Clarke Co.	5,832	22,545	25.9%	Rural	35	6.0	Higher-risk
Alabama	Clay Co.	1,832	14,198	12.9%	Rural	10	5.5	
Alabama	Cleburne Co.	2,779	15,353	18.1%	Rural	28	10.1	
Alabama	Coffee Co.	7,968	54,769	14.5%	Rural	59	7.4	
Alabama	Colbert Co.	7,707	58,023	13.3%	Urban	74	9.6	
Alabama	Conecuh Co.	2,943	11,220	26.2%	Rural	19	6.5	Higher-risk
Alabama	Coosa Co.	1,970	10,283	19.2%	Rural	9	4.6	
Alabama	Covington Co.	7,604	37,508	20.3%	Rural	65	8.5	
Alabama	Crenshaw Co.	3,141	13,096	24%	Rural	22	7.0	Higher-risk
Alabama	Cullman Co.	9,208	90,597	10.2%	Rural	90	9.8	
Alabama	Dale Co.	9,811	49,472	19.8%	Rural	59	6.0	
Alabama	Dallas Co.	13,915	36,772	37.8%	Rural	50	3.6	Higher-risk
Alabama	DeKalb Co.	13,831	72,046	19.2%	Rural	98	7.1	
Alabama	Elmore Co.	9,906	89,566	11.1%	Urban	88	8.9	
Alabama	Escambia Co.	8,173	36,620	22.3%	Rural	47	5.8	
Alabama	Etowah Co.	17,014	102,821	16.5%	Urban	133	7.8	
Alabama	Fayette Co.	3,383	16,041	21.1%	Rural	10	3.0	
Alabama	Franklin Co.	5,202	31,947	16.3%	Rural	34	6.5	
Alabama	Geneva Co.	5,017	26,787	18.7%	Urban	38	7.6	
Alabama	Greene Co.	2,498	7,412	33.7%	Urban	12	4.8	Higher-risk
Alabama	Hale Co.	3,959	14,613	27.1%	Urban	18	4.5	Higher-risk
Alabama	Henry Co.	2,983	17,638	16.9%	Urban	17	5.7	
Alabama	Houston Co.	21,100	108,063	19.5%	Urban	134	6.4	
Alabama	Jackson Co.	7,372	52,842	14%	Rural	60	8.1	
Alabama	Jefferson Co.	106,140	665,543	15.9%	Urban	548	5.2	
Alabama	Lamar Co.	2,655	13,628	19.5%	Rural	15	5.6	
Alabama	Lauderdale Co.	10,877	95,903	11.3%	Urban	95	8.7	
Alabama	Lawrence Co.	5,632	33,182	17%	Urban	30	5.3	
Alabama	Lee Co.	18,529	181,044	10.2%	Urban	118	6.4	
Alabama	Limestone Co.	7,217	110,926	6.5%	Urban	86	11.9	
Alabama	Lowndes Co.	3,578	9,778	36.6%	Urban	17	4.8	Higher-risk
Alabama	Macon Co.	4,400	18,561	23.7%	Urban	22	5.0	Higher-risk
Alabama	Madison Co.	36,551	404,155	9%	Urban	308	8.4	
Alabama	Marengo Co.	4,922	18,790	26.2%	Rural	22	4.5	Higher-risk
Alabama	Marion Co.	5,427	29,171	18.6%	Rural	32	5.9	
Alabama	Marshall Co.	14,050	99,570	14.1%	Rural	120	8.5	
Alabama	Mobile Co.	84,919	411,291	20.6%	Urban	490	5.8	
Alabama	Monroe Co.	3,869	19,403	19.9%	Rural	26	6.7	
Alabama	Montgomery Co.	53,608	226,554	23.7%	Urban	256	4.8	Higher-risk
Alabama	Morgan Co.	16,516	124,218	13.3%	Urban	122	7.4	
Alabama	Perry Co.	3,514	7,893	44.5%	Rural	12	3.4	Higher-risk
Alabama	Pickens Co.	3,654	18,780	19.5%	Urban	22	6.0	
Alabama	Pike Co.	6,572	32,998	19.9%	Rural	37	5.6	
Alabama	Randolph Co.	5,075	22,442	22.6%	Rural	28	5.5	Higher-risk
Alabama	Russell Co.	11,919	58,522	20.4%	Urban	61	5.1	
Alabama	St. Clair Co.	11,561	93,879	12.3%	Urban	79	6.8	
Alabama	Shelby Co.	12,405	230,140	5.4%	Urban	150	12.1	
Alabama	Sumter Co.	3,298	11,894	27.7%	Rural	15	4.5	Higher-risk
Alabama	Talladega Co.	13,782	80,674	17.1%	Rural	97	7.0	
Alabama	Tallapoosa Co.	7,514	40,910	18.4%	Rural	48	6.4	
Alabama	Tuscaloosa Co.	26,766	237,995	11.2%	Urban	189	7.1	
Alabama	Walker Co.	10,573	64,408	16.4%	Urban	65	6.1	
Alabama	Washington Co.	2,970	15,098	19.7%	Rural	16	5.4	
Alabama	Wilcox Co.	4,246	10,124	41.9%	Rural	14	3.3	Higher-risk
Alabama	Winston Co.	3,418	23,741	14.4%	Rural	23	6.7	
Alaska	Aleutians East Borough	187	3,453	5.4%	Rural	4	21.4	

⁷ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes>.

⁸ <https://github.com/CT-Data-Collaborative/zip-to-planningregion/blob/main/README.md>.

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Alaska	Aleutians West Census Area	136	5,115	2.7%	Rural	6	44.1	
Alaska	Anchorage Municipality	34,763	287,520	12.1%	Urban	118	3.4	
Alaska	Bethel Census Area	8,493	18,272	46.5%	Rural	47	5.5	Higher-risk
Alaska	Bristol Bay Borough	83	877	9.5%	Rural	2	24.1	
Alaska	Chugach Census Area	400	6,910	5.8%	Rural	5	12.5	
Alaska	Copper River Census Area	417	2,607	16%	Rural	8	19.2	
Alaska	Denali Borough	105	1,583	6.6%	Rural	2	19.0	
Alaska	Dillingham Census Area	1,527	4,716	32.4%	Rural	8	5.2	Higher-risk
Alaska	Fairbanks North Star Borough	6,820	95,749	7.1%	Urban	37	5.4	
Alaska	Haines Borough	185	2,079	8.9%	Rural	3	16.2	
Alaska	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	380	2,282	16.7%	Rural	5	13.2	
Alaska	Juneau City and Borough	2,806	31,742	8.8%	Rural	12	4.3	
Alaska	Kenai Peninsula Borough	6,859	60,631	11.3%	Rural	47	6.9	
Alaska	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	1,942	13,719	14.2%	Rural	11	5.7	
Alaska	Kodiak Island Borough	955	12,655	7.5%	Rural	11	11.5	
Alaska	Kusilvak Census Area	5,400	8,196	65.9%	Rural	24	4.4	Higher-risk
Alaska	Lake and Peninsula Borough	343	1,375	24.9%	Rural	10	29.2	
Alaska	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	11,768	113,505	10.4%	Urban	51	4.3	
Alaska	Nome Census Area	3,530	9,804	36%	Rural	24	6.8	Higher-risk
Alaska	North Slope Borough	1,076	10,789	10%	Rural	12	11.2	
Alaska	Northwest Arctic Borough	2,557	7,401	34.5%	Rural	21	8.2	Higher-risk
Alaska	Petersburg Borough	428	3,381	12.7%	Rural	3	7.0	
Alaska	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	1,100	5,655	19.5%	Rural	4	3.6	
Alaska	Sitka City and Borough	605	8,370	7.2%	Rural	4	6.6	
Alaska	Skagway Municipality	33	1,096	3%	Rural	1	30.3	
Alaska	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	872	7,039	12.4%	Rural	11	12.6	
Alaska	Wrangell City and Borough	218	2,071	10.5%	Rural	2	9.2	
Alaska	Yakutat City and Borough	54	685	7.9%	Rural	2	37.0	
Alaska	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	1,503	5,165	29.1%	Rural	27	18.0	
Arizona	Apache Co.	22,161	65,470	33.8%	Rural	52	2.3	Higher-risk
Arizona	Cochise Co.	22,107	125,497	17.6%	Urban	126	5.7	
Arizona	Coconino Co.	16,895	144,326	11.7%	Urban	116	6.9	
Arizona	Gila Co.	10,261	53,927	19%	Rural	54	5.3	
Arizona	Graham Co.	5,721	38,802	14.7%	Rural	33	5.8	
Arizona	Greenlee Co.	639	9,321	6.9%	Rural	9	14.1	
Arizona	La Paz Co.	3,138	16,555	19%	Rural	41	13.1	
Arizona	Maricopa Co.	467,705	4,564,457	10.2%	Urban	2,755	5.9	
Arizona	Mohave Co.	33,135	220,947	15%	Urban	211	6.4	
Arizona	Navajo Co.	27,154	108,771	25%	Rural	123	4.5	Higher-risk
Arizona	Pima Co.	144,026	1,059,412	13.6%	Urban	688	4.8	
Arizona	Pinal Co.	54,992	465,476	11.8%	Urban	205	3.7	
Arizona	Santa Cruz Co.	10,891	48,801	22.3%	Rural	34	3.1	
Arizona	Yavapai Co.	20,101	246,266	8.2%	Urban	171	8.5	
Arizona	Yuma Co.	44,864	209,538	21.4%	Urban	138	3.1	
Arkansas	Arkansas Co.	1,635	16,458	9.9%	Rural	20	12.2	
Arkansas	Ashley Co.	2,521	18,318	13.8%	Rural	17	6.7	
Arkansas	Baxter Co.	2,953	42,378	7%	Rural	38	12.9	
Arkansas	Benton Co.	8,814	303,558	2.9%	Urban	165	18.7	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
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(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Arkansas	Boone Co.	3,200	38,254	8.4%	Rural	34	10.6	
Arkansas	Bradley Co.	1,262	10,167	12.4%	Rural	14	11.1	
Arkansas	Calhoun Co.	362	4,703	7.7%	Rural	3	8.3	
Arkansas	Carroll Co.	1,614	28,667	5.6%	Rural	30	18.6	
Arkansas	Chicot Co.	2,001	9,836	20.3%	Rural	16	8.0	
Arkansas	Clark Co.	1,914	21,136	9.1%	Rural	18	9.4	
Arkansas	Clay Co.	1,362	14,229	9.6%	Rural	13	9.5	
Arkansas	Cleburne Co.	1,838	25,272	7.3%	Rural	26	14.1	
Arkansas	Cleveland Co.	602	7,471	8.1%	Rural	6	10.0	
Arkansas	Columbia Co.	2,647	22,316	11.9%	Rural	26	9.8	
Arkansas	Conway Co.	1,827	21,091	8.7%	Rural	21	11.5	
Arkansas	Craighead Co.	10,116	112,828	9%	Urban	102	10.1	
Arkansas	Crawford Co.	5,009	61,084	8.2%	Urban	47	9.4	
Arkansas	Crittenden Co.	6,561	47,031	14%	Urban	64	9.8	
Arkansas	Cross Co.	1,577	16,594	9.5%	Rural	21	13.3	
Arkansas	Dallas Co.	642	6,197	10.4%	Rural	8	12.5	
Arkansas	Desha Co.	1,823	10,760	16.9%	Rural	17	9.3	
Arkansas	Drew Co.	1,916	16,930	11.3%	Rural	18	9.4	
Arkansas	Faulkner Co.	7,015	127,656	5.5%	Urban	82	11.7	
Arkansas	Franklin Co.	1,362	17,274	7.9%	Rural	15	11.0	
Arkansas	Fulton Co.	1,324	12,354	10.7%	Rural	8	6.0	
Arkansas	Garland Co.	9,087	99,942	9.1%	Urban	90	9.9	
Arkansas	Grant Co.	1,040	18,127	5.7%	Urban	15	14.4	
Arkansas	Greene Co.	4,506	46,359	9.7%	Rural	35	7.8	
Arkansas	Hempstead Co.	2,097	19,469	10.8%	Rural	19	9.1	
Arkansas	Hot Spring Co.	2,851	33,170	8.6%	Rural	23	8.1	
Arkansas	Howard Co.	1,392	12,583	11.1%	Rural	15	10.8	
Arkansas	Independence Co.	2,935	38,223	7.7%	Rural	33	11.2	
Arkansas	Izard Co.	1,361	14,033	9.7%	Rural	11	8.1	
Arkansas	Jackson Co.	1,941	16,607	11.7%	Rural	19	9.8	
Arkansas	Jefferson Co.	9,438	64,341	14.7%	Rural	73	7.7	
Arkansas	Johnson Co.	2,739	25,997	10.5%	Rural	33	12.0	
Arkansas	Lafayette Co.	815	6,136	13.3%	Rural	8	9.8	
Arkansas	Lawrence Co.	1,825	16,146	11.3%	Rural	20	11.0	
Arkansas	Lee Co.	1,581	8,373	18.9%	Rural	9	5.7	
Arkansas	Lincoln Co.	1,175	12,914	9.1%	Rural	8	6.8	
Arkansas	Little River Co.	1,322	11,811	11.2%	Urban	9	6.8	
Arkansas	Logan Co.	2,044	21,242	9.6%	Rural	19	9.3	
Arkansas	Lonoke Co.	4,000	75,219	5.3%	Urban	54	13.5	
Arkansas	Madison Co.	1,326	17,493	7.6%	Urban	14	10.6	
Arkansas	Marion Co.	1,380	17,236	8%	Rural	14	10.1	
Arkansas	Miller Co.	4,915	42,484	11.6%	Urban	46	9.4	
Arkansas	Mississippi Co.	6,190	38,829	15.9%	Rural	49	7.9	
Arkansas	Monroe Co.	1,039	6,574	15.8%	Rural	17	16.4	
Arkansas	Montgomery Co.	745	8,531	8.7%	Rural	7	9.4	
Arkansas	Nevada Co.	826	8,191	10.1%	Rural	9	10.9	
Arkansas	Newton Co.	706	7,093	10%	Rural	6	8.5	
Arkansas	Ouachita Co.	2,584	22,010	11.7%	Rural	26	10.1	
Arkansas	Perry Co.	768	10,073	7.6%	Urban	7	9.1	
Arkansas	Phillips Co.	4,252	15,344	27.7%	Rural	29	6.8	Higher-risk
Arkansas	Pike Co.	1,176	10,123	11.6%	Rural	16	13.6	
Arkansas	Poinsett Co.	3,181	22,434	14.2%	Urban	29	9.1	
Arkansas	Polk Co.	2,062	19,368	10.6%	Rural	12	5.8	
Arkansas	Pope Co.	4,157	64,023	6.5%	Rural	40	9.6	
Arkansas	Prairie Co.	638	8,038	7.9%	Rural	11	17.2	
Arkansas	Pulaski Co.	36,400	399,886	9.1%	Urban	341	9.4	
Arkansas	Randolph Co.	1,754	18,842	9.3%	Rural	18	10.3	
Arkansas	St. Francis Co.	3,955	22,387	17.7%	Rural	33	8.3	
Arkansas	Saline Co.	5,419	127,419	4.3%	Urban	83	15.3	
Arkansas	Scott Co.	1,492	9,787	15.2%	Rural	13	8.7	
Arkansas	Searcy Co.	731	7,905	9.2%	Rural	11	15.0	
Arkansas	Sebastian Co.	11,622	129,226	9%	Urban	126	10.8	
Arkansas	Sevier Co.	1,524	15,681	9.7%	Rural	21	13.8	
Arkansas	Sharp Co.	2,121	17,790	11.9%	Rural	22	10.4	
Arkansas	Stone Co.	1,296	12,591	10.3%	Rural	11	8.5	
Arkansas	Union Co.	4,084	37,858	10.8%	Rural	29	7.1	
Arkansas	Van Buren Co.	1,419	16,114	8.8%	Rural	12	8.5	
Arkansas	Washington Co.	10,123	257,316	3.9%	Urban	156	15.4	
Arkansas	White Co.	6,764	77,645	8.7%	Rural	68	10.1	
Arkansas	Woodruff Co.	970	6,038	16.1%	Rural	8	8.2	
Arkansas	Yell Co.	1,652	20,121	8.2%	Rural	25	15.1	
California	Alameda Co.	157,744	1,635,693	9.6%	Urban	1,054	6.7	
California	Alpine Co.	125	1,169	10.7%	Rural	0	0.0	
California	Amador Co.	3,731	41,486	9%	Rural	32	8.6	
California	Butte Co.	35,438	207,384	17.1%	Urban	209	5.9	
California	Calaveras Co.	5,622	46,544	12.1%	Rural	44	7.8	
California	Colusa Co.	2,471	21,952	11.3%	Rural	28	11.3	

Table 1—Continued
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California	Contra Costa Co.	94,421	1,160,296	8.1%	Urban	714	7.6	
California	Del Norte Co.	6,179	26,758	23.1%	Rural	32	5.2	Higher-risk
California	El Dorado Co.	12,736	193,071	6.6%	Urban	126	9.9	
California	Fresno Co.	237,466	1,017,107	23.3%	Urban	1,044	4.4	Higher-risk
California	Glenn Co.	4,055	28,371	14.3%	Rural	43	10.6	
California	Humboldt Co.	26,310	135,013	19.5%	Rural	170	6.5	
California	Imperial Co.	45,820	179,767	25.5%	Urban	171	3.7	Higher-risk
California	Inyo Co.	2,253	18,745	12%	Rural	19	8.4	
California	Kern Co.	180,911	917,293	19.7%	Urban	975	5.4	
California	Kings Co.	27,816	152,776	18.2%	Urban	135	4.9	
California	Lake Co.	15,399	68,239	22.6%	Rural	76	4.9	Higher-risk
California	Lassen Co.	3,848	30,401	12.7%	Rural	33	8.6	
California	Los Angeles Co.	1,504,632	9,748,447	15.4%	Urban	8,477	5.6	
California	Madera Co.	32,255	160,414	20.1%	Urban	179	5.5	
California	Marin Co.	13,848	257,143	5.4%	Urban	125	9.0	
California	Mariposa Co.	2,778	17,095	16.3%	Rural	15	5.4	
California	Mendocino Co.	15,711	90,027	17.5%	Rural	108	6.9	
California	Merced Co.	58,437	292,034	20%	Urban	288	4.9	
California	Modoc Co.	1,797	8,625	20.8%	Rural	15	8.3	
California	Mono Co.	660	13,055	5.1%	Rural	8	12.1	
California	Monterey Co.	45,586	436,427	10.4%	Urban	314	6.9	
California	Napa Co.	8,172	134,492	6.1%	Urban	75	9.2	
California	Nevada Co.	8,995	102,356	8.8%	Rural	72	8.0	
California	Orange Co.	291,350	3,158,489	9.2%	Urban	2,104	7.2	
California	Placer Co.	20,891	418,439	5%	Urban	241	11.5	
California	Plumas Co.	2,357	19,433	12.1%	Rural	24	10.2	
California	Riverside Co.	293,758	2,479,628	11.8%	Urban	1,890	6.4	
California	Sacramento Co.	249,008	1,588,743	15.7%	Urban	1,316	5.3	
California	San Benito Co.	6,114	67,715	9%	Urban	24	3.9	
California	San Bernardino Co.	345,028	2,196,029	15.7%	Urban	2,004	5.8	
California	San Diego Co.	391,261	3,283,755	11.9%	Urban	2,366	6.0	
California	San Francisco Co.	98,175	814,176	12.1%	Urban	602	6.1	
California	San Joaquin Co.	113,700	795,880	14.3%	Urban	696	6.1	
California	San Luis Obispo Co.	22,296	282,535	7.9%	Urban	204	9.1	
California	San Mateo Co.	32,023	732,485	4.4%	Urban	333	10.4	
California	Santa Barbara Co.	52,069	445,286	11.7%	Urban	307	5.9	
California	Santa Clara Co.	121,312	1,883,653	6.4%	Urban	934	7.7	
California	Santa Cruz Co.	30,230	265,851	11.4%	Urban	172	5.7	
California	Shasta Co.	27,553	180,972	15.2%	Urban	203	7.4	
California	Sierra Co.	329	3,215	10.2%	Rural	4	12.2	
California	Siskiyou Co.	8,473	43,746	19.4%	Rural	78	9.2	
California	Solano Co.	51,102	449,724	11.4%	Urban	305	6.0	
California	Sonoma Co.	37,290	483,398	7.7%	Urban	373	10.0	
California	Stanislaus Co.	79,816	552,410	14.4%	Urban	579	7.3	
California	Sutter Co.	13,342	98,682	13.5%	Urban	99	7.4	
California	Tehama Co.	11,386	65,269	17.4%	Rural	70	6.1	
California	Trinity Co.	2,594	15,777	16.4%	Rural	24	9.3	
California	Tulare Co.	126,486	478,288	26.4%	Urban	494	3.9	Higher-risk
California	Tuolumne Co.	6,044	53,951	11.2%	Rural	46	7.6	
California	Ventura Co.	71,864	835,032	8.6%	Urban	623	8.7	
California	Yolo Co.	24,324	223,338	10.9%	Urban	179	7.4	
California	Yuba Co.	17,446	84,335	20.7%	Urban	89	5.1	
Colorado	Adams Co.	60,533	528,356	11.5%	Urban	289	4.8	
Colorado	Alamosa Co.	4,627	16,593	27.9%	Rural	21	4.5	Higher-risk
Colorado	Arapahoe Co.	60,505	658,176	9.2%	Urban	346	5.7	
Colorado	Archuleta Co.	1,648	13,987	11.8%	Rural	9	5.5	
Colorado	Baca Co.	722	3,435	21%	Rural	8	11.1	
Colorado	Bent Co.	975	5,430	18%	Rural	6	6.2	
Colorado	Boulder Co.	18,277	328,039	5.6%	Urban	154	8.4	
Colorado	Broomfield Co.	3,035	76,245	4%	Urban	33	10.9	
Colorado	Chaffee Co.	1,643	20,266	8.1%	Rural	19	11.6	
Colorado	Cheyenne Co.	189	1,734	10.9%	Rural	3	15.9	
Colorado	Clear Creek Co.	550	9,324	5.9%	Urban	6	10.9	
Colorado	Conejos Co.	1,650	7,560	21.8%	Rural	7	4.2	
Colorado	Costilla Co.	1,327	3,609	36.8%	Rural	9	6.8	Higher-risk
Colorado	Crowley Co.	1,016	5,601	18.1%	Rural	4	3.9	
Colorado	Custer Co.	453	5,343	8.5%	Rural	5	11.0	
Colorado	Delta Co.	4,290	31,573	13.6%	Rural	21	4.9	
Colorado	Denver Co.	86,859	714,851	12.2%	Urban	354	4.1	
Colorado	Dolores Co.	300	2,460	12.2%	Rural	3	10.0	
Colorado	Douglas Co.	7,615	376,462	2%	Urban	118	15.5	
Colorado	Eagle Co.	1,448	55,303	2.6%	Rural	19	13.1	
Colorado	Elbert Co.	1,025	27,817	3.7%	Urban	11	10.7	
Colorado	El Paso Co.	78,360	742,676	10.6%	Urban	376	4.8	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
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State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Colorado	Fremont Co.	7,845	49,585	15.8%	Rural	32	4.1	
Colorado	Garfield Co.	4,172	62,388	6.7%	Rural	51	12.2	
Colorado	Gilpin Co.	501	5,910	8.5%	Urban	4	8.0	
Colorado	Grand Co.	441	15,748	2.8%	Rural	10	22.7	
Colorado	Gunnison Co.	1,027	17,319	5.9%	Rural	13	12.7	
Colorado	Hinsdale Co.	9	773	1.2%	Rural	1	111.1	
Colorado	Huerfano Co.	1,825	7,077	25.8%	Rural	12	6.6	Higher-risk
Colorado	Jackson Co.	116	1,314	8.8%	Rural	3	25.9	
Colorado	Jefferson Co.	33,873	576,635	5.9%	Urban	272	8.0	
Colorado	Kiowa Co.	232	1,430	16.2%	Rural	4	17.2	
Colorado	Kit Carson Co.	933	7,010	13.3%	Rural	11	11.8	
Colorado	Lake Co.	463	7,356	6.3%	Rural	9	19.4	
Colorado	La Plata Co.	4,529	56,577	8%	Rural	41	9.1	
Colorado	Larimer Co.	29,323	368,017	8%	Urban	182	6.2	
Colorado	Las Animas Co.	3,323	14,312	23.2%	Rural	15	4.5	Higher-risk
Colorado	Lincoln Co.	786	5,520	14.2%	Rural	7	8.9	
Colorado	Logan Co.	2,887	20,829	13.9%	Rural	9	3.1	
Colorado	Mesa Co.	18,935	158,585	11.9%	Urban	105	5.5	
Colorado	Mineral Co.	49	923	5.3%	Rural	1	20.4	
Colorado	Moffat Co.	1,474	13,172	11.2%	Rural	11	7.5	
Colorado	Montezuma Co.	4,892	26,491	18.5%	Rural	32	6.5	
Colorado	Montrose Co.	5,456	43,845	12.4%	Rural	33	6.0	
Colorado	Morgan Co.	3,847	29,392	13.1%	Rural	31	8.1	
Colorado	Otero Co.	4,689	18,272	25.7%	Rural	26	5.5	Higher-risk
Colorado	Ouray Co.	211	5,108	4.1%	Rural	3	14.2	
Colorado	Park Co.	1,367	17,929	7.6%	Urban	8	5.9	
Colorado	Phillips Co.	469	4,464	10.5%	Rural	6	12.8	
Colorado	Pitkin Co.	269	16,877	1.6%	Rural	6	22.3	
Colorado	Prowers Co.	2,731	11,834	23.1%	Rural	14	5.1	Higher-risk
Colorado	Pueblo Co.	42,097	169,485	24.8%	Urban	123	2.9	Higher-risk
Colorado	Rio Blanco Co.	764	6,561	11.6%	Rural	12	15.7	
Colorado	Rio Grande Co.	2,429	11,329	21.4%	Rural	20	8.2	
Colorado	Routt Co.	616	25,112	2.5%	Rural	14	22.7	
Colorado	Saguache Co.	1,379	6,632	20.8%	Rural	8	5.8	
Colorado	San Juan Co.	51	796	6.4%	Rural	2	39.2	
Colorado	San Miguel Co.	317	8,011	4%	Rural	7	22.1	
Colorado	Sedgwick Co.	428	2,294	18.7%	Rural	2	4.7	
Colorado	Summit Co.	719	30,905	2.3%	Rural	18	25.0	
Colorado	Teller Co.	2,444	24,858	9.8%	Urban	21	8.6	
Colorado	Washington Co.	604	4,840	12.5%	Rural	2	3.3	
Colorado	Weld Co.	32,118	350,610	9.2%	Urban	177	5.5	
Colorado	Yuma Co.	1,267	9,970	12.7%	Rural	11	8.7	
Connecticut	Capitol Planning Region	122,573	975,591	12.6%	Urban	773	6.3	
Connecticut	Greater Bridgeport Planning Region	42,740	328,131	13%	Urban	203	4.7	
Connecticut	Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region	10,746	176,159	6.1%	Urban	105	9.8	
Connecticut	Naugatuck Valley Planning Region	63,091	453,868	13.9%	Urban	349	5.5	
Connecticut	Northeastern Connecticut Planning Region	9,323	96,169	9.7%	Rural	68	7.3	
Connecticut	Northwest Hills Planning Region	8,963	113,289	7.9%	Rural	68	7.6	
Connecticut	South Central Connecticut Planning Region	76,429	569,866	13.4%	Urban	437	5.7	
Connecticut	Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region	33,788	279,398	12.1%	Urban	226	6.7	
Connecticut	Western Connecticut Planning Region	21,768	625,454	3.5%	Urban	247	11.3	
Delaware	Kent Co.	31,322	187,819	16.7%	Urban	140	4.5	
Delaware	New Castle Co.	71,285	576,316	12.4%	Urban	478	6.7	
Delaware	Sussex Co.	18,864	256,490	7.4%	Rural	218	11.6	
District of Columbia	District of Columbia	139,407	676,725	20.6%	Urban	416	3.0	
Florida	Alachua Co.	33,655	285,241	11.8%	Urban	217	6.4	

Table 1—Continued
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State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Florida	Baker Co.	4,211	27,781	15.2%	Urban	32	7.6	
Florida	Bay Co.	23,697	185,732	12.8%	Urban	225	9.5	
Florida	Bradford Co.	4,609	27,275	16.9%	Rural	32	6.9	
Florida	Brevard Co.	64,797	631,956	10.3%	Urban	471	7.3	
Florida	Broward Co.	249,980	1,966,237	12.7%	Urban	1,086	4.3	
Florida	Calhoun Co.	2,393	13,462	17.8%	Rural	9	3.8	
Florida	Charlotte Co.	14,536	203,113	7.2%	Urban	120	8.3	
Florida	Citrus Co.	20,921	162,586	12.9%	Urban	118	5.6	
Florida	Clay Co.	20,651	226,797	9.1%	Urban	140	6.8	
Florida	Collier Co.	20,948	400,510	5.2%	Urban	238	11.4	
Florida	Columbia Co.	13,729	71,941	19.1%	Rural	95	6.9	
Florida	DeSoto Co.	5,501	35,483	15.5%	Rural	30	5.5	
Florida	Dixie Co.	3,607	16,839	21.4%	Rural	21	5.8	
Florida	Duval Co.	159,784	1,021,040	15.6%	Urban	920	5.8	
Florida	Escambia Co.	49,040	324,227	15.1%	Urban	317	6.5	
Florida	Flagler Co.	11,447	126,974	9%	Urban	70	6.1	
Florida	Franklin Co.	1,391	12,491	11.1%	Rural	13	9.3	
Florida	Gadsden Co.	9,970	43,389	23%	Urban	50	5.0	Higher-risk
Florida	Gilchrist Co.	2,941	19,027	15.5%	Urban	20	6.8	
Florida	Glades Co.	1,404	12,496	11.2%	Rural	9	6.4	
Florida	Gulf Co.	1,816	15,302	11.9%	Rural	20	11.0	
Florida	Hamilton Co.	2,646	13,216	20%	Rural	22	8.3	
Florida	Hardee Co.	5,446	25,692	21.2%	Rural	28	5.1	
Florida	Hendry Co.	9,165	41,725	22%	Rural	43	4.7	
Florida	Hernando Co.	29,423	207,169	14.2%	Urban	148	5.0	
Florida	Highlands Co.	19,024	105,954	18%	Urban	91	4.8	
Florida	Hillsborough Co.	225,257	1,523,839	14.8%	Urban	1,073	4.8	
Florida	Holmes Co.	4,183	19,324	21.6%	Rural	25	6.0	
Florida	Indian River Co.	15,559	167,698	9.3%	Urban	109	7.0	
Florida	Jackson Co.	8,231	48,294	17%	Rural	50	6.1	
Florida	Jefferson Co.	1,846	15,090	12.2%	Urban	20	10.8	
Florida	Lafayette Co.	970	7,786	12.5%	Rural	7	7.2	
Florida	Lake Co.	44,167	410,981	10.7%	Urban	265	6.0	
Florida	Lee Co.	91,972	826,567	11.1%	Urban	541	5.9	
Florida	Leon Co.	36,931	298,181	12.4%	Urban	219	5.9	
Florida	Levy Co.	7,252	45,291	16%	Urban	55	7.6	
Florida	Liberty Co.	1,198	7,609	15.7%	Rural	9	7.5	
Florida	Madison Co.	2,967	17,978	16.5%	Rural	26	8.8	
Florida	Manatee Co.	36,680	430,700	8.5%	Urban	266	7.3	
Florida	Marion Co.	60,561	396,661	15.3%	Urban	343	5.7	
Florida	Martin Co.	11,225	162,379	6.9%	Urban	117	10.4	
Florida	Miami-Dade Co.	604,250	2,713,415	22.3%	Urban	1,358	2.2	
Florida	Monroe Co.	6,422	82,002	7.8%	Rural	78	12.1	
Florida	Nassau Co.	6,644	97,891	6.8%	Urban	74	11.1	
Florida	Okaloosa Co.	17,016	217,115	7.8%	Urban	174	10.2	
Florida	Okeechobee Co.	8,377	40,416	20.7%	Rural	46	5.5	
Florida	Orange Co.	202,121	1,465,146	13.8%	Urban	965	4.8	
Florida	Osceola Co.	71,467	426,556	16.8%	Urban	258	3.6	
Florida	Palm Beach Co.	162,053	1,531,542	10.6%	Urban	805	5.0	
Florida	Pasco Co.	67,782	610,584	11.1%	Urban	379	5.6	
Florida	Pinellas Co.	97,006	964,693	10.1%	Urban	746	7.7	
Florida	Polk Co.	141,934	790,530	18%	Urban	609	4.3	
Florida	Putnam Co.	16,670	74,805	22.3%	Rural	95	5.7	
Florida	St. Johns Co.	12,024	307,837	3.9%	Urban	162	13.5	
Florida	St. Lucie Co.	46,256	359,882	12.9%	Urban	220	4.8	
Florida	Santa Rosa Co.	14,779	198,363	7.5%	Urban	137	9.3	
Florida	Sarasota Co.	26,404	464,067	5.7%	Urban	257	9.7	
Florida	Seminole Co.	42,608	481,084	8.9%	Urban	285	6.7	
Florida	Sumter Co.	8,774	144,978	6.1%	Urban	90	10.3	
Florida	Suwannee Co.	8,749	45,370	19.3%	Rural	58	6.6	
Florida	Taylor Co.	4,867	21,347	22.8%	Rural	33	6.8	Higher-risk
Florida	Union Co.	2,290	15,490	14.8%	Rural	14	6.1	
Florida	Volusia Co.	75,617	580,481	13%	Urban	442	5.8	
Florida	Wakulla Co.	3,365	35,159	9.6%	Urban	28	8.3	
Florida	Walton Co.	6,155	83,100	7.4%	Urban	64	10.4	
Florida	Washington Co.	3,422	25,426	13.5%	Urban	35	10.2	
Georgia	Appling Co.	3,887	18,479	21%	Rural	35	9.0	
Georgia	Atkinson Co.	1,846	8,236	22.4%	Rural	16	8.7	
Georgia	Bacon Co.	2,491	11,174	22.3%	Rural	18	7.2	
Georgia	Baker Co.	798	2,796	28.5%	Rural	3	3.8	Higher-risk
Georgia	Baldwin Co.	7,816	43,649	17.9%	Rural	64	8.2	
Georgia	Banks Co.	2,344	19,404	12.1%	Rural	20	8.5	
Georgia	Barrow Co.	9,719	89,359	10.9%	Urban	81	8.3	
Georgia	Bartow Co.	14,253	112,805	12.6%	Urban	104	7.3	
Georgia	Ben Hill Co.	4,203	17,055	24.6%	Rural	32	7.6	Higher-risk
Georgia	Berrien Co.	3,754	18,238	20.6%	Rural	25	6.7	
Georgia	Bibb Co.	40,989	156,115	26.3%	Urban	212	5.2	Higher-risk
Georgia	Bleckley Co.	2,244	12,270	18.3%	Rural	15	6.7	

Table 1—Continued
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Georgia	Brantley Co.	3,913	18,196	21.5%	Urban	24	6.1	
Georgia	Brooks Co.	3,621	16,300	22.2%	Urban	25	6.9	
Georgia	Bryan Co.	3,771	48,316	7.8%	Urban	37	9.8	
Georgia	Bulloch Co.	12,921	83,027	15.6%	Rural	103	8.0	
Georgia	Burke Co.	5,775	24,433	23.6%	Urban	35	6.1	Higher-risk
Georgia	Butts Co.	4,157	26,745	15.5%	Urban	30	7.2	
Georgia	Calhoun Co.	1,369	5,471	25%	Rural	7	5.1	Higher-risk
Georgia	Camden Co.	6,020	57,036	10.6%	Rural	63	10.5	
Georgia	Candler Co.	2,509	11,000	22.8%	Rural	16	6.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Carroll Co.	18,903	124,564	15.2%	Urban	124	6.6	
Georgia	Catoosa Co.	7,524	68,840	10.9%	Urban	67	8.9	
Georgia	Charlton Co.	1,876	12,781	14.7%	Rural	19	10.1	
Georgia	Chatham Co.	44,807	301,512	14.9%	Urban	319	7.1	
Georgia	Chattahoochee Co.	721	8,773	8.2%	Urban	3	4.2	
Georgia	Chattooga Co.	5,475	24,921	22%	Rural	31	5.7	
Georgia	Cherokee Co.	13,328	281,455	4.7%	Urban	122	9.2	
Georgia	Clarke Co.	15,853	129,954	12.2%	Urban	122	7.7	
Georgia	Clay Co.	966	2,862	33.8%	Rural	5	5.2	Higher-risk
Georgia	Clayton Co.	73,512	298,862	24.6%	Urban	274	3.7	Higher-risk
Georgia	Clinch Co.	1,659	6,684	24.8%	Rural	16	9.6	
Georgia	Cobb Co.	62,007	774,162	8%	Urban	441	7.1	
Georgia	Coffee Co.	9,565	43,311	22.1%	Rural	70	7.3	
Georgia	Colquitt Co.	10,459	45,952	22.8%	Rural	68	6.5	Higher-risk
Georgia	Columbia Co.	10,346	162,681	6.4%	Urban	101	9.8	
Georgia	Cook Co.	3,882	17,414	22.3%	Rural	29	7.5	
Georgia	Coweta Co.	13,957	153,002	9.1%	Urban	111	8.0	
Georgia	Crawford Co.	2,137	12,197	17.5%	Urban	12	5.6	
Georgia	Crisp Co.	5,959	19,755	30.2%	Rural	47	7.9	Higher-risk
Georgia	Dade Co.	1,779	16,114	11%	Urban	32	18.0	
Georgia	Dawson Co.	2,035	30,175	6.7%	Urban	30	14.7	
Georgia	Decatur Co.	7,159	29,038	24.7%	Rural	45	6.3	Higher-risk
Georgia	DeKalb Co.	127,335	764,440	16.7%	Urban	584	4.6	
Georgia	Dodge Co.	4,606	19,903	23.1%	Rural	25	5.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Dooly Co.	2,302	10,639	21.6%	Rural	18	7.8	
Georgia	Dougherty Co.	28,400	82,972	34.2%	Urban	156	5.5	Higher-risk
Georgia	Douglas Co.	23,884	147,690	16.2%	Urban	127	5.3	
Georgia	Early Co.	3,282	10,567	31.1%	Rural	20	6.1	Higher-risk
Georgia	Echols Co.	713	3,694	19.3%	Urban	2	2.8	
Georgia	Effingham Co.	6,411	69,030	9.3%	Urban	53	8.3	
Georgia	Elbert Co.	3,986	19,853	20.1%	Rural	26	6.5	
Georgia	Emanuel Co.	5,976	22,953	26%	Rural	29	4.9	Higher-risk
Georgia	Evans Co.	2,427	10,662	22.8%	Rural	24	9.9	
Georgia	Fannin Co.	2,655	25,702	10.3%	Rural	26	9.8	
Georgia	Fayette Co.	6,493	122,150	5.3%	Urban	77	11.9	
Georgia	Floyd Co.	15,996	99,586	16.1%	Urban	119	7.4	
Georgia	Forsyth Co.	7,237	268,075	2.7%	Urban	106	14.6	
Georgia	Franklin Co.	4,066	24,151	16.8%	Rural	35	8.6	
Georgia	Fulton Co.	160,940	1,076,569	14.9%	Urban	684	4.3	
Georgia	Gilmer Co.	3,657	32,413	11.3%	Rural	34	9.3	
Georgia	Glascok Co.	437	2,919	15%	Rural	5	11.4	
Georgia	Glynn Co.	13,073	85,202	15.3%	Urban	123	9.4	
Georgia	Gordon Co.	7,659	58,909	13%	Rural	73	9.5	
Georgia	Grady Co.	5,117	26,056	19.6%	Rural	33	6.4	
Georgia	Greene Co.	2,520	20,136	12.5%	Rural	29	11.5	
Georgia	Gwinnett Co.	94,116	980,015	9.6%	Urban	581	6.2	
Georgia	Habersham Co.	5,236	47,558	11%	Rural	64	12.2	
Georgia	Hall Co.	19,407	213,126	9.1%	Urban	182	9.4	
Georgia	Hancock Co.	1,679	8,453	19.9%	Rural	15	8.9	
Georgia	Haralson Co.	5,615	31,340	17.9%	Urban	49	8.7	
Georgia	Harris Co.	2,601	36,308	7.2%	Urban	25	9.6	
Georgia	Hart Co.	3,992	26,877	14.9%	Rural	25	6.3	
Georgia	Heard Co.	2,221	11,720	19%	Urban	12	5.4	
Georgia	Henry Co.	35,314	248,559	14.2%	Urban	199	5.6	
Georgia	Houston Co.	22,642	169,791	13.3%	Urban	157	6.9	
Georgia	Irwin Co.	1,908	9,121	20.9%	Rural	11	5.8	
Georgia	Jackson Co.	7,478	84,102	8.9%	Rural	67	9.0	
Georgia	Jasper Co.	2,218	15,985	13.9%	Urban	13	5.9	
Georgia	Jeff Davis Co.	3,441	14,909	23.1%	Rural	19	5.5	Higher-risk
Georgia	Jefferson Co.	3,606	15,318	23.5%	Rural	28	7.8	Higher-risk
Georgia	Jenkins Co.	2,028	8,661	23.4%	Rural	8	3.9	Higher-risk
Georgia	Johnson Co.	1,990	9,255	21.5%	Rural	14	7.0	
Georgia	Jones Co.	3,797	28,514	13.3%	Urban	20	5.3	
Georgia	Lamar Co.	3,550	19,489	18.2%	Rural	14	3.9	
Georgia	Lanier Co.	2,335	10,207	22.9%	Urban	11	4.7	Higher-risk
Georgia	Laurens Co.	12,147	49,705	24.4%	Rural	90	7.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Lee Co.	4,212	33,699	12.5%	Urban	30	7.1	
Georgia	Liberty Co.	11,126	68,031	16.4%	Urban	75	6.7	

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Georgia	Lincoln Co.	1,210	7,872	15.4%	Urban	7	5.8	
Georgia	Long Co.	3,112	18,409	16.9%	Urban	16	5.1	
Georgia	Lowndes Co.	23,385	119,547	19.6%	Urban	138	5.9	
Georgia	Lumpkin Co.	3,052	34,763	8.8%	Urban	23	7.5	
Georgia	McDuffie Co.	4,868	21,727	22.4%	Urban	36	7.4	
Georgia	McIntosh Co.	2,161	11,190	19.3%	Urban	19	8.8	
Georgia	Macon Co.	2,651	11,778	22.5%	Rural	19	7.2	
Georgia	Madison Co.	4,385	31,447	13.9%	Urban	36	8.2	
Georgia	Marion Co.	1,709	7,464	22.9%	Urban	9	5.3	Higher-risk
Georgia	Meriwether Co.	4,443	20,892	21.3%	Urban	28	6.3	
Georgia	Miller Co.	1,259	5,790	21.7%	Rural	9	7.1	
Georgia	Mitchell Co.	5,671	21,182	26.8%	Rural	30	5.3	Higher-risk
Georgia	Monroe Co.	3,427	29,455	11.6%	Urban	30	8.8	
Georgia	Montgomery Co.	1,597	8,656	18.4%	Rural	12	7.5	
Georgia	Morgan Co.	2,456	21,048	11.7%	Urban	24	9.8	
Georgia	Murray Co.	7,168	40,432	17.7%	Urban	50	7.0	
Georgia	Muscogee Co.	43,076	202,658	21.3%	Urban	213	4.9	
Georgia	Newton Co.	21,953	117,970	18.6%	Urban	86	3.9	
Georgia	Oconee Co.	1,527	43,676	3.5%	Urban	25	16.4	
Georgia	Oglethorpe Co.	1,982	15,532	12.8%	Urban	11	5.5	
Georgia	Paulding Co.	17,858	178,885	10%	Urban	80	4.5	
Georgia	Peach Co.	5,197	28,484	18.2%	Urban	39	7.5	
Georgia	Pickens Co.	3,429	34,817	9.8%	Urban	31	9.0	
Georgia	Pierce Co.	3,744	20,176	18.6%	Rural	23	6.1	
Georgia	Pike Co.	1,921	19,936	9.6%	Urban	17	8.8	
Georgia	Polk Co.	8,473	43,706	19.4%	Rural	53	6.3	
Georgia	Pulaski Co.	1,794	9,953	18%	Rural	16	8.9	
Georgia	Putnam Co.	3,394	22,928	14.8%	Rural	28	8.2	
Georgia	Quitman Co.	592	2,254	26.3%	Rural	6	10.1	
Georgia	Rabun Co.	1,724	17,292	10%	Rural	18	10.4	
Georgia	Randolph Co.	2,064	6,155	33.5%	Rural	11	5.3	Higher-risk
Georgia	Richmond Co.	47,098	206,510	22.8%	Urban	247	5.2	Higher-risk
Georgia	Rockdale Co.	16,899	95,016	17.8%	Urban	91	5.4	
Georgia	Schley Co.	839	4,503	18.6%	Rural	4	4.8	
Georgia	Screven Co.	3,313	13,977	23.7%	Rural	22	6.6	Higher-risk
Georgia	Seminole Co.	2,249	9,129	24.6%	Rural	10	4.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Spalding Co.	15,675	69,015	22.7%	Urban	80	5.1	Higher-risk
Georgia	Stephens Co.	5,242	26,724	19.6%	Rural	36	6.9	
Georgia	Stewart Co.	1,132	4,634	24.4%	Urban	8	7.1	Higher-risk
Georgia	Sumter Co.	8,748	28,880	30.3%	Rural	40	4.6	Higher-risk
Georgia	Talbot Co.	1,258	5,759	21.8%	Urban	6	4.8	
Georgia	Taliaferro Co.	325	1,600	20.3%	Rural	3	9.2	
Georgia	Tattnall Co.	4,186	24,012	17.4%	Rural	39	9.3	
Georgia	Taylor Co.	1,834	7,767	23.6%	Rural	8	4.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Telfair Co.	2,928	12,416	23.6%	Rural	19	6.5	Higher-risk
Georgia	Terrell Co.	2,774	8,782	31.6%	Urban	15	5.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Thomas Co.	8,986	45,542	19.7%	Rural	64	7.1	
Georgia	Tift Co.	9,153	41,378	22.1%	Rural	81	8.8	
Georgia	Toombs Co.	6,919	26,881	25.7%	Rural	45	6.5	Higher-risk
Georgia	Towns Co.	1,071	12,944	8.3%	Rural	19	17.7	
Georgia	Treutlen Co.	1,679	6,353	26.4%	Rural	10	6.0	Higher-risk
Georgia	Troup Co.	14,324	70,297	20.4%	Rural	95	6.6	
Georgia	Turner Co.	2,353	8,842	26.6%	Rural	17	7.2	Higher-risk
Georgia	Twiggs Co.	1,693	7,688	22%	Urban	10	5.9	
Georgia	Union Co.	2,124	26,400	8%	Rural	23	10.8	
Georgia	Upson Co.	6,587	28,098	23.4%	Rural	32	4.9	Higher-risk
Georgia	Walker Co.	10,159	68,887	14.7%	Urban	80	7.9	
Georgia	Walton Co.	12,380	103,056	12%	Urban	88	7.1	
Georgia	Ware Co.	9,078	35,608	25.5%	Rural	58	6.4	Higher-risk
Georgia	Warren Co.	1,394	5,168	27%	Rural	9	6.5	Higher-risk
Georgia	Washington Co.	4,343	19,791	21.9%	Rural	26	6.0	
Georgia	Wayne Co.	6,383	30,786	20.7%	Rural	42	6.6	
Georgia	Webster Co.	519	2,351	22.1%	Rural	3	5.8	
Georgia	Wheeler Co.	1,263	7,307	17.3%	Rural	8	6.3	
Georgia	White Co.	2,991	28,810	10.4%	Rural	23	7.7	
Georgia	Whitfield Co.	13,651	103,252	13.2%	Urban	136	10.0	
Georgia	Wilcox Co.	1,762	8,747	20.1%	Rural	17	9.6	
Georgia	Wilkes Co.	2,126	9,585	22.2%	Rural	18	8.5	
Georgia	Wilkinson Co.	1,948	8,689	22.4%	Rural	15	7.7	
Georgia	Worth Co.	4,424	20,420	21.7%	Urban	24	5.4	
Hawaii	Hawaii Co.	37,263	206,324	18.1%	Rural	182	4.9	
Hawaii	Honolulu Co.	90,431	995,652	9.1%	Urban	544	6.0	
Hawaii	Kalawao Co.		81	0%	Urban	0	0.0	
Hawaii	Kauai Co.	7,807	73,823	10.6%	Rural	70	9.0	
Hawaii	Maui Co.	16,442	164,479	10%	Urban	125	7.6	
Idaho	Ada Co.	23,992	520,788	4.6%	Urban	258	10.8	
Idaho	Adams Co.	287	4,780	6%	Rural	7	24.4	
Idaho	Bannock Co.	8,988	89,871	10%	Urban	66	7.3	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Idaho	Bear Lake Co.	326	6,751	4.8%	Rural	5	15.3	
Idaho	Benewah Co.	815	10,301	7.9%	Rural	6	7.4	
Idaho	Bingham Co.	4,121	49,997	8.2%	Rural	27	6.6	
Idaho	Blaine Co.	406	25,186	1.6%	Rural	14	34.5	
Idaho	Boise Co.	423	8,426	5%	Urban	7	16.5	
Idaho	Bonner Co.	2,795	51,521	5.4%	Rural	29	10.4	
Idaho	Bonneville Co.	10,053	129,690	7.8%	Urban	84	8.4	
Idaho	Boundary Co.	887	13,377	6.6%	Rural	11	12.4	
Idaho	Butte Co.	260	2,692	9.7%	Urban	2	7.7	
Idaho	Camas Co.	46	1,168	3.9%	Rural	1	21.7	
Idaho	Canyon Co.	19,973	251,532	7.9%	Urban	126	6.3	
Idaho	Caribou Co.	346	7,208	4.8%	Rural	9	26.0	
Idaho	Cassia Co.	2,149	25,625	8.4%	Rural	22	10.2	
Idaho	Clark Co.	52	812	6.4%	Rural	1	19.2	
Idaho	Clearwater Co.	653	9,034	7.2%	Rural	8	12.3	
Idaho	Custer Co.	259	4,503	5.8%	Rural	5	19.3	
Idaho	Elmore Co.	2,171	29,494	7.4%	Rural	16	7.4	
Idaho	Franklin Co.	508	15,172	3.3%	Urban	6	11.8	
Idaho	Fremont Co.	747	14,048	5.3%	Rural	6	8.0	
Idaho	Gem Co.	1,393	20,739	6.7%	Urban	12	8.6	
Idaho	Gooding Co.	1,237	15,890	7.8%	Rural	13	10.5	
Idaho	Idaho Co.	1,002	17,670	5.7%	Rural	14	14.0	
Idaho	Jefferson Co.	1,564	33,365	4.7%	Urban	10	6.4	
Idaho	Jerome Co.	2,042	25,228	8.1%	Urban	19	9.3	
Idaho	Kootenai Co.	9,712	183,540	5.3%	Urban	110	11.3	
Idaho	Latah Co.	1,857	41,330	4.5%	Rural	23	12.4	
Idaho	Lemhi Co.	592	8,286	7.1%	Rural	9	15.2	
Idaho	Lewis Co.	442	3,727	11.9%	Rural	5	11.3	
Idaho	Lincoln Co.	413	5,365	7.7%	Rural	3	7.3	
Idaho	Madison Co.	2,494	55,427	4.5%	Rural	12	4.8	
Idaho	Minidoka Co.	1,640	22,202	7.4%	Rural	12	7.3	
Idaho	Nez Perce Co.	3,001	43,003	7%	Urban	36	12.0	
Idaho	Oneida Co.	252	4,740	5.3%	Rural	4	15.9	
Idaho	Owyhee Co.	1,190	12,644	9.4%	Urban	9	7.6	
Idaho	Payette Co.	2,426	26,934	9%	Rural	22	9.1	
Idaho	Power Co.	794	8,122	9.8%	Rural	6	7.6	
Idaho	Shoshone Co.	1,593	13,951	11.4%	Rural	16	10.0	
Idaho	Teton Co.	230	12,553	1.8%	Rural	5	21.7	
Idaho	Twin Falls Co.	8,010	93,973	8.5%	Urban	58	7.2	
Idaho	Valley Co.	389	12,436	3.1%	Rural	11	28.3	
Idaho	Washington Co.	972	11,198	8.7%	Rural	15	15.4	
Illinois	Adams Co.	11,336	64,526	17.6%	Rural	60	5.3	
Illinois	Alexander Co.	2,090	4,859	43%	Urban	5	2.4	Higher-risk
Illinois	Bond Co.	2,188	16,716	13.1%	Urban	13	5.9	
Illinois	Boone Co.	7,242	53,084	13.6%	Urban	30	4.1	
Illinois	Brown Co.	611	6,321	9.7%	Rural	4	6.5	
Illinois	Bureau Co.	4,969	32,862	15.1%	Rural	40	8.0	
Illinois	Calhoun Co.	564	4,335	13%	Urban	3	5.3	
Illinois	Carroll Co.	2,127	15,553	13.7%	Rural	19	8.9	
Illinois	Cass Co.	2,277	12,672	18%	Rural	14	6.1	
Illinois	Champaign Co.	31,520	208,033	15.2%	Urban	164	5.2	
Illinois	Christian Co.	5,982	33,410	17.9%	Rural	35	5.9	
Illinois	Clark Co.	2,426	15,211	15.9%	Rural	18	7.4	
Illinois	Clay Co.	2,641	13,053	20.2%	Rural	14	5.3	
Illinois	Clinton Co.	3,079	36,987	8.3%	Urban	40	13.0	
Illinois	Coles Co.	9,860	46,708	21.1%	Rural	45	4.6	
Illinois	Cook Co.	966,185	5,133,106	18.8%	Urban	3,492	3.6	
Illinois	Crawford Co.	3,081	18,516	16.6%	Rural	18	5.8	
Illinois	Cumberland Co.	1,349	10,296	13.1%	Rural	9	6.7	
Illinois	DeKalb Co.	14,710	100,569	14.6%	Urban	78	5.3	
Illinois	De Witt Co.	2,627	15,341	17.1%	Rural	17	6.5	
Illinois	Douglas Co.	2,393	19,702	12.1%	Rural	26	10.9	
Illinois	DuPage Co.	68,290	925,143	7.4%	Urban	520	7.6	
Illinois	Edgar Co.	3,466	16,426	21.1%	Rural	17	4.9	
Illinois	Edwards Co.	919	6,073	15.1%	Rural	8	8.7	
Illinois	Effingham Co.	3,863	34,336	11.3%	Rural	41	10.6	
Illinois	Fayette Co.	3,617	21,284	17%	Rural	23	6.4	
Illinois	Ford Co.	1,974	13,270	14.9%	Urban	14	7.1	
Illinois	Franklin Co.	10,017	37,226	26.9%	Rural	50	5.0	Higher-risk
Illinois	Fulton Co.	5,746	33,022	17.4%	Rural	31	5.4	
Illinois	Gallatin Co.	1,145	4,842	23.6%	Rural	3	2.6	Higher-risk
Illinois	Greene Co.	2,330	11,643	20%	Rural	14	6.0	
Illinois	Grundy Co.	5,400	53,153	10.2%	Urban	39	7.2	
Illinois	Hamilton Co.	1,327	7,976	16.6%	Rural	7	5.3	
Illinois	Hancock Co.	2,704	17,250	15.7%	Rural	26	9.6	
Illinois	Hardin Co.	1,029	3,588	28.7%	Rural	4	3.9	Higher-risk
Illinois	Henderson Co.	988	6,168	16%	Rural	7	7.1	
Illinois	Henry Co.	6,809	48,567	14%	Urban	50	7.3	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Illinois	Iroquois Co.	4,545	26,417	17.2%	Rural	34	7.5	
Illinois	Jackson Co.	12,427	53,004	23.4%	Rural	50	4.0	Higher-risk
Illinois	Jasper Co.	1,178	9,185	12.8%	Rural	6	5.1	
Illinois	Jefferson Co.	7,739	36,415	21.3%	Rural	42	5.4	
Illinois	Jersey Co.	2,920	21,222	13.8%	Urban	14	4.8	
Illinois	Jo Daviess Co.	1,834	21,863	8.4%	Rural	15	8.2	
Illinois	Johnson Co.	1,993	13,401	14.9%	Rural	11	5.5	
Illinois	Kane Co.	60,984	515,070	11.8%	Urban	284	4.7	
Illinois	Kankakee Co.	21,650	106,221	20.4%	Urban	115	5.3	
Illinois	Kendall Co.	11,392	137,602	8.3%	Urban	67	5.9	
Illinois	Knox Co.	10,238	48,713	21%	Rural	46	4.5	
Illinois	Lake Co.	71,260	712,143	10%	Urban	413	5.8	
Illinois	LaSalle Co.	18,497	108,210	17.1%	Rural	127	6.9	
Illinois	Lawrence Co.	2,633	14,937	17.6%	Rural	12	4.6	
Illinois	Lee Co.	4,605	33,928	13.6%	Rural	34	7.4	
Illinois	Livingston Co.	5,039	35,513	14.2%	Rural	41	8.1	
Illinois	Logan Co.	4,551	27,654	16.5%	Rural	28	6.2	
Illinois	McDonough Co.	4,654	26,965	17.3%	Rural	29	6.2	
Illinois	McHenry Co.	22,111	311,921	7.1%	Urban	164	7.4	
Illinois	McLean Co.	20,862	171,571	12.2%	Urban	133	6.4	
Illinois	Macon Co.	25,674	101,369	25.3%	Urban	117	4.6	Higher-risk
Illinois	Macoupin Co.	7,519	44,239	17%	Urban	49	6.5	
Illinois	Madison Co.	40,963	263,981	15.5%	Urban	246	6.0	
Illinois	Marion Co.	9,555	36,878	25.9%	Rural	44	4.6	Higher-risk
Illinois	Marshall Co.	1,662	11,657	14.3%	Urban	19	11.4	
Illinois	Mason Co.	2,465	12,717	19.4%	Rural	15	6.1	
Illinois	Massac Co.	3,794	13,858	27.4%	Urban	12	3.2	Higher-risk
Illinois	Menard Co.	1,504	12,076	12.5%	Urban	9	6.0	
Illinois	Mercer Co.	1,794	15,512	11.6%	Urban	18	10.0	
Illinois	Monroe Co.	1,433	35,107	4.1%	Urban	22	15.4	
Illinois	Montgomery Co.	5,253	27,971	18.8%	Rural	42	8.0	
Illinois	Morgan Co.	6,926	32,931	21%	Rural	42	6.1	
Illinois	Moultrie Co.	1,734	14,361	12.1%	Rural	12	6.9	
Illinois	Ogle Co.	6,075	51,437	11.8%	Rural	52	8.6	
Illinois	Peoria Co.	40,422	178,503	22.6%	Urban	168	4.2	Higher-risk
Illinois	Perry Co.	3,312	20,503	16.2%	Rural	17	5.1	
Illinois	Piatt Co.	1,373	16,678	8.2%	Urban	12	8.7	
Illinois	Pike Co.	2,717	14,492	18.7%	Rural	20	7.4	
Illinois	Pope Co.	703	3,757	18.7%	Rural	3	4.3	
Illinois	Pulaski Co.	1,801	4,966	36.3%	Rural	9	5.0	Higher-risk
Illinois	Putnam Co.	554	5,562	10%	Rural	6	10.8	
Illinois	Randolph Co.	4,697	30,101	15.6%	Rural	32	6.8	
Illinois	Richland Co.	3,147	15,536	20.3%	Rural	14	4.4	
Illinois	Rock Island Co.	27,405	141,812	19.3%	Urban	149	5.4	
Illinois	St. Clair Co.	53,470	252,947	21.1%	Urban	221	4.1	
Illinois	Saline Co.	6,275	23,141	27.1%	Rural	33	5.3	Higher-risk
Illinois	Sangamon Co.	36,417	194,483	18.7%	Urban	185	5.1	
Illinois	Schuyler Co.	690	6,755	10.2%	Rural	7	10.1	
Illinois	Scott Co.	848	4,898	17.3%	Rural	3	3.5	
Illinois	Shelby Co.	2,719	20,706	13.1%	Rural	26	9.6	
Illinois	Stark Co.	833	5,324	15.6%	Urban	6	7.2	
Illinois	Stephenson Co.	8,965	43,702	20.5%	Rural	43	4.8	
Illinois	Tazewell Co.	17,498	129,859	13.5%	Urban	113	6.5	
Illinois	Union Co.	3,511	16,901	20.8%	Rural	21	6.0	
Illinois	Vermilion Co.	20,733	72,089	28.8%	Rural	85	4.1	Higher-risk
Illinois	Wabash Co.	1,884	11,061	17%	Rural	14	7.4	
Illinois	Warren Co.	2,866	16,368	17.5%	Rural	20	7.0	
Illinois	Washington Co.	1,347	13,650	9.9%	Rural	14	10.4	
Illinois	Wayne Co.	2,611	15,903	16.4%	Rural	18	6.9	
Illinois	White Co.	2,752	13,636	20.2%	Rural	18	6.5	
Illinois	Whiteside Co.	9,343	54,602	17.1%	Rural	49	5.2	
Illinois	Will Co.	75,734	699,110	10.8%	Urban	422	5.6	
Illinois	Williamson Co.	14,011	66,565	21%	Rural	62	4.4	
Illinois	Winnebago Co.	70,088	282,081	24.8%	Urban	289	4.1	Higher-risk
Illinois	Woodford Co.	2,694	38,254	7%	Urban	28	10.4	
Indiana	Adams Co.	1,753	36,204	4.8%	Rural	20	11.4	
Indiana	Allen Co.	36,934	392,119	9.4%	Urban	330	8.9	
Indiana	Bartholomew Co.	5,724	83,746	6.8%	Urban	66	11.5	
Indiana	Benton Co.	787	8,676	9.1%	Urban	7	8.9	
Indiana	Blackford Co.	1,421	11,905	11.9%	Rural	16	11.3	
Indiana	Boone Co.	2,097	74,403	2.8%	Urban	49	23.4	
Indiana	Brown Co.	635	15,617	4.1%	Urban	9	14.2	
Indiana	Carroll Co.	1,098	20,507	5.4%	Urban	19	17.3	
Indiana	Cass Co.	4,021	37,670	10.7%	Rural	38	9.5	
Indiana	Clark Co.	7,738	124,306	6.2%	Urban	106	13.7	
Indiana	Clay Co.	2,403	26,378	9.1%	Urban	28	11.7	
Indiana	Clinton Co.	2,787	32,794	8.5%	Rural	34	12.2	
Indiana	Crawford Co.	880	10,520	8.4%	Rural	12	13.6	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Indiana	Daviess Co.	2,238	33,613	6.7%	Rural	32	14.3	
Indiana	Dearborn Co.	2,919	50,976	5.7%	Urban	33	11.3	
Indiana	Decatur Co.	1,936	26,458	7.3%	Rural	29	15.0	
Indiana	DeKalb Co.	2,483	43,804	5.7%	Rural	33	13.3	
Indiana	Delaware Co.	13,890	112,183	12.4%	Urban	118	8.5	
Indiana	Dubois Co.	1,426	43,550	3.3%	Rural	47	33.0	
Indiana	Elkhart Co.	13,610	207,161	6.6%	Urban	159	11.7	
Indiana	Fayette Co.	3,769	23,342	16.1%	Rural	22	5.8	
Indiana	Floyd Co.	5,668	80,662	7%	Urban	48	8.5	
Indiana	Fountain Co.	1,191	16,601	7.2%	Rural	20	16.8	
Indiana	Franklin Co.	1,256	23,107	5.4%	Urban	21	16.7	
Indiana	Fulton Co.	1,647	20,353	8.1%	Rural	21	12.8	
Indiana	Gibson Co.	2,185	33,004	6.6%	Rural	42	19.2	
Indiana	Grant Co.	9,519	66,020	14.4%	Rural	86	9.0	
Indiana	Greene Co.	2,939	31,076	9.5%	Rural	29	9.9	
Indiana	Hamilton Co.	7,848	366,264	2.1%	Urban	153	19.5	
Indiana	Hancock Co.	3,312	83,119	4%	Urban	54	16.3	
Indiana	Harrison Co.	2,361	39,823	5.9%	Urban	31	13.1	
Indiana	Hendricks Co.	5,876	183,507	3.2%	Urban	84	14.3	
Indiana	Henry Co.	4,658	48,829	9.5%	Rural	54	11.6	
Indiana	Howard Co.	10,824	83,574	13%	Urban	93	8.6	
Indiana	Huntington Co.	2,591	36,799	7%	Rural	30	11.6	
Indiana	Jackson Co.	3,495	46,385	7.5%	Rural	42	12.0	
Indiana	Jasper Co.	2,475	33,280	7.4%	Urban	50	20.2	
Indiana	Jay Co.	1,674	20,137	8.3%	Rural	18	10.8	
Indiana	Jefferson Co.	2,371	32,902	7.2%	Rural	30	12.7	
Indiana	Jennings Co.	2,022	27,468	7.4%	Rural	19	9.4	
Indiana	Johnson Co.	9,200	165,951	5.5%	Urban	92	10.0	
Indiana	Knox Co.	4,181	35,895	11.6%	Rural	36	8.6	
Indiana	Kosciusko Co.	4,109	80,676	5.1%	Rural	67	16.3	
Indiana	Lagrange Co.	1,362	40,865	3.3%	Rural	16	11.7	
Indiana	Lake Co.	61,476	500,065	12.3%	Urban	455	7.4	
Indiana	LaPorte Co.	12,665	111,810	11.3%	Urban	109	8.6	
Indiana	Lawrence Co.	3,349	45,213	7.4%	Rural	36	10.7	
Indiana	Madison Co.	16,338	131,524	12.4%	Urban	135	8.3	
Indiana	Marion Co.	138,645	973,375	14.2%	Urban	906	6.5	
Indiana	Marshall Co.	2,511	46,394	5.4%	Rural	47	18.7	
Indiana	Martin Co.	831	9,808	8.5%	Rural	10	12.0	
Indiana	Miami Co.	3,866	35,562	10.9%	Rural	37	9.6	
Indiana	Monroe Co.	7,650	141,181	5.4%	Urban	80	10.5	
Indiana	Montgomery Co.	2,914	38,345	7.6%	Rural	43	14.8	
Indiana	Morgan Co.	4,756	72,239	6.6%	Urban	49	10.3	
Indiana	Newton Co.	1,206	13,841	8.7%	Urban	17	14.1	
Indiana	Noble Co.	2,145	47,281	4.5%	Rural	42	19.6	
Indiana	Ohio Co.	314	6,089	5.2%	Urban	5	15.9	
Indiana	Orange Co.	1,696	19,633	8.6%	Rural	19	11.2	
Indiana	Owen Co.	2,008	21,552	9.3%	Urban	19	9.5	
Indiana	Parke Co.	1,577	16,365	9.6%	Rural	15	9.5	
Indiana	Perry Co.	1,508	19,241	7.8%	Rural	14	9.3	
Indiana	Pike Co.	968	12,139	8%	Rural	13	13.4	
Indiana	Porter Co.	9,001	175,014	5.1%	Urban	108	12.0	
Indiana	Posey Co.	1,759	25,111	7%	Urban	20	11.4	
Indiana	Pulaski Co.	993	12,461	8%	Rural	18	18.1	
Indiana	Putnam Co.	2,462	37,300	6.6%	Rural	30	12.2	
Indiana	Randolph Co.	2,526	24,407	10.3%	Rural	27	10.7	
Indiana	Ripley Co.	1,793	29,042	6.2%	Rural	27	15.1	
Indiana	Rush Co.	1,385	16,661	8.3%	Rural	17	12.3	
Indiana	St. Joseph Co.	27,958	272,796	10.2%	Urban	231	8.3	
Indiana	Scott Co.	2,651	24,455	10.8%	Rural	27	10.2	
Indiana	Shelby Co.	3,158	45,213	7%	Urban	37	11.7	
Indiana	Spencer Co.	1,222	19,890	6.1%	Rural	17	13.9	
Indiana	Starke Co.	2,599	23,251	11.2%	Rural	23	8.8	
Indiana	Steuben Co.	1,779	34,731	5.1%	Rural	30	16.9	
Indiana	Sullivan Co.	1,914	20,702	9.2%	Urban	25	13.1	
Indiana	Switzerland Co.	1,022	9,985	10.2%	Rural	11	10.8	
Indiana	Tippecanoe Co.	13,580	189,402	7.2%	Urban	128	9.4	
Indiana	Tipton Co.	800	15,329	5.2%	Urban	15	18.8	
Indiana	Union Co.	605	6,975	8.7%	Rural	6	9.9	
Indiana	Vanderburgh Co.	18,447	179,725	10.3%	Urban	178	9.6	
Indiana	Vermillion Co.	1,653	15,397	10.7%	Urban	18	10.9	
Indiana	Vigo Co.	13,765	106,066	13%	Urban	113	8.2	
Indiana	Wabash Co.	2,039	30,869	6.6%	Rural	31	15.2	
Indiana	Warren Co.	445	8,492	5.2%	Urban	4	9.0	
Indiana	Warrick Co.	2,291	65,297	3.5%	Urban	41	17.9	
Indiana	Washington Co.	2,093	28,158	7.4%	Urban	25	11.9	
Indiana	Wayne Co.	8,636	66,337	13%	Rural	64	7.4	
Indiana	Wells Co.	1,454	28,339	5.1%	Urban	15	10.3	
Indiana	White Co.	1,677	24,654	6.8%	Rural	37	22.1	

Table 1—Continued
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State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Indiana	Whitley Co.	1,157	34,600	3.3%	Urban	21	18.2	
Iowa	Adair Co.	466	7,457	6.2%	Rural	9	19.3	
Iowa	Adams Co.	301	3,602	8.4%	Rural	4	13.3	
Iowa	Allamakee Co.	945	14,072	6.7%	Rural	17	18.0	
Iowa	Appanoose Co.	1,377	12,135	11.3%	Rural	17	12.3	
Iowa	Audubon Co.	417	5,573	7.5%	Rural	6	14.4	
Iowa	Benton Co.	1,550	25,756	6%	Urban	26	16.8	
Iowa	Black Hawk Co.	14,372	130,081	11%	Urban	151	10.5	
Iowa	Boone Co.	1,493	26,570	5.6%	Urban	20	13.4	
Iowa	Bremer Co.	983	25,260	3.9%	Urban	24	24.4	
Iowa	Buchanan Co.	1,188	20,700	5.7%	Rural	20	16.8	
Iowa	Buena Vista Co.	1,600	20,651	7.7%	Rural	27	16.9	
Iowa	Butler Co.	822	14,275	5.8%	Rural	18	21.9	
Iowa	Calhoun Co.	684	9,725	7%	Rural	17	24.9	
Iowa	Carroll Co.	1,266	20,565	6.2%	Rural	21	16.6	
Iowa	Cass Co.	1,280	13,125	9.8%	Rural	15	11.7	
Iowa	Cedar Co.	775	18,331	4.2%	Rural	19	24.5	
Iowa	Cerro Gordo Co.	3,788	42,408	8.9%	Rural	48	12.7	
Iowa	Cherokee Co.	640	11,492	5.6%	Rural	9	14.1	
Iowa	Chickasaw Co.	522	11,755	4.4%	Rural	13	24.9	
Iowa	Clarke Co.	838	9,676	8.7%	Rural	14	16.7	
Iowa	Clay Co.	1,220	16,506	7.4%	Rural	16	13.1	
Iowa	Clayton Co.	890	17,058	5.2%	Rural	22	24.7	
Iowa	Clinton Co.	5,556	46,268	12%	Rural	46	8.3	
Iowa	Crawford Co.	1,184	16,135	7.3%	Rural	14	11.8	
Iowa	Dallas Co.	2,899	108,164	2.7%	Urban	64	22.1	
Iowa	Davis Co.	491	9,158	5.4%	Rural	8	16.3	
Iowa	Decatur Co.	771	7,822	9.9%	Rural	9	11.7	
Iowa	Delaware Co.	821	17,590	4.7%	Rural	13	15.8	
Iowa	Des Moines Co.	5,518	38,258	14.4%	Rural	43	7.8	
Iowa	Dickinson Co.	917	18,052	5.1%	Rural	20	21.8	
Iowa	Dubuque Co.	7,531	98,748	7.6%	Urban	85	11.3	
Iowa	Emmet Co.	702	9,197	7.6%	Rural	11	15.7	
Iowa	Fayette Co.	1,966	19,292	10.2%	Rural	17	8.6	
Iowa	Floyd Co.	1,461	15,316	9.5%	Rural	16	11.0	
Iowa	Franklin Co.	729	9,918	7.4%	Rural	13	17.8	
Iowa	Fremont Co.	653	6,465	10.1%	Rural	8	12.3	
Iowa	Greene Co.	854	8,707	9.8%	Rural	11	12.9	
Iowa	Grundy Co.	512	12,379	4.1%	Urban	12	23.4	
Iowa	Guthrie Co.	742	10,687	6.9%	Urban	15	20.2	
Iowa	Hamilton Co.	864	14,848	5.8%	Rural	21	24.3	
Iowa	Hancock Co.	574	10,664	5.4%	Rural	10	17.4	
Iowa	Hardin Co.	1,365	16,677	8.2%	Rural	24	17.6	
Iowa	Harrison Co.	1,089	14,635	7.4%	Urban	15	13.8	
Iowa	Henry Co.	1,906	20,253	9.4%	Rural	19	10.0	
Iowa	Howard Co.	511	9,502	5.4%	Rural	13	25.4	
Iowa	Humboldt Co.	600	9,545	6.3%	Rural	10	16.7	
Iowa	Ida Co.	495	6,900	7.2%	Rural	13	26.3	
Iowa	Iowa Co.	721	16,491	4.4%	Rural	16	22.2	
Iowa	Jackson Co.	1,530	19,350	7.9%	Rural	21	13.7	
Iowa	Jasper Co.	2,906	37,966	7.7%	Urban	34	11.7	
Iowa	Jefferson Co.	1,533	15,632	9.8%	Rural	16	10.4	
Iowa	Johnson Co.	9,366	156,815	6%	Urban	107	11.4	
Iowa	Jones Co.	1,274	20,960	6.1%	Urban	19	14.9	
Iowa	Keokuk Co.	930	9,895	9.4%	Rural	10	10.8	
Iowa	Kossuth Co.	875	14,462	6.1%	Rural	16	18.3	
Iowa	Lee Co.	4,345	32,793	13.2%	Rural	34	7.8	
Iowa	Linn Co.	20,355	228,947	8.9%	Urban	187	9.2	
Iowa	Louisa Co.	730	10,657	6.8%	Rural	16	21.9	
Iowa	Lucas Co.	821	8,720	9.4%	Rural	9	11.0	
Iowa	Lyon Co.	453	12,185	3.7%	Rural	10	22.1	
Iowa	Madison Co.	666	17,050	3.9%	Urban	14	21.0	
Iowa	Mahaska Co.	1,939	21,959	8.8%	Rural	20	10.3	
Iowa	Marion Co.	1,772	33,582	5.3%	Rural	32	18.1	
Iowa	Marshall Co.	3,775	39,940	9.5%	Rural	47	12.5	
Iowa	Mills Co.	923	14,572	6.3%	Urban	11	11.9	
Iowa	Mitchell Co.	487	10,557	4.6%	Rural	12	24.6	
Iowa	Monona Co.	790	8,515	9.3%	Rural	11	13.9	
Iowa	Monroe Co.	596	7,524	7.9%	Rural	9	15.1	
Iowa	Montgomery Co.	1,151	10,210	11.3%	Rural	11	9.6	
Iowa	Muscataine Co.	4,405	42,501	10.4%	Rural	42	9.5	
Iowa	O'Brien Co.	694	14,107	4.9%	Rural	19	27.4	
Iowa	Osceola Co.	355	6,073	5.8%	Rural	7	19.7	
Iowa	Page Co.	1,338	15,169	8.8%	Rural	15	11.2	
Iowa	Palo Alto Co.	513	8,772	5.8%	Rural	9	17.5	
Iowa	Plymouth Co.	1,049	25,714	4.1%	Rural	20	19.1	
Iowa	Pocahontas Co.	542	7,090	7.6%	Rural	8	14.8	
Iowa	Polk Co.	50,523	501,261	10.1%	Urban	449	8.9	

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Iowa	Pottawattamie Co.	10,860	93,180	11.7%	Urban	77	7.1	
Iowa	Poweshiek Co.	999	18,521	5.4%	Rural	24	24.0	
Iowa	Ringgold Co.	427	4,692	9.1%	Rural	5	11.7	
Iowa	Sac Co.	520	9,680	5.4%	Rural	12	23.1	
Iowa	Scott Co.	20,481	173,985	11.8%	Urban	172	8.4	
Iowa	Shelby Co.	811	11,745	6.9%	Rural	12	14.8	
Iowa	Sioux Co.	974	36,231	2.7%	Rural	28	28.7	
Iowa	Story Co.	3,847	99,995	3.8%	Urban	66	17.2	
Iowa	Tama Co.	1,211	16,910	7.2%	Rural	23	19.0	
Iowa	Taylor Co.	538	5,870	9.2%	Rural	7	13.0	
Iowa	Union Co.	1,301	11,922	10.9%	Rural	12	9.2	
Iowa	Van Buren Co.	615	7,250	8.5%	Rural	10	16.3	
Iowa	Wapello Co.	4,713	35,080	13.4%	Rural	41	8.7	
Iowa	Warren Co.	2,022	54,325	3.7%	Urban	44	21.8	
Iowa	Washington Co.	1,398	22,541	6.2%	Urban	26	18.6	
Iowa	Wayne Co.	522	6,472	8.1%	Rural	7	13.4	
Iowa	Webster Co.	4,316	36,703	11.8%	Rural	36	8.3	
Iowa	Winnebago Co.	648	10,651	6.1%	Rural	12	18.5	
Iowa	Winneshiek Co.	697	19,915	3.5%	Rural	16	23.0	
Iowa	Woodbury Co.	11,932	105,674	11.3%	Urban	98	8.2	
Iowa	Worth Co.	493	7,316	6.7%	Rural	6	12.2	
Iowa	Wright Co.	929	12,740	7.3%	Rural	20	21.5	
Kansas	Allen Co.	1,402	12,479	11.2%	Rural	18	12.8	
Kansas	Anderson Co.	460	7,787	5.9%	Rural	8	17.4	
Kansas	Atchison Co.	1,334	16,091	8.3%	Rural	9	6.7	
Kansas	Barber Co.	193	4,125	4.7%	Rural	7	36.3	
Kansas	Barton Co.	2,147	25,055	8.6%	Rural	25	11.6	
Kansas	Bourbon Co.	1,838	14,454	12.7%	Rural	17	9.2	
Kansas	Brown Co.	799	9,371	8.5%	Rural	11	13.8	
Kansas	Butler Co.	3,817	68,264	5.6%	Urban	45	11.8	
Kansas	Chase Co.	128	2,559	5%	Rural	2	15.6	
Kansas	Chautauqua Co.	368	3,387	10.9%	Rural	3	8.2	
Kansas	Cherokee Co.	2,053	19,043	10.8%	Urban	20	9.7	
Kansas	Cheyenne Co.	97	2,613	3.7%	Rural	3	30.9	
Kansas	Clark Co.	88	1,947	4.5%	Rural	2	22.7	
Kansas	Clay Co.	372	8,048	4.6%	Rural	9	24.2	
Kansas	Cloud Co.	639	8,937	7.2%	Rural	11	17.2	
Kansas	Coffey Co.	598	8,261	7.2%	Rural	9	15.1	
Kansas	Comanche Co.	63	1,695	3.7%	Rural	4	63.5	
Kansas	Cowley Co.	3,972	34,457	11.5%	Rural	30	7.6	
Kansas	Crawford Co.	4,028	39,180	10.3%	Rural	40	9.9	
Kansas	Decatur Co.	156	2,681	5.8%	Rural	3	19.2	
Kansas	Dickinson Co.	1,066	18,344	5.8%	Rural	22	20.6	
Kansas	Doniphan Co.	431	7,488	5.8%	Urban	7	16.2	
Kansas	Douglas Co.	4,640	120,053	3.9%	Urban	64	13.8	
Kansas	Edwards Co.	207	2,747	7.5%	Rural	3	14.5	
Kansas	Elk Co.	214	2,448	8.7%	Rural	3	14.0	
Kansas	Ellis Co.	1,111	28,868	3.8%	Rural	20	18.0	
Kansas	Ellsworth Co.	280	6,398	4.4%	Rural	5	17.9	
Kansas	Finney Co.	2,550	37,665	6.8%	Rural	39	15.3	
Kansas	Ford Co.	1,885	33,842	5.6%	Rural	24	12.7	
Kansas	Franklin Co.	1,656	25,994	6.4%	Rural	25	15.1	
Kansas	Geary Co.	2,639	35,525	7.4%	Urban	20	7.6	
Kansas	Gove Co.	68	2,741	2.5%	Rural	4	58.8	
Kansas	Graham Co.	118	2,395	4.9%	Rural	3	25.4	
Kansas	Grant Co.	419	7,230	5.8%	Rural	7	16.7	
Kansas	Gray Co.	123	5,707	2.2%	Rural	5	40.7	
Kansas	Greeley Co.	45	1,230	3.7%	Rural	1	22.2	
Kansas	Greenwood Co.	570	5,917	9.6%	Rural	11	19.3	
Kansas	Hamilton Co.	111	2,445	4.5%	Rural	4	36.0	
Kansas	Harper Co.	407	5,374	7.6%	Rural	9	22.1	
Kansas	Harvey Co.	2,132	33,710	6.3%	Urban	25	11.7	
Kansas	Haskell Co.	149	3,573	4.2%	Rural	5	33.6	
Kansas	Hodgeman Co.	68	1,707	4%	Rural	4	58.8	
Kansas	Jackson Co.	607	13,285	4.6%	Urban	9	14.8	
Kansas	Jefferson Co.	664	18,344	3.6%	Urban	17	25.6	
Kansas	Jewell Co.	157	2,906	5.4%	Rural	2	12.7	
Kansas	Johnson Co.	11,650	619,311	1.9%	Urban	273	23.4	
Kansas	Kearny Co.	131	3,854	3.4%	Rural	9	68.7	
Kansas	Kingman Co.	379	7,184	5.3%	Rural	5	13.2	
Kansas	Kiowa Co.	125	2,410	5.2%	Rural	3	24.0	
Kansas	Labette Co.	2,269	19,750	11.5%	Rural	23	10.1	
Kansas	Lane Co.	71	1,552	4.6%	Rural	3	42.3	
Kansas	Leavenworth Co.	3,617	82,852	4.4%	Urban	40	11.1	
Kansas	Lincoln Co.	144	2,909	5%	Rural	2	13.9	
Kansas	Linn Co.	814	9,771	8.3%	Urban	10	12.3	
Kansas	Logan Co.	119	2,706	4.4%	Rural	2	16.8	

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Kansas	Lyon Co.	2,132	31,994	6.7%	Rural	29	13.6	
Kansas	McPherson Co.	1,153	30,106	3.8%	Rural	28	24.3	
Kansas	Marion Co.	528	11,800	4.5%	Rural	10	18.9	
Kansas	Marshall Co.	458	10,007	4.6%	Rural	10	21.8	
Kansas	Meade Co.	199	3,905	5.1%	Rural	8	40.2	
Kansas	Miami Co.	1,503	34,759	4.3%	Urban	22	14.6	
Kansas	Mitchell Co.	268	5,774	4.6%	Rural	7	26.1	
Kansas	Montgomery Co.	3,696	30,905	12%	Rural	34	9.2	
Kansas	Morris Co.	291	5,376	5.4%	Rural	3	10.3	
Kansas	Morton Co.	128	2,600	4.9%	Rural	3	23.4	
Kansas	Nemaha Co.	350	10,151	3.4%	Rural	8	22.9	
Kansas	Neosho Co.	1,573	15,583	10.1%	Rural	17	10.8	
Kansas	Ness Co.	81	2,671	3%	Rural	5	61.7	
Kansas	Norton Co.	271	5,322	5.1%	Rural	6	22.1	
Kansas	Osage Co.	1,008	15,690	6.4%	Urban	17	16.9	
Kansas	Osborne Co.	213	3,488	6.1%	Rural	5	23.5	
Kansas	Ottawa Co.	239	5,833	4.1%	Rural	3	12.6	
Kansas	Pawnee Co.	410	6,153	6.7%	Rural	4	9.8	
Kansas	Phillips Co.	198	4,792	4.1%	Rural	6	30.3	
Kansas	Pottawatomie Co.	834	26,331	3.2%	Urban	12	14.4	
Kansas	Pratt Co.	361	9,080	4%	Rural	8	22.2	
Kansas	Rawlins Co.	100	2,531	4%	Rural	4	40.0	
Kansas	Reno Co.	4,790	61,514	7.8%	Rural	43	9.0	
Kansas	Republic Co.	176	4,638	3.8%	Rural	5	28.4	
Kansas	Rice Co.	649	9,387	6.9%	Rural	9	13.9	
Kansas	Riley Co.	2,751	71,618	3.8%	Urban	32	11.6	
Kansas	Rooks Co.	207	4,798	4.3%	Rural	6	29.0	
Kansas	Rush Co.	182	2,949	6.2%	Rural	4	22.0	
Kansas	Russell Co.	487	6,726	7.2%	Rural	5	10.3	
Kansas	Saline Co.	4,163	53,461	7.8%	Rural	47	11.3	
Kansas	Scott Co.	160	5,010	3.2%	Rural	5	31.3	
Kansas	Sedgwick Co.	51,093	525,488	9.7%	Urban	367	7.2	
Kansas	Seward Co.	1,294	21,326	6.1%	Rural	24	18.5	
Kansas	Shawnee Co.	16,877	177,454	9.5%	Urban	126	7.5	
Kansas	Sheridan Co.	100	2,428	4.1%	Rural	2	20.0	
Kansas	Sherman Co.	381	5,857	6.5%	Rural	5	13.1	
Kansas	Smith Co.	160	3,553	4.5%	Rural	6	37.5	
Kansas	Stafford Co.	252	3,979	6.3%	Rural	4	15.9	
Kansas	Stanton Co.	51	1,977	2.6%	Rural	2	39.2	
Kansas	Stevens Co.	191	5,151	3.7%	Rural	6	31.4	
Kansas	Sumner Co.	1,791	22,384	8%	Urban	20	11.2	
Kansas	Thomas Co.	229	7,882	2.9%	Rural	9	39.3	
Kansas	Trego Co.	85	2,757	3.1%	Rural	6	70.6	
Kansas	Wabaunsee Co.	254	7,002	3.6%	Urban	5	19.7	
Kansas	Wallace Co.	73	1,491	4.9%	Rural	2	27.4	
Kansas	Washington Co.	183	5,495	3.3%	Rural	7	38.3	
Kansas	Wichita Co.	86	2,061	4.2%	Rural	3	34.9	
Kansas	Wilson Co.	846	8,577	9.9%	Rural	11	13.0	
Kansas	Woodson Co.	208	3,122	6.7%	Rural	6	28.8	
Kansas	Wyandotte Co.	18,267	165,719	11%	Urban	139	7.6	
Kentucky	Adair Co.	3,405	19,089	17.8%	Rural	25	7.3	
Kentucky	Allen Co.	2,567	21,246	12.1%	Urban	17	6.6	
Kentucky	Anderson Co.	1,582	24,279	6.5%	Rural	18	11.4	
Kentucky	Ballard Co.	791	7,633	10.4%	Urban	12	15.2	
Kentucky	Barren Co.	6,325	44,851	14.1%	Rural	60	9.5	
Kentucky	Bath Co.	2,332	12,818	18.2%	Rural	15	6.4	
Kentucky	Bell Co.	7,559	23,514	32.1%	Rural	36	4.8	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Boone Co.	6,454	139,377	4.6%	Urban	91	14.1	
Kentucky	Bourbon Co.	2,743	20,144	13.6%	Urban	22	8.0	
Kentucky	Boyd Co.	6,871	48,048	14.3%	Urban	52	7.6	
Kentucky	Boyle Co.	3,293	30,854	10.7%	Rural	34	10.3	
Kentucky	Bracken Co.	1,096	8,436	13%	Urban	8	7.3	
Kentucky	Breathitt Co.	3,927	13,353	29.4%	Rural	21	5.3	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Breckinridge Co.	2,730	20,942	13%	Rural	27	9.9	
Kentucky	Bullitt Co.	5,643	83,901	6.7%	Urban	63	11.2	
Kentucky	Butler Co.	1,885	12,371	15.2%	Urban	14	7.4	
Kentucky	Caldwell Co.	1,633	12,601	13%	Rural	15	9.2	
Kentucky	Calloway Co.	3,026	38,119	7.9%	Rural	28	9.3	
Kentucky	Campbell Co.	5,543	93,305	5.9%	Urban	66	11.9	
Kentucky	Carlisle Co.	582	4,723	12.3%	Urban	6	10.3	
Kentucky	Carroll Co.	1,559	10,935	14.3%	Rural	19	12.2	
Kentucky	Carter Co.	4,661	26,300	17.7%	Urban	43	9.2	
Kentucky	Casey Co.	2,833	15,893	17.8%	Rural	26	9.2	
Kentucky	Christian Co.	9,038	72,213	12.5%	Urban	70	7.7	
Kentucky	Clark Co.	4,495	37,012	12.1%	Urban	33	7.3	
Kentucky	Clay Co.	6,229	19,884	31.3%	Rural	33	5.3	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Clinton Co.	2,338	9,140	25.6%	Rural	12	5.1	Higher-risk

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Kentucky	Crittenden Co.	896	8,971	10%	Rural	9	10.0	
Kentucky	Cumberland Co.	1,431	5,950	24.1%	Rural	14	9.8	
Kentucky	Daviess Co.	10,413	103,373	10.1%	Urban	94	9.0	
Kentucky	Edmonson Co.	1,439	12,300	11.7%	Urban	11	7.6	
Kentucky	Elliott Co.	1,438	7,301	19.7%	Rural	8	5.6	
Kentucky	Estill Co.	2,857	13,994	20.4%	Rural	17	6.0	
Kentucky	Fayette Co.	27,416	321,505	8.5%	Urban	253	9.2	
Kentucky	Fleming Co.	2,169	15,257	14.2%	Rural	22	10.1	
Kentucky	Floyd Co.	9,101	35,519	25.6%	Rural	63	6.9	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Franklin Co.	5,017	51,617	9.7%	Rural	51	10.2	
Kentucky	Fulton Co.	1,331	6,389	20.8%	Rural	10	7.5	
Kentucky	Gallatin Co.	738	8,786	8.4%	Urban	9	12.2	
Kentucky	Garrard Co.	2,026	17,580	11.5%	Rural	15	7.4	
Kentucky	Grant Co.	2,972	25,466	11.7%	Urban	28	9.4	
Kentucky	Graves Co.	4,557	36,532	12.5%	Rural	46	10.1	
Kentucky	Grayson Co.	3,773	26,623	14.2%	Rural	36	9.5	
Kentucky	Green Co.	1,610	11,379	14.1%	Rural	13	8.1	
Kentucky	Greenup Co.	4,155	35,384	11.7%	Urban	41	9.9	
Kentucky	Hancock Co.	865	9,043	9.6%	Rural	6	6.9	
Kentucky	Hardin Co.	9,780	111,776	8.7%	Urban	102	10.4	
Kentucky	Harlan Co.	8,031	25,610	31.4%	Rural	42	5.2	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Harrison Co.	2,191	19,085	11.5%	Rural	24	11.0	
Kentucky	Hart Co.	2,867	19,592	14.6%	Rural	29	10.1	
Kentucky	Henderson Co.	5,122	44,017	11.6%	Rural	45	8.8	
Kentucky	Henry Co.	1,453	15,730	9.2%	Urban	22	15.1	
Kentucky	Hickman Co.	652	4,422	14.7%	Rural	6	9.2	
Kentucky	Hopkins Co.	6,257	44,879	13.9%	Rural	52	8.3	
Kentucky	Jackson Co.	3,431	12,989	26.4%	Rural	19	5.5	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Jefferson Co.	84,878	777,329	10.9%	Urban	635	7.5	
Kentucky	Jessamine Co.	5,376	54,333	9.9%	Urban	43	8.0	
Kentucky	Johnson Co.	4,793	22,234	21.6%	Rural	34	7.1	
Kentucky	Kenton Co.	12,980	170,413	7.6%	Urban	120	9.2	
Kentucky	Knott Co.	3,846	13,848	27.8%	Rural	20	5.2	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Knox Co.	9,441	29,734	31.8%	Rural	43	4.6	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Larue Co.	1,740	15,165	11.5%	Urban	17	9.8	
Kentucky	Laurel Co.	11,592	62,891	18.4%	Rural	93	8.0	
Kentucky	Lawrence Co.	3,492	16,037	21.8%	Urban	24	6.9	
Kentucky	Lee Co.	1,888	7,259	26%	Rural	14	7.4	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Leslie Co.	2,603	10,044	25.9%	Rural	13	5.0	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Letcher Co.	5,032	20,792	24.2%	Rural	31	6.2	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Lewis Co.	2,643	12,924	20.5%	Rural	16	6.1	
Kentucky	Lincoln Co.	3,824	24,392	15.7%	Rural	38	9.9	
Kentucky	Livingston Co.	950	8,960	10.6%	Urban	16	16.8	
Kentucky	Logan Co.	3,359	27,855	12.1%	Rural	31	9.2	
Kentucky	Lyon Co.	506	9,119	5.5%	Rural	7	13.8	
Kentucky	McCracken Co.	7,877	67,333	11.7%	Urban	71	9.0	
Kentucky	McCreary Co.	4,481	16,788	26.7%	Rural	27	6.0	Higher-risk
Kentucky	McLean Co.	891	9,112	9.8%	Urban	12	13.5	
Kentucky	Madison Co.	9,764	95,219	10.3%	Rural	89	9.1	
Kentucky	Magoffin Co.	3,459	11,325	30.5%	Rural	17	4.9	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Marion Co.	2,693	19,731	13.6%	Rural	22	8.2	
Kentucky	Marshall Co.	2,800	31,766	8.8%	Rural	34	12.1	
Kentucky	Martin Co.	2,650	11,095	23.9%	Rural	28	10.6	
Kentucky	Mason Co.	2,870	16,880	17%	Rural	23	8.0	
Kentucky	Meade Co.	2,453	30,028	8.2%	Urban	24	9.8	
Kentucky	Menifee Co.	1,362	6,215	21.9%	Rural	13	9.5	
Kentucky	Mercer Co.	2,182	22,927	9.5%	Rural	20	9.2	
Kentucky	Metcalfe Co.	1,996	10,401	19.2%	Rural	11	5.5	
Kentucky	Monroe Co.	1,903	11,328	16.8%	Rural	14	7.4	
Kentucky	Montgomery Co.	4,022	28,348	14.2%	Rural	44	10.9	
Kentucky	Morgan Co.	2,336	14,156	16.5%	Rural	23	9.8	
Kentucky	Muhlenberg Co.	4,410	30,684	14.4%	Rural	35	7.9	
Kentucky	Nelson Co.	3,600	47,429	7.6%	Urban	46	12.8	
Kentucky	Nicholas Co.	1,154	7,776	14.8%	Rural	11	9.5	
Kentucky	Ohio Co.	3,151	23,549	13.4%	Rural	29	9.2	
Kentucky	Oldham Co.	1,428	69,506	2.1%	Urban	26	18.2	
Kentucky	Owen Co.	1,287	11,292	11.4%	Rural	15	11.7	
Kentucky	Owsley Co.	1,555	3,941	39.5%	Rural	10	6.4	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Pendleton Co.	1,579	14,688	10.8%	Urban	14	8.9	
Kentucky	Perry Co.	7,028	27,378	25.7%	Rural	43	6.1	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Pike Co.	11,736	56,328	20.8%	Rural	82	7.0	
Kentucky	Powell Co.	2,618	13,067	20%	Rural	20	7.6	
Kentucky	Pulaski Co.	10,820	65,776	16.4%	Rural	94	8.7	
Kentucky	Robertson Co.	342	2,254	15.2%	Rural	2	5.8	
Kentucky	Rockcastle Co.	3,391	16,213	20.9%	Rural	23	6.8	
Kentucky	Rowan Co.	3,677	24,428	15.1%	Rural	38	10.3	
Kentucky	Russell Co.	3,334	18,177	18.3%	Rural	30	9.0	
Kentucky	Scott Co.	4,150	59,413	7%	Urban	33	8.0	

Table 1—Continued
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State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Kentucky	Shelby Co.	2,763	48,884	5.7%	Urban	36	13.0	
Kentucky	Simpson Co.	2,047	19,926	10.3%	Rural	21	10.3	
Kentucky	Spencer Co.	973	20,204	4.8%	Urban	12	12.3	
Kentucky	Taylor Co.	3,958	26,421	15%	Rural	36	9.1	
Kentucky	Todd Co.	1,421	12,431	11.4%	Rural	12	8.4	
Kentucky	Trigg Co.	1,272	14,338	8.9%	Urban	18	14.2	
Kentucky	Trimble Co.	682	8,525	8%	Rural	8	11.7	
Kentucky	Union Co.	1,559	13,107	11.9%	Rural	20	12.8	
Kentucky	Warren Co.	15,792	140,503	11.2%	Urban	132	8.4	
Kentucky	Washington Co.	2,100	12,062	17.4%	Rural	14	6.7	
Kentucky	Wayne Co.	4,800	19,663	24.4%	Rural	27	5.6	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Webster Co.	1,518	12,724	11.9%	Rural	20	13.2	
Kentucky	Whitley Co.	8,447	36,950	22.9%	Rural	55	6.5	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Wolfe Co.	1,976	6,415	30.8%	Rural	14	7.1	Higher-risk
Kentucky	Woodford Co.	1,728	27,150	6.4%	Urban	22	12.7	
Louisiana	Acadia Parish	14,763	56,812	26%	Urban	73	4.9	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Allen Parish	4,415	22,297	19.8%	Rural	24	5.4	
Louisiana	Ascension Parish	14,200	130,505	10.9%	Urban	110	7.7	
Louisiana	Assumption Parish	4,192	20,482	20.5%	Urban	18	4.3	
Louisiana	Avoynes Parish	11,021	38,733	28.5%	Rural	58	5.3	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Beauregard Parish	5,723	36,587	15.6%	Rural	33	5.8	
Louisiana	Bienville Parish	3,479	12,627	27.6%	Rural	20	5.7	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Bossier Parish	17,633	129,324	13.6%	Urban	101	5.7	
Louisiana	Caddo Parish	55,989	229,109	24.4%	Urban	219	3.9	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Calcasieu Parish	31,316	202,664	15.5%	Urban	232	7.4	
Louisiana	Caldwell Parish	2,268	9,508	23.9%	Rural	11	4.9	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Cameron Parish	570	4,907	11.6%	Urban	10	17.5	
Louisiana	Catahoula Parish	2,449	8,625	28.4%	Rural	11	4.5	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Claiborne Parish	3,619	13,825	26.2%	Rural	16	4.4	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Concordia Parish	5,698	18,138	31.4%	Rural	25	4.4	Higher-risk
Louisiana	DeSoto Parish	5,757	26,883	21.4%	Urban	23	4.0	
Louisiana	East Baton Rouge Parish	84,434	451,122	18.7%	Urban	409	4.8	
Louisiana	East Carroll Parish	2,318	6,966	33.3%	Rural	7	3.0	Higher-risk
Louisiana	East Feliciana Parish	3,005	19,180	15.7%	Urban	15	5.0	
Louisiana	Evangeline Parish	9,270	32,084	28.9%	Rural	46	5.0	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Franklin Parish	5,908	19,341	30.5%	Rural	32	5.4	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Grant Parish	3,980	22,022	18.1%	Urban	17	4.3	
Louisiana	Iberia Parish	18,699	68,344	27.4%	Rural	83	4.4	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Iberville Parish	7,496	29,696	25.2%	Rural	26	3.5	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Jackson Parish	3,042	14,859	20.5%	Rural	15	4.9	
Louisiana	Jefferson Parish	66,812	427,739	15.6%	Urban	335	5.0	
Louisiana	Jefferson Davis Parish	6,137	31,971	19.2%	Urban	30	4.9	
Louisiana	Lafayette Parish	40,937	248,145	16.5%	Urban	251	6.1	
Louisiana	Lafourche Parish	15,417	95,717	16.1%	Urban	59	3.8	
Louisiana	LaSalle Parish	2,408	14,799	16.3%	Rural	16	6.6	
Louisiana	Lincoln Parish	7,822	48,056	16.3%	Rural	46	5.9	
Louisiana	Livingston Parish	20,068	148,131	13.5%	Urban	125	6.2	
Louisiana	Madison Parish	3,612	9,492	38.1%	Rural	12	3.3	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Morehouse Parish	7,677	24,435	31.4%	Urban	30	3.9	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Natchitoches Parish	8,793	36,711	24%	Rural	33	3.8	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Orleans Parish	82,225	370,473	22.2%	Urban	274	3.3	
Louisiana	Ouachita Parish	37,296	157,812	23.6%	Urban	168	4.5	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Plaquemines Parish	2,924	22,603	12.9%	Urban	19	6.5	
Louisiana	Pointe Coupee Parish	4,178	20,221	20.7%	Urban	24	5.7	
Louisiana	Rapides Parish	28,060	126,977	22.1%	Urban	124	4.4	
Louisiana	Red River Parish	2,335	7,487	31.2%	Rural	8	3.4	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Richland Parish	5,254	19,828	26.5%	Urban	28	5.3	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Sabine Parish	5,098	21,984	23.2%	Rural	21	4.1	Higher-risk
Louisiana	St. Bernard Parish	9,934	44,474	22.3%	Urban	57	5.7	
Louisiana	St. Charles Parish	6,116	51,038	12%	Urban	46	7.5	
Louisiana	St. Helena Parish	3,493	10,814	32.3%	Urban	18	5.2	Higher-risk

Table 1—Continued
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Louisiana	St. James Parish	3,771	19,397	19.4%	Urban	16	4.2	
Louisiana	St. John the Baptist Parish	8,849	39,938	22.2%	Urban	47	5.3	
Louisiana	St. Landry Parish	24,798	81,642	30.4%	Rural	107	4.3	Higher-risk
Louisiana	St. Martin Parish	11,891	51,260	23.2%	Urban	59	5.0	Higher-risk
Louisiana	St. Mary Parish	12,773	47,816	26.7%	Rural	54	4.2	Higher-risk
Louisiana	St. Tammany Parish	26,907	273,494	9.8%	Urban	198	7.4	
Louisiana	Tangipahoa Parish	29,831	136,734	21.8%	Urban	163	5.5	
Louisiana	Tensas Parish	1,241	3,848	32.3%	Rural	10	8.1	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Terrebonne Parish	21,508	104,642	20.6%	Urban	109	5.1	
Louisiana	Union Parish	4,416	20,691	21.3%	Urban	21	4.8	
Louisiana	Vermilion Parish	12,388	56,958	21.7%	Urban	58	4.7	
Louisiana	Vernon Parish	7,009	46,861	15%	Rural	34	4.9	
Louisiana	Washington Parish	12,648	45,002	28.1%	Rural	63	5.0	Higher-risk
Louisiana	Webster Parish	8,367	35,635	23.5%	Rural	53	6.3	Higher-risk
Louisiana	West Baton Rouge Parish	4,541	28,045	16.2%	Urban	31	6.8	
Louisiana	West Carroll Parish	2,429	9,482	25.6%	Rural	17	7.0	Higher-risk
Louisiana	West Feliciana Parish	1,428	15,390	9.3%	Urban	7	4.9	
Louisiana	Winn Parish	2,877	13,305	21.6%	Rural	11	3.8	
Maine	Androscoggin Co.	19,019	113,454	16.8%	Urban	137	7.2	
Maine	Aroostook Co.	12,981	67,250	19.3%	Rural	88	6.8	
Maine	Cumberland Co.	23,730	309,309	7.7%	Urban	251	10.6	
Maine	Franklin Co.	4,382	30,604	14.3%	Rural	40	9.1	
Maine	Hancock Co.	5,128	56,677	9%	Rural	59	11.5	
Maine	Kennebec Co.	17,061	127,143	13.4%	Rural	127	7.4	
Maine	Knox Co.	3,852	41,251	9.3%	Rural	52	13.5	
Maine	Lincoln Co.	3,319	36,263	9.2%	Rural	40	12.1	
Maine	Oxford Co.	10,006	59,539	16.8%	Rural	60	6.0	
Maine	Penobscot Co.	22,312	154,817	14.4%	Urban	167	7.5	
Maine	Piscataquis Co.	3,059	17,383	17.6%	Rural	26	8.5	
Maine	Sagadahoc Co.	2,971	37,402	7.9%	Urban	36	12.1	
Maine	Somerset Co.	10,017	51,027	19.6%	Rural	62	6.2	
Maine	Waldo Co.	5,689	40,212	14.1%	Rural	50	8.8	
Maine	Washington Co.	6,394	31,507	20.3%	Rural	56	8.8	
Maine	York Co.	17,286	217,084	8%	Urban	154	8.9	
Maryland	Allegany Co.	15,523	67,241	23.1%	Rural	60	3.9	Higher-risk
Maryland	Anne Arundel Co.	46,479	598,751	7.8%	Urban	318	6.8	
Maryland	Baltimore Co.	92,340	848,873	10.9%	Urban	521	5.6	
Maryland	Calvert Co.	7,348	94,652	7.8%	Urban	50	6.8	
Maryland	Caroline Co.	6,262	33,539	18.7%	Rural	35	5.6	
Maryland	Carroll Co.	9,482	175,569	5.4%	Urban	90	9.5	
Maryland	Cecil Co.	13,732	104,939	13.1%	Urban	81	5.9	
Maryland	Charles Co.	15,466	170,376	9.1%	Urban	99	6.4	
Maryland	Dorchester Co.	8,078	32,599	24.8%	Rural	40	5.0	Higher-risk
Maryland	Frederick Co.	18,013	288,316	6.2%	Urban	149	8.3	
Maryland	Garrett Co.	4,195	28,619	14.7%	Rural	43	10.3	
Maryland	Harford Co.	23,317	263,908	8.8%	Urban	144	6.2	
Maryland	Howard Co.	19,610	336,439	5.8%	Urban	120	6.1	
Maryland	Kent Co.	3,045	19,360	15.7%	Rural	20	6.6	
Maryland	Montgomery Co.	63,042	1,061,132	5.9%	Urban	393	6.2	
Maryland	Prince George's Co.	107,267	953,609	11.2%	Urban	606	5.6	
Maryland	Queen Anne's Co.	3,087	51,803	6%	Urban	33	10.7	
Maryland	St. Mary's Co.	11,445	115,001	10%	Urban	60	5.2	
Maryland	Somerset Co.	6,133	24,696	24.8%	Urban	26	4.2	Higher-risk
Maryland	Talbot Co.	4,332	37,959	11.4%	Rural	41	9.5	
Maryland	Washington Co.	23,344	155,407	15%	Urban	139	6.0	
Maryland	Wicomico Co.	19,662	104,985	18.7%	Urban	114	5.8	
Maryland	Worcester Co.	6,471	54,004	12%	Rural	59	9.1	
Maryland	Baltimore city	134,790	570,663	23.6%	Urban	643	4.8	Higher-risk
Massachusetts	Barnstable Co.	24,804	232,571	10.7%	Urban	210	8.5	
Massachusetts	Berkshire Co.	25,049	129,551	19.3%	Urban	131	5.2	
Massachusetts	Bristol Co.	123,302	581,201	21.2%	Urban	550	4.5	
Massachusetts	Dukes Co.	1,012	21,033	4.8%	Rural	12	11.9	
Massachusetts	Essex Co.	132,865	810,039	16.4%	Urban	591	4.4	
Massachusetts	Franklin Co.	12,882	71,050	18.1%	Rural	107	8.3	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
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(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Massachusetts	Hampden Co.	151,728	461,440	32.9%	Urban	530	3.5	Higher-risk
Massachusetts	Hampshire Co.	18,104	165,397	10.9%	Urban	154	8.5	
Massachusetts	Middlesex Co.	140,921	1,629,805	8.6%	Urban	976	6.9	
Massachusetts	Nantucket Co.	274	14,464	1.9%	Rural	6	21.9	
Massachusetts	Norfolk Co.	60,572	728,619	8.3%	Urban	412	6.8	
Massachusetts	Plymouth Co.	69,041	534,297	12.9%	Urban	359	5.2	
Massachusetts	Suffolk Co.	182,113	777,266	23.4%	Urban	714	3.9	Higher-risk
Massachusetts	Worcester Co.	129,904	865,735	15%	Urban	706	5.4	
Michigan	Alcona Co.	1,461	10,375	14.1%	Rural	13	8.9	
Michigan	Alger Co.	786	8,767	9%	Rural	12	15.3	
Michigan	Allegan Co.	10,650	121,262	8.8%	Rural	93	8.7	
Michigan	Alpena Co.	4,231	28,813	14.7%	Rural	30	7.1	
Michigan	Antrim Co.	2,145	24,296	8.8%	Rural	23	10.7	
Michigan	Arenac Co.	2,295	15,115	15.2%	Rural	26	11.3	
Michigan	Baraga Co.	1,065	8,194	13%	Rural	10	9.4	
Michigan	Barry Co.	5,386	63,389	8.5%	Urban	45	8.4	
Michigan	Bay Co.	14,991	102,754	14.6%	Urban	126	8.4	
Michigan	Benzie Co.	1,452	18,336	7.9%	Urban	19	13.1	
Michigan	Berrien Co.	21,819	153,064	14.3%	Urban	156	7.1	
Michigan	Branch Co.	5,547	44,612	12.4%	Rural	49	8.8	
Michigan	Calhoun Co.	24,837	133,475	18.6%	Urban	177	7.1	
Michigan	Cass Co.	6,026	51,409	11.7%	Urban	42	7.0	
Michigan	Charlevoix Co.	1,914	26,117	7.3%	Rural	28	14.6	
Michigan	Cheboygan Co.	3,250	25,946	12.5%	Rural	26	8.0	
Michigan	Chippewa Co.	4,601	36,236	12.7%	Rural	40	8.7	
Michigan	Clare Co.	6,847	31,321	21.9%	Rural	56	8.2	
Michigan	Clinton Co.	5,091	79,652	6.4%	Urban	49	9.6	
Michigan	Crawford Co.	2,143	13,431	16%	Rural	22	10.3	
Michigan	Delta Co.	4,383	36,818	11.9%	Rural	36	8.2	
Michigan	Dickinson Co.	2,626	25,977	10.1%	Rural	26	9.9	
Michigan	Eaton Co.	10,399	108,962	9.5%	Urban	104	10.0	
Michigan	Emmet Co.	2,256	34,204	6.6%	Rural	36	16.0	
Michigan	Genesee Co.	83,208	402,031	20.7%	Urban	471	5.7	
Michigan	Gladwin Co.	3,814	25,667	14.9%	Rural	39	10.2	
Michigan	Gogebic Co.	2,512	14,399	17.4%	Rural	22	8.8	
Michigan	Grand Traverse Co.	6,151	96,337	6.4%	Urban	82	13.3	
Michigan	Gratiot Co.	5,366	41,134	13%	Rural	41	7.6	
Michigan	Hillsdale Co.	6,213	45,714	13.6%	Rural	51	8.2	
Michigan	Houghton Co.	3,445	37,792	9.1%	Rural	46	13.4	
Michigan	Huron Co.	3,627	31,150	11.6%	Rural	43	11.9	
Michigan	Ingham Co.	47,773	284,761	16.8%	Urban	244	5.1	
Michigan	Ionia Co.	7,159	66,774	10.7%	Urban	65	9.1	
Michigan	Iosco Co.	4,568	25,460	17.9%	Rural	44	9.6	
Michigan	Iron Co.	1,813	11,686	15.5%	Rural	15	8.3	
Michigan	Isabella Co.	8,100	64,483	12.6%	Rural	56	6.9	
Michigan	Jackson Co.	21,530	159,828	13.5%	Urban	167	7.8	
Michigan	Kalamazoo Co.	33,415	261,417	12.8%	Urban	216	6.5	
Michigan	Kalkaska Co.	2,272	18,230	12.5%	Urban	24	10.6	
Michigan	Kent Co.	73,041	660,134	11.1%	Urban	565	7.7	
Michigan	Keweenaw Co.	150	2,151	7%	Rural	3	20.0	
Michigan	Lake Co.	2,650	12,665	20.9%	Rural	20	7.5	
Michigan	Lapeer Co.	8,047	88,701	9.1%	Urban	80	9.9	
Michigan	Leelanau Co.	765	22,891	3.3%	Urban	16	20.9	
Michigan	Lenawee Co.	11,023	98,284	11.2%	Rural	84	7.6	
Michigan	Livingston Co.	8,203	196,083	4.2%	Urban	92	11.2	
Michigan	Luce Co.	934	6,254	14.9%	Rural	10	10.7	
Michigan	Mackinac Co.	938	10,983	8.5%	Rural	13	13.9	
Michigan	Macomb Co.	112,317	875,735	12.8%	Urban	800	7.1	
Michigan	Manistee Co.	3,333	25,334	13.2%	Rural	27	8.1	
Michigan	Marquette Co.	6,424	67,103	9.6%	Rural	55	8.6	
Michigan	Mason Co.	3,992	29,357	13.6%	Rural	37	9.3	
Michigan	Mecosta Co.	5,428	41,424	13.1%	Rural	54	9.9	
Michigan	Menominee Co.	2,335	23,289	10%	Rural	27	11.6	
Michigan	Midland Co.	8,760	83,761	10.5%	Urban	74	8.4	
Michigan	Missaukee Co.	1,935	15,228	12.7%	Rural	21	10.9	
Michigan	Monroe Co.	15,563	155,412	10%	Urban	117	7.5	
Michigan	Montcalm Co.	9,238	67,317	13.7%	Urban	87	9.4	
Michigan	Montmorency Co.	1,359	9,563	14.2%	Rural	11	8.1	
Michigan	Muskegon Co.	34,046	175,526	19.4%	Urban	187	5.5	
Michigan	Newaygo Co.	8,014	50,771	15.8%	Rural	64	8.0	
Michigan	Oakland Co.	92,899	1,275,098	7.3%	Urban	913	9.8	
Michigan	Oceana Co.	4,377	26,964	16.2%	Rural	39	8.9	
Michigan	Ogemaw Co.	3,775	20,890	18.1%	Rural	35	9.3	
Michigan	Ontonagon Co.	684	5,895	11.6%	Rural	12	17.5	
Michigan	Osceola Co.	3,623	23,257	15.6%	Rural	30	8.3	
Michigan	Oscoda Co.	1,493	8,400	17.8%	Rural	12	8.0	

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State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Michigan	Otsego Co.	3,093	25,583	12.1%	Rural	40	12.9	
Michigan	Ottawa Co.	17,199	300,910	5.7%	Urban	169	9.8	
Michigan	Presque Isle Co.	1,543	13,357	11.6%	Rural	15	9.7	
Michigan	Roscommon Co.	4,200	23,711	17.7%	Rural	38	9.0	
Michigan	Saginaw Co.	39,003	188,425	20.7%	Urban	218	5.6	
Michigan	St. Clair Co.	21,437	159,882	13.4%	Urban	167	7.8	
Michigan	St. Joseph Co.	7,406	60,814	12.2%	Rural	70	9.5	
Michigan	Sanilac Co.	5,649	40,536	13.9%	Rural	59	10.4	
Michigan	Schoolcraft Co.	1,133	8,189	13.8%	Rural	7	6.2	
Michigan	Shiawassee Co.	8,571	67,970	12.6%	Rural	67	7.8	
Michigan	Tuscola Co.	7,518	52,932	14.2%	Rural	59	7.8	
Michigan	Van Buren Co.	11,222	75,690	14.8%	Rural	95	8.5	
Michigan	Washtenaw Co.	27,674	367,947	7.5%	Urban	235	8.5	
Michigan	Wayne Co.	434,357	1,763,011	24.6%	Urban	2,226	5.1	Higher-risk
Michigan	Wexford Co.	5,732	34,062	16.8%	Rural	41	7.2	
Minnesota	Aitkin Co.	1,309	16,142	8.1%	Rural	18	13.8	
Minnesota	Anoka Co.	21,390	369,479	5.8%	Urban	206	9.6	
Minnesota	Becker Co.	3,487	35,387	9.9%	Rural	38	10.9	
Minnesota	Beltrami Co.	7,916	46,440	17%	Rural	42	5.3	
Minnesota	Benton Co.	3,995	41,570	9.6%	Urban	31	7.8	
Minnesota	Big Stone Co.	438	5,145	8.5%	Rural	7	16.0	
Minnesota	Blue Earth Co.	5,474	69,681	7.9%	Urban	51	9.3	
Minnesota	Brown Co.	1,599	25,786	6.2%	Rural	23	14.4	
Minnesota	Carlton Co.	2,629	36,501	7.2%	Urban	34	12.9	
Minnesota	Carver Co.	3,065	110,215	2.8%	Urban	47	15.3	
Minnesota	Cass Co.	4,420	31,287	14.1%	Rural	36	8.1	
Minnesota	Chippewa Co.	1,107	12,335	9%	Rural	9	8.1	
Minnesota	Chisago Co.	2,522	57,918	4.4%	Urban	30	11.9	
Minnesota	Clay Co.	7,855	65,989	11.9%	Urban	37	4.7	
Minnesota	Clearwater Co.	1,067	8,636	12.4%	Rural	11	10.3	
Minnesota	Cook Co.	273	5,732	4.8%	Rural	9	33.0	
Minnesota	Cottonwood Co.	1,150	11,416	10.1%	Rural	15	13.0	
Minnesota	Crow Wing Co.	4,509	67,862	6.6%	Rural	54	12.0	
Minnesota	Dakota Co.	21,186	443,982	4.8%	Urban	241	11.4	
Minnesota	Dodge Co.	1,122	21,027	5.3%	Urban	16	14.3	
Minnesota	Douglas Co.	2,429	39,665	6.1%	Rural	28	11.5	
Minnesota	Faribault Co.	1,502	13,957	10.8%	Rural	12	8.0	
Minnesota	Fillmore Co.	1,264	21,475	5.9%	Urban	18	14.2	
Minnesota	Freeborn Co.	3,674	30,674	12%	Rural	31	8.4	
Minnesota	Goodhue Co.	2,671	48,055	5.6%	Rural	37	13.9	
Minnesota	Grant Co.	430	6,134	7%	Rural	6	14.0	
Minnesota	Hennepin Co.	116,411	1,258,981	9.2%	Urban	629	5.4	
Minnesota	Houston Co.	956	18,715	5.1%	Urban	15	15.7	
Minnesota	Hubbard Co.	2,148	21,925	9.8%	Rural	21	9.8	
Minnesota	Isanti Co.	2,396	42,725	5.6%	Urban	30	12.5	
Minnesota	Itasca Co.	4,584	45,258	10.1%	Rural	41	8.9	
Minnesota	Jackson Co.	729	9,905	7.4%	Rural	11	15.1	
Minnesota	Kanabec Co.	1,536	16,465	9.3%	Rural	13	8.5	
Minnesota	Kandiyohi Co.	4,484	43,904	10.2%	Rural	35	7.8	
Minnesota	Kittson Co.	355	4,058	8.7%	Rural	7	19.7	
Minnesota	Koochiching Co.	1,315	11,846	11.1%	Rural	14	10.6	
Minnesota	Lac qui Parle Co.	470	6,688	7%	Rural	8	17.0	
Minnesota	Lake Co.	697	10,919	6.4%	Rural	10	14.3	
Minnesota	Lake of the Woods Co.	301	3,902	7.7%	Rural	4	13.3	
Minnesota	Le Sueur Co.	1,407	29,205	4.8%	Urban	17	12.1	
Minnesota	Lincoln Co.	297	5,626	5.3%	Rural	6	20.2	
Minnesota	Lyon Co.	2,636	25,513	10.3%	Rural	27	10.2	
Minnesota	McLeod Co.	1,907	36,791	5.2%	Rural	34	17.8	
Minnesota	Mahnomen Co.	1,311	5,354	24.5%	Rural	8	6.1	Higher-risk
Minnesota	Marshall Co.	578	8,890	6.5%	Rural	8	13.8	
Minnesota	Martin Co.	2,068	19,687	10.5%	Rural	19	9.2	
Minnesota	Meeker Co.	1,533	23,526	6.5%	Rural	17	11.1	
Minnesota	Mille Lacs Co.	2,462	27,270	9%	Urban	29	11.8	
Minnesota	Morrison Co.	2,319	34,284	6.8%	Rural	34	14.7	
Minnesota	Mower Co.	4,651	40,174	11.6%	Rural	41	8.8	
Minnesota	Murray Co.	553	8,051	6.9%	Rural	7	12.7	
Minnesota	Nicollet Co.	2,082	34,381	6.1%	Urban	20	9.6	
Minnesota	Nobles Co.	1,827	22,030	8.3%	Rural	27	14.8	
Minnesota	Norman Co.	699	6,354	11%	Rural	8	11.4	
Minnesota	Olmsted Co.	13,626	164,151	8.3%	Urban	93	6.8	
Minnesota	Otter Tail Co.	3,871	60,530	6.4%	Rural	45	11.6	
Minnesota	Pennington Co.	1,073	13,832	7.8%	Rural	9	8.4	
Minnesota	Pine Co.	2,917	29,458	9.9%	Rural	26	8.9	
Minnesota	Pipestone Co.	722	9,320	7.7%	Rural	11	15.2	
Minnesota	Polk Co.	3,814	30,760	12.4%	Urban	17	4.5	
Minnesota	Pope Co.	720	11,429	6.3%	Rural	7	9.7	

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Minnesota	Ramsey Co.	71,933	538,430	13.4%	Urban	342	4.8	
Minnesota	Red Lake Co.	369	3,888	9.5%	Rural	3	8.1	
Minnesota	Redwood Co.	1,155	15,362	7.5%	Rural	14	12.1	
Minnesota	Renville Co.	1,272	14,540	8.7%	Rural	14	11.0	
Minnesota	Rice Co.	4,105	67,696	6.1%	Rural	41	10.0	
Minnesota	Rock Co.	628	9,596	6.5%	Urban	7	11.1	
Minnesota	Roseau Co.	962	15,359	6.3%	Rural	16	16.6	
Minnesota	St. Louis Co.	20,122	199,598	10.1%	Urban	156	7.8	
Minnesota	Scott Co.	6,049	154,606	3.9%	Urban	70	11.6	
Minnesota	Sherburne Co.	5,343	100,617	5.3%	Urban	47	8.8	
Minnesota	Sibley Co.	918	14,964	6.1%	Rural	11	12.0	
Minnesota	Stearns Co.	14,725	160,556	9.2%	Urban	126	8.6	
Minnesota	Steele Co.	3,429	37,470	9.2%	Rural	30	8.7	
Minnesota	Stevens Co.	635	9,692	6.6%	Rural	7	11.0	
Minnesota	Swift Co.	851	9,774	8.7%	Rural	8	9.4	
Minnesota	Todd Co.	1,759	25,568	6.9%	Rural	30	17.1	
Minnesota	Traverse Co.	468	3,261	14.4%	Rural	6	12.8	
Minnesota	Wabasha Co.	1,015	21,654	4.7%	Urban	15	14.8	
Minnesota	Wadena Co.	1,691	14,284	11.8%	Rural	12	7.1	
Minnesota	Waseca Co.	1,684	18,884	8.9%	Rural	15	8.9	
Minnesota	Washington Co.	10,183	276,530	3.7%	Urban	113	11.1	
Minnesota	Watsonwan Co.	681	11,245	6.1%	Rural	16	23.5	
Minnesota	Wilkin Co.	677	6,363	10.6%	Rural	2	3.0	
Minnesota	Winona Co.	3,224	49,585	6.5%	Rural	34	10.5	
Minnesota	Wright Co.	5,073	148,218	3.4%	Urban	77	15.2	
Minnesota	Yellow Medicine Co.	602	9,484	6.3%	Rural	8	13.3	
Mississippi	Adams Co.	4,579	28,558	16%	Rural	36	7.9	
Mississippi	Alcorn Co.	3,818	34,094	11.2%	Rural	35	9.2	
Mississippi	Amite Co.	1,855	12,572	14.8%	Rural	15	8.1	
Mississippi	Attala Co.	2,923	17,529	16.7%	Rural	20	6.8	
Mississippi	Benton Co.	1,388	7,574	18.3%	Urban	10	7.2	
Mississippi	Bolivar Co.	7,411	29,443	25.2%	Rural	47	6.3	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Calhoun Co.	1,540	12,913	11.9%	Rural	15	9.7	
Mississippi	Carroll Co.	1,034	9,747	10.6%	Rural	9	8.7	
Mississippi	Chickasaw Co.	2,454	16,870	14.5%	Rural	23	9.4	
Mississippi	Choctaw Co.	806	8,086	10%	Rural	9	11.2	
Mississippi	Claiborne Co.	2,626	8,599	30.5%	Rural	9	3.4	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Clarke Co.	2,377	15,212	15.6%	Rural	15	6.3	
Mississippi	Clay Co.	3,458	18,334	18.9%	Rural	33	9.5	
Mississippi	Coahoma Co.	7,387	20,404	36.2%	Rural	31	4.2	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Copiah Co.	5,630	27,811	20.2%	Urban	41	7.3	
Mississippi	Covington Co.	3,708	18,126	20.5%	Rural	25	6.7	
Mississippi	DeSoto Co.	13,236	191,585	6.9%	Urban	165	12.5	
Mississippi	Forrest Co.	10,048	78,284	12.8%	Urban	98	9.8	
Mississippi	Franklin Co.	950	7,619	12.5%	Rural	9	9.5	
Mississippi	George Co.	2,889	25,219	11.5%	Rural	21	7.3	
Mississippi	Greene Co.	1,180	13,583	8.7%	Rural	13	11.0	
Mississippi	Grenada Co.	3,075	21,152	14.5%	Rural	28	9.1	
Mississippi	Hancock Co.	4,805	46,047	10.4%	Urban	39	8.1	
Mississippi	Harrison Co.	31,009	210,972	14.7%	Urban	203	6.5	
Mississippi	Hinds Co.	40,024	217,383	18.4%	Urban	238	5.9	
Mississippi	Holmes Co.	4,828	16,147	29.9%	Urban	31	6.4	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Humphreys Co.	2,819	7,342	38.4%	Rural	14	5.0	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Issaquena Co.	214	1,284	16.7%	Rural	1	4.7	
Mississippi	Itawamba Co.	1,769	24,034	7.4%	Rural	24	13.6	
Mississippi	Jackson Co.	14,353	145,218	9.9%	Urban	133	9.3	
Mississippi	Jasper Co.	2,530	16,020	15.8%	Rural	20	7.9	
Mississippi	Jefferson Co.	1,704	7,086	24%	Rural	8	4.7	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Jefferson Davis Co.	1,660	11,086	15%	Rural	11	6.6	
Mississippi	Jones Co.	7,304	66,464	11%	Rural	93	12.7	
Mississippi	Kemper Co.	1,550	8,692	17.8%	Rural	10	6.5	
Mississippi	Lafayette Co.	3,495	58,776	5.9%	Rural	26	7.4	
Mississippi	Lamar Co.	4,114	65,811	6.3%	Urban	39	9.5	
Mississippi	Lauderdale Co.	12,242	71,323	17.2%	Rural	93	7.6	
Mississippi	Lawrence Co.	1,828	11,766	15.5%	Rural	17	9.3	
Mississippi	Leake Co.	2,728	21,279	12.8%	Rural	21	7.7	
Mississippi	Lee Co.	8,071	82,946	9.7%	Rural	96	11.9	
Mississippi	Leflore Co.	7,665	26,938	28.5%	Rural	45	5.9	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Lincoln Co.	4,564	34,807	13.1%	Rural	39	8.5	
Mississippi	Lowndes Co.	9,680	57,694	16.8%	Rural	74	7.6	
Mississippi	Madison Co.	7,875	111,694	7.1%	Urban	83	10.5	
Mississippi	Marion Co.	3,091	24,142	12.8%	Rural	29	9.4	
Mississippi	Marshall Co.	3,820	33,897	11.3%	Urban	50	13.1	
Mississippi	Monroe Co.	3,625	33,561	10.8%	Rural	30	8.3	
Mississippi	Montgomery Co.	1,684	9,547	17.6%	Rural	15	8.9	
Mississippi	Neshoba Co.	5,765	28,854	20%	Rural	32	5.6	

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Mississippi	Newton Co.	2,262	21,017	10.8%	Rural	20	8.8	
Mississippi	Noxubee Co.	3,069	10,019	30.6%	Rural	15	4.9	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Oktibbeha Co.	5,104	51,661	9.9%	Rural	35	6.9	
Mississippi	Panola Co.	5,333	32,553	16.4%	Rural	44	8.3	
Mississippi	Pearl River Co.	7,217	57,338	12.6%	Rural	71	9.8	
Mississippi	Perry Co.	1,592	11,440	13.9%	Urban	12	7.5	
Mississippi	Pike Co.	7,736	39,592	19.5%	Rural	68	8.8	
Mississippi	Pontotoc Co.	2,563	31,449	8.1%	Rural	28	10.9	
Mississippi	Prentiss Co.	2,462	25,094	9.8%	Rural	22	8.9	
Mississippi	Quitman Co.	1,227	5,683	21.6%	Rural	12	9.8	
Mississippi	Rankin Co.	8,868	158,733	5.6%	Urban	118	13.3	
Mississippi	Scott Co.	3,171	27,710	11.4%	Urban	42	13.2	
Mississippi	Sharkey Co.	1,242	3,483	35.7%	Rural	6	4.8	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Simpson Co.	3,210	25,615	12.5%	Urban	33	10.3	
Mississippi	Smith Co.	1,261	14,095	8.9%	Rural	10	7.9	
Mississippi	Stone Co.	2,318	18,834	12.3%	Urban	19	8.2	
Mississippi	Sunflower Co.	6,239	24,314	25.7%	Rural	44	7.1	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Tallahatchie Co.	1,832	11,762	15.6%	Rural	11	6.0	
Mississippi	Tate Co.	3,145	28,372	11.1%	Urban	29	9.2	
Mississippi	Tippah Co.	1,668	21,480	7.8%	Rural	25	15.0	
Mississippi	Tishomingo Co.	1,700	18,626	9.1%	Rural	21	12.4	
Mississippi	Tunica Co.	2,965	9,461	31.3%	Urban	20	6.7	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Union Co.	2,367	28,130	8.4%	Rural	23	9.7	
Mississippi	Walthall Co.	1,878	13,815	13.6%	Rural	14	7.5	
Mississippi	Warren Co.	9,137	42,684	21.4%	Rural	62	6.8	
Mississippi	Washington Co.	12,895	42,490	30.3%	Rural	68	5.3	Higher-risk
Mississippi	Wayne Co.	4,319	19,617	22%	Rural	23	5.3	
Mississippi	Webster Co.	1,407	9,953	14.1%	Rural	11	7.8	
Mississippi	Wilkinson Co.	1,530	8,175	18.7%	Rural	9	5.9	
Mississippi	Winston Co.	2,933	17,527	16.7%	Rural	23	7.8	
Mississippi	Yalobusha Co.	1,997	12,395	16.1%	Rural	20	10.0	
Mississippi	Yazoo Co.	6,339	24,698	25.7%	Urban	32	5.0	Higher-risk
Missouri	Adair Co.	2,331	25,155	9.3%	Rural	21	9.0	
Missouri	Andrew Co.	942	18,008	5.2%	Urban	7	7.4	
Missouri	Atchison Co.	389	5,163	7.5%	Rural	7	18.0	
Missouri	Audrain Co.	2,731	24,455	11.2%	Rural	26	9.5	
Missouri	Barry Co.	4,836	34,931	13.8%	Rural	48	9.9	
Missouri	Barton Co.	1,508	11,695	12.9%	Rural	16	10.6	
Missouri	Bates Co.	1,605	16,156	9.9%	Urban	18	11.2	
Missouri	Benton Co.	2,389	20,216	11.8%	Rural	20	8.4	
Missouri	Bollinger Co.	1,785	10,510	17%	Urban	8	4.5	
Missouri	Boone Co.	15,095	187,743	8%	Urban	120	7.9	
Missouri	Buchanan Co.	13,050	82,956	15.7%	Urban	89	6.8	
Missouri	Butler Co.	8,559	42,150	20.3%	Rural	50	5.8	
Missouri	Caldwell Co.	763	8,939	8.5%	Urban	8	10.5	
Missouri	Callaway Co.	3,848	44,760	8.6%	Urban	37	9.6	
Missouri	Camden Co.	3,449	43,779	7.9%	Rural	47	13.6	
Missouri	Cape Girardeau Co.	8,937	82,940	10.8%	Urban	51	5.7	
Missouri	Carroll Co.	767	8,410	9.1%	Rural	10	13.0	
Missouri	Carter Co.	1,089	5,267	20.7%	Rural	7	6.4	
Missouri	Cass Co.	6,868	110,345	6.2%	Urban	77	11.2	
Missouri	Cedar Co.	1,925	14,612	13.2%	Rural	14	7.3	
Missouri	Chariton Co.	567	7,395	7.7%	Rural	9	15.9	
Missouri	Christian Co.	5,706	93,130	6.1%	Urban	64	11.2	
Missouri	Clark Co.	646	6,714	9.6%	Rural	10	15.5	
Missouri	Clay Co.	15,620	257,037	6.1%	Urban	152	9.7	
Missouri	Clinton Co.	1,369	21,339	6.4%	Urban	21	15.3	
Missouri	Cole Co.	7,181	76,977	9.3%	Urban	65	9.1	
Missouri	Cooper Co.	1,436	16,741	8.6%	Urban	21	14.6	
Missouri	Crawford Co.	3,162	22,622	14%	Rural	21	6.6	
Missouri	Dade Co.	826	7,679	10.8%	Rural	11	13.3	
Missouri	Dallas Co.	2,124	17,610	12.1%	Urban	20	9.4	
Missouri	Daviess Co.	698	8,455	8.3%	Rural	10	14.3	
Missouri	DeKalb Co.	649	11,307	5.7%	Urban	8	12.3	
Missouri	Dent Co.	2,383	14,471	16.5%	Rural	10	4.2	
Missouri	Douglas Co.	1,797	11,967	15%	Rural	10	5.6	
Missouri	Dunklin Co.	8,005	27,444	29.2%	Rural	36	4.5	Higher-risk
Missouri	Franklin Co.	8,650	105,865	8.2%	Urban	79	9.1	
Missouri	Gasconade Co.	1,166	14,800	7.9%	Rural	12	10.3	
Missouri	Gentry Co.	474	6,291	7.5%	Rural	9	19.0	
Missouri	Greene Co.	31,753	303,336	10.5%	Urban	245	7.7	
Missouri	Grundy Co.	1,216	9,828	12.4%	Rural	12	9.9	
Missouri	Harrison Co.	917	8,213	11.2%	Rural	11	12.0	
Missouri	Henry Co.	2,857	22,404	12.8%	Rural	29	10.2	
Missouri	Hickory Co.	1,211	8,576	14.1%	Rural	18	14.9	
Missouri	Holt Co.	358	4,265	8.4%	Rural	5	14.0	
Missouri	Howard Co.	755	10,169	7.4%	Urban	8	10.6	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Missouri	Howell Co.	7,266	40,612	17.9%	Rural	60	8.3	
Missouri	Iron Co.	1,744	9,411	18.5%	Rural	14	8.0	
Missouri	Jackson Co.	94,319	716,580	13.2%	Urban	560	5.9	
Missouri	Jasper Co.	16,716	123,969	13.5%	Urban	141	8.4	
Missouri	Jefferson Co.	17,053	229,268	7.4%	Urban	142	8.3	
Missouri	Johnson Co.	3,445	54,423	6.3%	Rural	47	13.6	
Missouri	Knox Co.	355	3,777	9.4%	Rural	7	19.7	
Missouri	Laclede Co.	5,077	36,330	14%	Rural	38	7.5	
Missouri	Lafayette Co.	2,905	32,937	8.8%	Urban	39	13.4	
Missouri	Lawrence Co.	4,687	38,672	12.1%	Rural	34	7.3	
Missouri	Lewis Co.	736	9,888	7.4%	Rural	12	16.3	
Missouri	Lincoln Co.	5,122	63,184	8.1%	Urban	43	8.4	
Missouri	Linn Co.	1,302	11,842	11%	Rural	12	9.2	
Missouri	Livingston Co.	1,274	14,365	8.9%	Rural	15	11.8	
Missouri	McDonald Co.	3,028	23,623	12.8%	Rural	32	10.6	
Missouri	Macon Co.	1,225	15,084	8.1%	Rural	16	13.1	
Missouri	Madison Co.	1,967	12,763	15.4%	Rural	10	5.1	
Missouri	Maries Co.	631	8,434	7.5%	Rural	6	9.5	
Missouri	Marion Co.	3,564	28,489	12.5%	Rural	38	10.7	
Missouri	Mercer Co.	248	3,469	7.1%	Rural	5	20.2	
Missouri	Miller Co.	2,778	25,384	10.9%	Rural	26	9.4	
Missouri	Mississippi Co.	2,871	11,683	24.6%	Rural	16	5.6	Higher-risk
Missouri	Moniteau Co.	1,042	15,241	6.8%	Urban	13	12.5	
Missouri	Monroe Co.	731	8,650	8.5%	Rural	11	15.0	
Missouri	Montgomery Co.	1,177	11,463	10.3%	Rural	17	14.4	
Missouri	Morgan Co.	2,658	21,781	12.2%	Rural	31	11.7	
Missouri	New Madrid Co.	3,296	15,686	21%	Rural	25	7.6	
Missouri	Newton Co.	6,994	60,107	11.6%	Urban	64	9.2	
Missouri	Nodaway Co.	1,251	20,690	6%	Rural	16	12.8	
Missouri	Oregon Co.	2,171	8,709	24.9%	Rural	16	7.4	Higher-risk
Missouri	Osage Co.	640	13,399	4.8%	Urban	13	20.3	
Missouri	Ozark Co.	1,388	8,970	15.5%	Rural	12	8.6	
Missouri	Pemiscot Co.	4,816	14,880	32.4%	Rural	20	4.2	Higher-risk
Missouri	Perry Co.	1,550	18,882	8.2%	Rural	17	11.0	
Missouri	Pettis Co.	5,716	43,381	13.2%	Rural	42	7.3	
Missouri	Phelps Co.	4,649	45,301	10.3%	Rural	38	8.2	
Missouri	Pike Co.	1,888	17,650	10.7%	Rural	21	11.1	
Missouri	Platte Co.	4,262	110,593	3.9%	Urban	52	12.2	
Missouri	Polk Co.	3,732	32,669	11.4%	Urban	26	7.0	
Missouri	Pulaski Co.	4,730	53,824	8.8%	Rural	37	7.8	
Missouri	Putnam Co.	382	4,653	8.2%	Rural	4	10.5	
Missouri	Ralls Co.	785	10,419	7.5%	Rural	12	15.3	
Missouri	Randolph Co.	3,224	24,619	13.1%	Rural	29	9.0	
Missouri	Ray Co.	2,060	23,119	8.9%	Urban	16	7.8	
Missouri	Reynolds Co.	1,208	5,994	20.2%	Rural	10	8.3	
Missouri	Ripley Co.	2,779	10,699	26%	Rural	14	5.0	Higher-risk
Missouri	St. Charles Co.	14,695	414,055	3.5%	Urban	209	14.2	
Missouri	St. Clair Co.	1,221	9,581	12.7%	Rural	15	12.3	
Missouri	Ste. Genevieve Co.	1,296	18,614	7%	Rural	15	11.6	
Missouri	St. Francois Co.	9,965	66,938	14.9%	Rural	62	6.2	
Missouri	St. Louis Co.	101,334	991,881	10.2%	Urban	640	6.3	
Missouri	Saline Co.	2,618	23,016	11.4%	Rural	23	8.8	
Missouri	Schuyler Co.	359	4,016	8.9%	Rural	6	16.7	
Missouri	Scotland Co.	289	4,653	6.2%	Rural	6	20.8	
Missouri	Scott Co.	7,403	37,869	19.5%	Rural	35	4.7	
Missouri	Shannon Co.	1,784	7,223	24.7%	Rural	10	5.6	Higher-risk
Missouri	Shelby Co.	594	6,004	9.9%	Rural	9	15.2	
Missouri	Stoddard Co.	4,330	28,366	15.3%	Rural	29	6.7	
Missouri	Stone Co.	2,770	32,137	8.6%	Rural	35	12.6	
Missouri	Sullivan Co.	677	5,828	11.6%	Rural	7	10.3	
Missouri	Taney Co.	6,516	56,736	11.5%	Rural	67	10.3	
Missouri	Texas Co.	3,221	25,298	12.7%	Rural	23	7.1	
Missouri	Vernon Co.	2,769	19,608	14.1%	Rural	17	6.1	
Missouri	Warren Co.	2,873	37,292	7.7%	Urban	23	8.0	
Missouri	Washington Co.	4,520	23,389	19.3%	Rural	29	6.4	
Missouri	Wayne Co.	2,308	10,807	21.4%	Rural	17	7.4	
Missouri	Webster Co.	3,639	40,369	9%	Urban	37	10.2	
Missouri	Worth Co.	159	1,943	8.2%	Rural	3	18.9	
Missouri	Wright Co.	3,131	19,108	16.4%	Rural	28	8.9	
Missouri	St. Louis city	62,509	286,292	21.8%	Urban	269	4.3	
Montana	Beaverhead Co.	540	9,742	5.5%	Rural	8	14.8	
Montana	Big Horn Co.	3,219	12,858	25%	Rural	14	4.3	Higher-risk
Montana	Blaine Co.	968	6,956	13.9%	Rural	8	8.3	
Montana	Broadwater Co.	322	7,787	4.1%	Urban	6	18.6	
Montana	Carbon Co.	510	11,241	4.5%	Urban	8	15.7	
Montana	Carter Co.	22	1,402	1.6%	Rural	1	45.5	
Montana	Cascade Co.	8,699	84,908	10.2%	Urban	55	6.3	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Montana	Chouteau Co.	263	5,917	4.4%	Rural	4	15.2	
Montana	Custer Co.	848	12,005	7.1%	Rural	7	8.3	
Montana	Daniels Co.	53	1,644	3.2%	Rural	1	18.9	
Montana	Dawson Co.	548	8,801	6.2%	Rural	7	12.8	
Montana	Deer Lodge Co.	851	9,541	8.9%	Rural	10	11.8	
Montana	Fallon Co.	112	3,047	3.7%	Rural	2	17.9	
Montana	Fergus Co.	611	11,669	5.2%	Rural	8	13.1	
Montana	Flathead Co.	6,492	111,783	5.8%	Rural	71	10.9	
Montana	Gallatin Co.	2,450	124,733	2%	Urban	62	25.3	
Montana	Garfield Co.	22	1,221	1.8%	Rural	1	45.5	
Montana	Glacier Co.	3,148	13,637	23.1%	Rural	13	4.1	Higher-risk
Montana	Golden Valley Co.	64	838	7.6%	Rural	1	15.6	
Montana	Granite Co.	134	3,482	3.8%	Rural	3	22.4	
Montana	Hill Co.	2,928	16,069	18.2%	Rural	13	4.4	
Montana	Jefferson Co.	586	12,864	4.6%	Urban	7	11.9	
Montana	Judith Basin Co.	69	2,082	3.3%	Rural	1	14.5	
Montana	Lake Co.	4,103	32,821	12.5%	Rural	30	7.3	
Montana	Lewis and Clark Co.	5,076	73,681	6.9%	Urban	46	9.1	
Montana	Liberty Co.	96	1,972	4.9%	Rural	1	10.4	
Montana	Lincoln Co.	2,662	21,485	12.4%	Rural	26	9.8	
Montana	McCone Co.	17	1,712	1%	Rural	1	58.8	
Montana	Madison Co.	250	9,237	2.7%	Rural	7	28.0	
Montana	Meagher Co.	103	2,025	5.1%	Rural	3	29.1	
Montana	Mineral Co.	562	5,037	11.2%	Urban	6	10.7	
Montana	Missoula Co.	8,554	120,931	7.1%	Urban	75	8.8	
Montana	Musselshell Co.	548	5,188	10.6%	Rural	4	7.3	
Montana	Park Co.	723	17,783	4.1%	Rural	12	16.6	
Montana	Petroleum Co.	10	520	1.9%	Rural	1	100.0	
Montana	Phillips Co.	422	4,223	10%	Rural	5	11.8	
Montana	Pondera Co.	599	6,093	9.8%	Rural	6	10.0	
Montana	Powder River Co.	53	1,725	3.1%	Rural	1	18.9	
Montana	Powell Co.	498	7,063	7.1%	Rural	5	10.0	
Montana	Prairie Co.	58	1,114	5.2%	Rural	1	17.2	
Montana	Ravalli Co.	2,972	47,177	6.3%	Rural	30	10.1	
Montana	Richland Co.	592	11,191	5.3%	Rural	12	20.3	
Montana	Roosevelt Co.	2,754	10,514	26.2%	Rural	9	3.3	Higher-risk
Montana	Rosebud Co.	1,322	8,122	16.3%	Rural	12	9.1	
Montana	Sanders Co.	1,343	13,396	10%	Rural	20	14.9	
Montana	Sheridan Co.	195	3,550	5.5%	Rural	4	20.5	
Montana	Silver Bow Co.	3,844	35,876	10.7%	Rural	33	8.6	
Montana	Stillwater Co.	327	9,194	3.6%	Urban	7	21.4	
Montana	Sweet Grass Co.	128	3,724	3.4%	Rural	6	46.9	
Montana	Teton Co.	327	6,349	5.2%	Rural	4	12.2	
Montana	Toole Co.	311	5,072	6.1%	Rural	6	19.3	
Montana	Treasure Co.	54	749	7.2%	Rural	0	0.0	
Montana	Valley Co.	704	7,560	9.3%	Rural	6	8.5	
Montana	Wheatland Co.	190	2,043	9.3%	Rural	4	21.1	
Montana	Wibaux Co.	35	924	3.8%	Rural	1	28.6	
Montana	Yellowstone Co.	12,875	169,817	7.6%	Urban	105	8.2	
Nebraska	Adams Co.	2,615	31,023	8.4%	Rural	21	8.0	
Nebraska	Antelope Co.	326	6,299	5.2%	Rural	6	18.4	
Nebraska	Arthur Co.	15	427	3.5%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nebraska	Banner Co.	19	656	2.9%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nebraska	Blaine Co.	25	448	5.6%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nebraska	Boone Co.	238	5,366	4.4%	Rural	9	37.8	
Nebraska	Box Butte Co.	1,109	10,685	10.4%	Rural	8	7.2	
Nebraska	Boyd Co.	69	1,737	4%	Rural	3	43.5	
Nebraska	Brown Co.	147	2,894	5.1%	Rural	5	34.0	
Nebraska	Buffalo Co.	2,955	50,528	5.8%	Rural	42	14.2	
Nebraska	Burt Co.	529	6,790	7.8%	Rural	7	13.2	
Nebraska	Butler Co.	361	8,432	4.3%	Rural	5	13.9	
Nebraska	Cass Co.	1,197	27,169	4.4%	Urban	14	11.7	
Nebraska	Cedar Co.	294	8,366	3.5%	Rural	7	23.8	
Nebraska	Chase Co.	177	3,768	4.7%	Rural	3	16.9	
Nebraska	Cherry Co.	365	5,495	6.6%	Rural	10	27.4	
Nebraska	Cheyenne Co.	838	9,524	8.8%	Rural	8	9.5	
Nebraska	Clay Co.	441	6,070	7.3%	Rural	5	11.3	
Nebraska	Colfax Co.	643	10,645	6%	Rural	11	17.1	
Nebraska	Cuming Co.	391	8,970	4.4%	Rural	8	20.5	
Nebraska	Custer Co.	570	10,503	5.4%	Rural	10	17.5	
Nebraska	Dakota Co.	1,917	21,253	9%	Urban	21	11.0	
Nebraska	Dawes Co.	662	8,250	8%	Rural	8	12.1	
Nebraska	Dawson Co.	2,074	24,048	8.6%	Rural	22	10.6	
Nebraska	Deuel Co.	168	1,900	8.8%	Rural	5	29.8	
Nebraska	Dixon Co.	141	5,522	2.6%	Rural	4	28.4	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Nebraska	Dodge Co.	3,300	37,130	8.9%	Rural	35	10.6	
Nebraska	Douglas Co.	58,995	587,894	10%	Urban	374	6.3	
Nebraska	Dundy Co.	106	1,601	6.6%	Rural	2	18.9	
Nebraska	Fillmore Co.	330	5,529	6%	Rural	9	27.3	
Nebraska	Franklin Co.	219	2,834	7.7%	Rural	4	18.3	
Nebraska	Frontier Co.	142	2,624	5.4%	Rural	3	21.1	
Nebraska	Furnas Co.	426	4,573	9.3%	Rural	9	21.1	
Nebraska	Gage Co.	1,906	21,542	8.8%	Rural	16	8.4	
Nebraska	Garden Co.	238	1,837	13%	Rural	3	12.6	
Nebraska	Garfield Co.	42	1,783	2.4%	Rural	3	71.4	
Nebraska	Gosper Co.	90	1,831	4.9%	Rural	2	22.2	
Nebraska	Grant Co.	24	587	4.1%	Rural	1	41.7	
Nebraska	Greeley Co.	86	2,237	3.8%	Rural	2	23.3	
Nebraska	Hall Co.	6,411	62,292	10.3%	Urban	55	8.6	
Nebraska	Hamilton Co.	365	9,439	3.9%	Rural	7	19.2	
Nebraska	Harlan Co.	131	3,023	4.3%	Rural	3	22.9	
Nebraska	Hayes Co.	29	864	3.4%	Rural	1	34.5	
Nebraska	Hitchcock Co.	218	2,611	8.3%	Rural	2	9.2	
Nebraska	Holt Co.	586	10,069	5.8%	Rural	15	25.6	
Nebraska	Hooker Co.	24	680	3.5%	Rural	2	83.3	
Nebraska	Howard Co.	315	6,521	4.8%	Urban	8	25.4	
Nebraska	Jefferson Co.	713	7,151	10%	Rural	4	5.6	
Nebraska	Johnson Co.	292	5,264	5.5%	Rural	5	17.1	
Nebraska	Kearney Co.	217	6,708	3.2%	Rural	5	23.0	
Nebraska	Keith Co.	607	8,205	7.4%	Rural	14	23.1	
Nebraska	Keya Paha Co.	16	801	2%	Rural	1	62.5	
Nebraska	Kimball Co.	299	3,344	8.9%	Rural	4	13.4	
Nebraska	Knox Co.	613	8,356	7.3%	Rural	9	14.7	
Nebraska	Lancaster Co.	26,896	325,252	8.3%	Urban	180	6.7	
Nebraska	Lincoln Co.	3,327	33,619	9.9%	Rural	30	9.0	
Nebraska	Logan Co.	21	691	3%	Rural	1	47.6	
Nebraska	Loup Co.	20	597	3.4%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nebraska	McPherson Co.	11	374	2.9%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nebraska	Madison Co.	2,737	35,427	7.7%	Rural	34	12.4	
Nebraska	Merrick Co.	438	7,709	5.7%	Urban	7	16.0	
Nebraska	Morrill Co.	521	4,528	11.5%	Rural	4	7.7	
Nebraska	Nance Co.	141	3,323	4.2%	Rural	5	35.5	
Nebraska	Nemaha Co.	528	7,028	7.5%	Rural	6	11.4	
Nebraska	Nuckolls Co.	279	4,076	6.8%	Rural	3	10.8	
Nebraska	Otoe Co.	1,017	16,243	6.3%	Rural	15	14.7	
Nebraska	Pawnee Co.	191	2,536	7.5%	Rural	3	15.7	
Nebraska	Perkins Co.	85	2,844	3%	Rural	2	23.5	
Nebraska	Phelps Co.	468	9,007	5.2%	Rural	9	19.2	
Nebraska	Pierce Co.	328	7,326	4.5%	Rural	9	27.4	
Nebraska	Platte Co.	2,024	34,452	5.9%	Rural	24	11.9	
Nebraska	Polk Co.	225	5,234	4.3%	Rural	6	26.7	
Nebraska	Red Willow Co.	767	10,557	7.3%	Rural	8	10.4	
Nebraska	Richardson Co.	667	7,736	8.6%	Rural	9	13.5	
Nebraska	Rock Co.	46	1,234	3.7%	Rural	2	43.5	
Nebraska	Saline Co.	978	14,621	6.7%	Rural	14	14.3	
Nebraska	Sarpy Co.	8,355	196,606	4.2%	Urban	88	10.5	
Nebraska	Saunders Co.	871	23,159	3.8%	Urban	10	11.5	
Nebraska	Scotts Bluff Co.	4,705	35,798	13.1%	Rural	25	5.3	
Nebraska	Seward Co.	599	17,623	3.4%	Urban	10	16.7	
Nebraska	Sheridan Co.	382	5,015	7.6%	Rural	11	28.8	
Nebraska	Sherman Co.	168	3,000	5.6%	Rural	4	23.8	
Nebraska	Sioux Co.	11	1,129	1%	Rural	1	90.9	
Nebraska	Stanton Co.	142	5,748	2.5%	Rural	3	21.1	
Nebraska	Thayer Co.	310	4,866	6.4%	Rural	5	16.1	
Nebraska	Thomas Co.	40	667	6%	Rural	2	50.0	
Nebraska	Thurston Co.	1,586	6,549	24.2%	Rural	6	3.8	Higher-risk
Nebraska	Valley Co.	324	4,064	8%	Rural	6	18.5	
Nebraska	Washington Co.	660	21,175	3.1%	Urban	10	15.2	
Nebraska	Wayne Co.	422	9,898	4.3%	Rural	7	16.6	
Nebraska	Webster Co.	309	3,334	9.3%	Rural	5	16.2	
Nebraska	Wheeler Co.	28	784	3.6%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nebraska	York Co.	900	14,319	6.3%	Rural	14	15.6	
Nevada	Churchill Co.	3,641	25,828	14.1%	Rural	24	6.6	
Nevada	Clark Co.	397,007	2,321,961	17.1%	Urban	1,378	3.5	
Nevada	Douglas Co.	2,342	49,592	4.7%	Rural	29	12.4	
Nevada	Elko Co.	4,990	53,943	9.3%	Rural	47	9.4	
Nevada	Esmeralda Co.	91	744	12.2%	Rural	0	0.0	
Nevada	Eureka Co.	162	1,862	8.7%	Rural	4	24.7	
Nevada	Humboldt Co.	1,823	17,262	10.6%	Rural	20	11.0	
Nevada	Lander Co.	508	5,769	8.8%	Rural	7	13.8	
Nevada	Lincoln Co.	524	4,421	11.9%	Rural	7	13.4	
Nevada	Lyon Co.	6,302	61,589	10.2%	Urban	49	7.8	
Nevada	Mineral Co.	865	4,538	19.1%	Rural	6	6.9	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Nevada	Nye Co.	10,285	54,710	18.8%	Rural	42	4.1	
Nevada	Pershing Co.	673	6,446	10.4%	Rural	6	8.9	
Nevada	Storey Co.	118	4,165	2.8%	Urban	1	8.5	
Nevada	Washoe Co.	47,255	496,458	9.5%	Urban	335	7.1	
Nevada	White Pine Co.	1,095	8,734	12.5%	Rural	9	8.2	
Nevada	Carson City	6,919	58,094	11.9%	Urban	49	7.1	
New Hampshire	Belknap Co.	4,293	64,647	6.6%	Rural	58	13.5	
New Hampshire	Carroll Co.	2,528	52,094	4.9%	Rural	45	17.8	
New Hampshire	Cheshire Co.	5,154	77,386	6.7%	Rural	72	14.0	
New Hampshire	Coos Co.	3,312	31,430	10.5%	Rural	39	11.8	
New Hampshire	Grafton Co.	4,384	92,943	4.7%	Rural	92	21.0	
New Hampshire	Hillsborough Co.	25,023	426,307	5.9%	Urban	305	12.2	
New Hampshire	Merrimack Co.	8,311	156,241	5.3%	Rural	112	13.5	
New Hampshire	Rockingham Co.	8,113	319,298	2.5%	Urban	196	24.2	
New Hampshire	Strafford Co.	8,038	132,451	6.1%	Urban	93	11.6	
New Hampshire	Sullivan Co.	3,802	43,881	8.7%	Rural	41	10.8	
New Jersey	Atlantic Co.	37,926	276,111	13.7%	Urban	239	6.3	
New Jersey	Bergen Co.	37,083	957,235	3.9%	Urban	401	10.8	
New Jersey	Burlington Co.	19,790	466,710	4.2%	Urban	267	13.5	
New Jersey	Camden Co.	73,357	525,395	14%	Urban	432	5.9	
New Jersey	Cape May Co.	7,368	95,415	7.7%	Urban	73	9.9	
New Jersey	Cumberland Co.	25,093	151,686	16.5%	Urban	151	6.0	
New Jersey	Essex Co.	124,831	854,738	14.6%	Urban	602	4.8	
New Jersey	Gloucester Co.	16,120	306,936	5.3%	Urban	177	11.0	
New Jersey	Hudson Co.	99,728	708,657	14.1%	Urban	572	5.7	
New Jersey	Hunterdon Co.	3,053	129,977	2.3%	Urban	51	16.7	
New Jersey	Mercer Co.	33,452	382,165	8.8%	Urban	267	8.0	
New Jersey	Middlesex Co.	53,711	866,241	6.2%	Urban	470	8.8	
New Jersey	Monmouth Co.	27,384	644,994	4.2%	Urban	346	12.6	
New Jersey	Morris Co.	13,719	512,685	2.7%	Urban	212	15.5	
New Jersey	Ocean Co.	54,799	656,386	8.3%	Urban	306	5.6	
New Jersey	Passaic Co.	78,154	516,287	15.1%	Urban	505	6.5	
New Jersey	Salem Co.	8,099	65,167	12.4%	Urban	52	6.4	
New Jersey	Somerset Co.	9,828	348,319	2.8%	Urban	140	14.2	
New Jersey	Sussex Co.	3,886	145,638	2.7%	Urban	54	13.9	
New Jersey	Union Co.	42,952	573,600	7.5%	Urban	362	8.4	
New Jersey	Warren Co.	7,176	110,885	6.5%	Urban	62	8.6	
New Mexico	Bernalillo Co.	141,109	673,039	21%	Urban	436	3.1	
New Mexico	Catron Co.	269	3,793	7.1%	Rural	7	26.0	
New Mexico	Chaves Co.	17,482	63,907	27.4%	Rural	71	4.1	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Cibola Co.	8,280	26,771	30.9%	Rural	24	2.9	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Colfax Co.	3,028	12,289	24.6%	Rural	20	6.6	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Curry Co.	15,544	47,391	32.8%	Rural	53	3.4	Higher-risk
New Mexico	De Baca Co.	307	1,697	18.1%	Rural	6	19.5	
New Mexico	Dona Ana Co.	67,155	223,604	30%	Urban	154	2.3	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Eddy Co.	12,454	60,221	20.7%	Rural	56	4.5	
New Mexico	Grant Co.	6,939	27,699	25.1%	Rural	22	3.2	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Guadalupe Co.	1,271	4,324	29.4%	Rural	14	11.0	
New Mexico	Harding Co.	32	627	5.1%	Rural	2	62.5	
New Mexico	Hidalgo Co.	1,090	4,012	27.2%	Rural	10	9.2	
New Mexico	Lea Co.	18,230	72,300	25.2%	Rural	83	4.6	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Lincoln Co.	4,109	20,339	20.2%	Rural	28	6.8	
New Mexico	Los Alamos Co.	278	19,259	1.4%	Rural	8	28.8	
New Mexico	Luna Co.	10,664	25,677	41.5%	Rural	27	2.5	Higher-risk
New Mexico	McKinley Co.	26,370	70,084	37.6%	Rural	77	2.9	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Mora Co.	691	4,142	16.7%	Rural	5	7.2	
New Mexico	Otero Co.	12,719	68,650	18.5%	Rural	47	3.7	
New Mexico	Quay Co.	2,630	8,536	30.8%	Rural	16	6.1	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Rio Arriba Co.	12,898	39,986	32.3%	Rural	42	3.3	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Roosevelt Co.	2,606	18,896	13.8%	Rural	16	6.1	
New Mexico	Sandoval Co.	23,710	153,509	15.4%	Urban	77	3.2	
New Mexico	San Juan Co.	34,265	120,580	28.4%	Urban	125	3.6	Higher-risk
New Mexico	San Miguel Co.	8,309	26,899	30.9%	Rural	31	3.7	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Santa Fe Co.	20,885	155,768	13.4%	Urban	82	3.9	
New Mexico	Sierra Co.	4,627	11,485	40.3%	Rural	18	3.9	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Socorro Co.	5,199	16,142	32.2%	Rural	20	3.8	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Taos Co.	7,930	34,594	22.9%	Rural	37	4.7	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Torrance Co.	6,077	15,398	39.5%	Urban	20	3.3	Higher-risk
New Mexico	Union Co.	224	3,996	5.6%	Rural	7	31.3	
New Mexico	Valencia Co.	18,808	78,254	24%	Urban	58	3.1	Higher-risk
New York	Albany Co.	34,556	316,287	10.9%	Urban	281	8.1	
New York	Allegany Co.	5,587	46,850	11.9%	Rural	52	9.3	
New York	Bronx Co.	490,283	1,384,189	35.4%	Urban	2,003	4.1	Higher-risk
New York	Broome Co.	26,571	197,340	13.5%	Urban	216	8.1	
New York	Cattaraugus Co.	10,959	76,036	14.4%	Rural	62	5.7	
New York	Cayuga Co.	9,215	74,758	12.3%	Rural	57	6.2	
New York	Chautauqua Co.	23,926	125,310	19.1%	Rural	128	5.3	
New York	Chemung Co.	14,109	81,598	17.3%	Urban	98	6.9	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
New York	Chenango Co.	6,261	46,301	13.5%	Rural	65	10.4	
New York	Clinton Co.	11,191	77,978	14.4%	Rural	85	7.6	
New York	Columbia Co.	5,546	61,187	9.1%	Rural	82	14.8	
New York	Cortland Co.	5,933	46,133	12.9%	Rural	52	8.8	
New York	Delaware Co.	4,559	44,769	10.2%	Rural	58	12.7	
New York	Dutchess Co.	18,040	298,186	6%	Urban	168	9.3	
New York	Erie Co.	147,427	948,745	15.5%	Urban	905	6.1	
New York	Essex Co.	3,268	36,788	8.9%	Rural	47	14.4	
New York	Franklin Co.	6,693	46,072	14.5%	Rural	52	7.8	
New York	Fulton Co.	8,027	52,245	15.4%	Rural	48	6.0	
New York	Genesee Co.	4,785	57,482	8.3%	Rural	52	10.9	
New York	Greene Co.	4,504	47,388	9.5%	Rural	54	12.0	
New York	Hamilton Co.	266	5,108	5.2%	Rural	5	18.8	
New York	Herkimer Co.	8,897	59,576	14.9%	Urban	63	7.1	
New York	Jefferson Co.	14,808	115,487	12.8%	Urban	127	8.6	
New York	Kings Co.	606,214	2,596,607	23.3%	Urban	3,284	5.4	Higher-risk
New York	Lewis Co.	2,915	26,602	11%	Rural	32	11.0	
New York	Livingston Co.	5,731	61,385	9.3%	Urban	45	7.9	
New York	Madison Co.	6,585	67,062	9.8%	Urban	68	10.3	
New York	Monroe Co.	109,665	751,827	14.6%	Urban	611	5.6	
New York	Montgomery Co.	7,934	49,434	16%	Rural	64	8.1	
New York	Nassau Co.	41,019	1,386,825	3%	Urban	630	15.4	
New York	New York Co.	240,581	1,597,103	15.1%	Urban	1,308	5.4	
New York	Niagara Co.	26,650	210,466	12.7%	Urban	193	7.2	
New York	Oneida Co.	38,703	228,502	16.9%	Urban	271	7.0	
New York	Onondaga Co.	68,796	470,432	14.6%	Urban	455	6.6	
New York	Ontario Co.	9,350	112,509	8.3%	Urban	82	8.8	
New York	Orange Co.	40,035	406,677	9.8%	Urban	273	6.8	
New York	Orleans Co.	5,350	39,329	13.6%	Urban	33	6.2	
New York	Oswego Co.	18,184	118,110	15.4%	Urban	109	6.0	
New York	Otsego Co.	5,864	60,408	9.7%	Rural	76	13.0	
New York	Putnam Co.	2,487	98,274	2.5%	Urban	33	13.3	
New York	Queens Co.	331,319	2,285,640	14.5%	Urban	1,908	5.8	
New York	Rensselaer Co.	15,022	159,530	9.4%	Urban	148	9.9	
New York	Richmond Co.	70,240	492,640	14.3%	Urban	359	5.1	
New York	Rockland Co.	43,843	340,756	12.9%	Urban	159	3.6	
New York	St. Lawrence Co.	14,049	107,043	13.1%	Rural	125	8.9	
New York	Saratoga Co.	13,847	238,491	5.8%	Urban	163	11.8	
New York	Schenectady Co.	22,196	159,846	13.9%	Urban	166	7.5	
New York	Schoharie Co.	3,671	30,062	12.2%	Urban	34	9.3	
New York	Schuyler Co.	2,077	17,591	11.8%	Rural	19	9.1	
New York	Seneca Co.	3,647	32,610	11.2%	Rural	36	9.9	
New York	Steuben Co.	11,459	92,420	12.4%	Rural	101	8.8	
New York	Suffolk Co.	108,364	1,529,565	7.1%	Urban	758	7.0	
New York	Sullivan Co.	13,347	79,768	16.7%	Rural	121	9.1	
New York	Tioga Co.	5,285	47,708	11.1%	Urban	39	7.4	
New York	Tompkins Co.	7,694	105,827	7.3%	Urban	82	10.7	
New York	Ulster Co.	18,039	182,357	9.9%	Urban	154	8.5	
New York	Warren Co.	6,726	65,448	10.3%	Urban	75	11.2	
New York	Washington Co.	6,556	60,764	10.8%	Urban	61	9.3	
New York	Wayne Co.	8,539	90,831	9.4%	Urban	79	9.3	
New York	Westchester Co.	77,237	993,488	7.8%	Urban	567	7.3	
New York	Wyoming Co.	2,513	39,528	6.4%	Rural	33	13.1	
New York	Yates Co.	2,080	24,469	8.5%	Rural	23	11.1	
North Carolina	Alamance Co.	26,993	176,544	15.3%	Urban	164	6.1	
North Carolina	Alexander Co.	5,085	36,237	14%	Urban	31	6.1	
North Carolina	Alleghany Co.	1,767	11,187	15.8%	Rural	12	6.8	
North Carolina	Anson Co.	6,825	22,346	30.5%	Urban	34	5.0	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Ashe Co.	4,373	27,062	16.2%	Rural	20	4.6	
North Carolina	Avery Co.	2,036	17,550	11.6%	Rural	14	6.9	
North Carolina	Beaufort Co.	9,809	44,356	22.1%	Rural	57	5.8	
North Carolina	Bertie Co.	4,768	16,947	28.1%	Rural	26	5.5	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Bladen Co.	7,969	29,365	27.1%	Rural	45	5.6	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Brunswick Co.	15,744	152,836	10.3%	Urban	139	8.8	
North Carolina	Buncombe Co.	32,097	274,112	11.7%	Urban	198	6.2	
North Carolina	Burke Co.	12,977	87,732	14.8%	Urban	99	7.6	
North Carolina	Cabarrus Co.	25,878	236,078	11%	Urban	161	6.2	
North Carolina	Caldwell Co.	13,755	80,259	17.1%	Urban	84	6.1	
North Carolina	Camden Co.	960	11,089	8.7%	Urban	8	8.3	
North Carolina	Carteret Co.	7,124	69,369	10.3%	Rural	72	10.1	
North Carolina	Caswell Co.	4,518	22,219	20.3%	Rural	25	5.5	
North Carolina	Catawba Co.	23,481	163,286	14.4%	Urban	176	7.5	
North Carolina	Chatham Co.	5,349	80,080	6.7%	Urban	49	9.2	
North Carolina	Cherokee Co.	4,911	29,431	16.7%	Rural	30	6.1	
North Carolina	Chowan Co.	2,785	13,921	20%	Rural	17	6.1	
North Carolina	Clay Co.	1,659	11,610	14.3%	Rural	11	6.6	
North Carolina	Cleveland Co.	24,030	100,771	23.8%	Rural	139	5.8	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Columbus Co.	12,892	50,027	25.8%	Rural	83	6.4	Higher-risk

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
North Carolina	Craven Co.	15,184	102,392	14.8%	Rural	106	7.0	
North Carolina	Cumberland Co.	81,238	339,068	24%	Urban	318	3.9	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Currituck Co.	2,152	31,011	6.9%	Urban	28	13.0	
North Carolina	Dare Co.	2,748	38,047	7.2%	Rural	48	17.5	
North Carolina	Davidson Co.	28,081	172,443	16.3%	Urban	162	5.8	
North Carolina	Davie Co.	5,227	44,087	11.9%	Urban	51	9.8	
North Carolina	Durham Co.	9,721	49,072	19.8%	Rural	70	7.2	
North Carolina	Durham Co.	38,433	331,568	11.6%	Urban	204	5.3	
North Carolina	Edgecombe Co.	16,600	48,481	34.2%	Urban	71	4.3	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Forsyth Co.	63,378	389,519	16.3%	Urban	346	5.5	
North Carolina	Franklin Co.	10,172	74,326	13.7%	Urban	56	5.5	
North Carolina	Gaston Co.	40,454	234,208	17.3%	Urban	212	5.2	
North Carolina	Gates Co.	1,674	10,373	16.1%	Urban	8	4.8	
North Carolina	Graham Co.	1,623	8,052	20.2%	Rural	6	3.7	
North Carolina	Granville Co.	8,047	60,867	13.2%	Rural	60	7.5	
North Carolina	Greene Co.	4,376	20,415	21.4%	Rural	20	4.6	
North Carolina	Guilford Co.	98,200	547,195	17.9%	Urban	514	5.2	
North Carolina	Halifax Co.	15,773	47,623	33.1%	Rural	90	5.7	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Harnett Co.	21,668	138,583	15.6%	Rural	99	4.6	
North Carolina	Haywood Co.	9,129	62,595	14.6%	Rural	47	5.1	
North Carolina	Henderson Co.	10,864	118,336	9.2%	Urban	76	7.0	
North Carolina	Hertford Co.	6,078	19,525	31.1%	Rural	34	5.6	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Hoke Co.	10,693	53,759	19.9%	Urban	44	4.1	
North Carolina	Hyde Co.	958	4,616	20.8%	Rural	5	5.2	
North Carolina	Iredell Co.	15,517	196,129	7.9%	Urban	146	9.4	
North Carolina	Jackson Co.	5,143	43,880	11.7%	Rural	34	6.6	
North Carolina	Johnston Co.	29,344	234,762	12.5%	Urban	157	5.4	
North Carolina	Jones Co.	2,090	9,243	22.6%	Rural	8	3.8	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Lee Co.	9,766	65,687	14.9%	Rural	78	8.0	
North Carolina	Lenoir Co.	14,975	54,529	27.5%	Rural	76	5.1	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Lincoln Co.	10,683	93,103	11.5%	Urban	79	7.4	
North Carolina	McDowell Co.	8,769	44,759	19.6%	Rural	53	6.0	
North Carolina	Macon Co.	4,631	37,996	12.2%	Rural	37	8.0	
North Carolina	Madison Co.	3,354	21,912	15.3%	Urban	17	5.1	
North Carolina	Martin Co.	5,280	21,502	24.6%	Rural	29	5.5	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Mecklenburg Co.	146,750	1,149,349	12.8%	Urban	718	4.9	
North Carolina	Mitchell Co.	2,620	15,051	17.4%	Rural	16	6.1	
North Carolina	Montgomery Co.	4,461	25,884	17.2%	Rural	34	7.6	
North Carolina	Moore Co.	10,768	105,548	10.2%	Urban	92	8.5	
North Carolina	Nash Co.	18,720	95,922	19.5%	Urban	127	6.8	
North Carolina	New Hanover Co.	27,123	236,147	11.5%	Urban	209	7.7	
North Carolina	Northampton Co.	4,986	16,806	29.7%	Rural	30	6.0	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Onslow Co.	23,977	206,718	11.6%	Urban	139	5.8	
North Carolina	Orange Co.	11,120	150,744	7.4%	Urban	86	7.7	
North Carolina	Pamlico Co.	1,947	12,269	15.9%	Rural	14	7.2	
North Carolina	Pasquotank Co.	8,301	40,818	20.3%	Rural	44	5.3	
North Carolina	Pender Co.	8,291	65,697	12.6%	Urban	60	7.2	
North Carolina	Perquimans Co.	2,443	13,243	18.4%	Rural	20	8.2	
North Carolina	Person Co.	7,345	39,396	18.6%	Urban	42	5.7	
North Carolina	Pitt Co.	37,375	177,090	21.1%	Urban	190	5.1	
North Carolina	Polk Co.	2,390	20,006	11.9%	Rural	18	7.5	
North Carolina	Randolph Co.	24,316	146,174	16.6%	Urban	134	5.5	
North Carolina	Richmond Co.	14,994	42,360	35.4%	Rural	77	5.1	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Robeson Co.	44,708	116,313	38.4%	Rural	205	4.6	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Rockingham Co.	18,131	92,044	19.7%	Urban	118	6.5	
North Carolina	Rowan Co.	22,876	149,514	15.3%	Urban	127	5.6	
North Carolina	Rutherford Co.	14,010	64,829	21.6%	Rural	74	5.3	
North Carolina	Sampson Co.	12,935	59,096	21.9%	Rural	60	4.6	
North Carolina	Scotland Co.	11,325	33,548	33.8%	Rural	57	5.0	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Stanly Co.	9,538	64,285	14.8%	Rural	72	7.5	
North Carolina	Stokes Co.	6,550	45,137	14.5%	Urban	45	6.9	
North Carolina	Surry Co.	12,523	71,489	17.5%	Rural	99	7.9	
North Carolina	Swain Co.	2,281	13,968	16.3%	Rural	16	7.0	
North Carolina	Transylvania Co.	4,016	33,668	11.9%	Rural	29	7.2	
North Carolina	Tyrrell Co.	677	3,469	19.5%	Rural	6	8.9	
North Carolina	Union Co.	19,786	249,714	7.9%	Urban	144	7.3	
North Carolina	Vance Co.	14,312	42,258	33.9%	Rural	70	4.9	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Wake Co.	90,918	1,174,107	7.7%	Urban	662	7.3	
North Carolina	Warren Co.	4,476	18,700	23.9%	Rural	29	6.5	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Washington Co.	3,174	10,798	29.4%	Rural	18	5.7	Higher-risk
North Carolina	Watauga Co.	2,640	55,404	4.8%	Rural	44	16.7	
North Carolina	Wayne Co.	24,575	118,185	20.8%	Urban	129	5.2	
North Carolina	Wilkes Co.	12,700	65,801	19.3%	Rural	86	6.8	
North Carolina	Wilson Co.	17,111	78,838	21.7%	Rural	114	6.7	
North Carolina	Yadkin Co.	5,092	37,539	13.6%	Urban	37	7.3	
North Carolina	Yancey Co.	3,023	18,790	16.1%	Rural	12	4.0	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
North Dakota	Adams Co.	117	2,106	5.6%	Rural	3	25.6	
North Dakota	Barnes Co.	609	10,743	5.7%	Rural	7	11.5	
North Dakota	Benson Co.	1,519	5,794	26.2%	Rural	7	4.6	Higher-risk
North Dakota	Billings Co.	35	1,022	3.4%	Rural	0	0.0	
North Dakota	Bottineau Co.	432	6,372	6.8%	Rural	5	11.6	
North Dakota	Bowman Co.	121	2,892	4.2%	Rural	5	41.3	
North Dakota	Burke Co.	51	2,133	2.4%	Rural	1	19.6	
North Dakota	Burleigh Co.	3,997	100,436	4%	Urban	46	11.5	
North Dakota	Cass Co.	9,906	193,670	5.1%	Urban	111	11.2	
North Dakota	Cavalier Co.	142	3,616	3.9%	Rural	2	14.1	
North Dakota	Dickey Co.	221	4,941	4.5%	Rural	6	27.1	
North Dakota	Divide Co.	73	2,174	3.4%	Rural	2	27.4	
North Dakota	Dunn Co.	170	4,005	4.2%	Rural	3	17.6	
North Dakota	Eddy Co.	230	2,311	10%	Rural	3	13.0	
North Dakota	Emmons Co.	171	3,267	5.2%	Rural	6	35.1	
North Dakota	Foster Co.	193	3,377	5.7%	Rural	4	20.7	
North Dakota	Golden Valley Co.	62	1,746	3.6%	Rural	3	48.4	
North Dakota	Grand Forks Co.	3,959	72,103	5.5%	Urban	58	14.7	
North Dakota	Grant Co.	163	2,248	7.3%	Rural	5	30.7	
North Dakota	Griggs Co.	127	2,268	5.6%	Rural	5	39.4	
North Dakota	Hettinger Co.	141	2,425	5.8%	Rural	4	28.4	
North Dakota	Kidder Co.	116	2,396	4.8%	Rural	3	25.9	
North Dakota	LaMoure Co.	94	4,061	2.3%	Rural	4	42.6	
North Dakota	Logan Co.	68	1,849	3.7%	Rural	2	29.4	
North Dakota	McHenry Co.	359	5,208	6.9%	Urban	7	19.5	
North Dakota	McIntosh Co.	130	2,503	5.2%	Rural	4	30.8	
North Dakota	McKenzie Co.	412	13,905	3%	Rural	12	29.1	
North Dakota	McLean Co.	290	9,851	2.9%	Rural	7	24.1	
North Dakota	Mercer Co.	284	8,333	3.4%	Rural	6	21.1	
North Dakota	Morton Co.	2,124	33,741	6.3%	Urban	18	8.5	
North Dakota	Mountrail Co.	408	9,255	4.4%	Rural	15	36.8	
North Dakota	Nelson Co.	159	3,011	5.3%	Rural	4	25.2	
North Dakota	Oliver Co.	58	1,858	3.1%	Urban	3	51.7	
North Dakota	Pembina Co.	300	6,764	4.4%	Rural	7	23.3	
North Dakota	Pierce Co.	215	3,944	5.5%	Rural	3	14.0	
North Dakota	Ramsey Co.	1,006	11,552	8.7%	Rural	10	9.9	
North Dakota	Ransom Co.	207	5,648	3.7%	Rural	5	24.2	
North Dakota	Renville Co.	73	2,267	3.2%	Urban	4	54.8	
North Dakota	Richland Co.	924	16,577	5.6%	Rural	17	18.4	
North Dakota	Rolette Co.	3,477	11,889	29.2%	Rural	17	4.9	Higher-risk
North Dakota	Sargent Co.	171	3,823	4.5%	Rural	5	29.2	
North Dakota	Sheridan Co.	82	1,285	6.4%	Rural	1	12.2	
North Dakota	Sioux Co.	1,177	3,697	31.8%	Rural	4	3.4	Higher-risk
North Dakota	Slope Co.	39	684	5.7%	Rural	0	0.0	
North Dakota	Stark Co.	1,891	32,762	5.8%	Rural	16	8.5	
North Dakota	Steele Co.	96	1,782	5.4%	Rural	3	31.3	
North Dakota	Stutsman Co.	1,290	21,518	6%	Rural	15	11.6	
North Dakota	Towner Co.	135	2,060	6.6%	Rural	3	22.2	
North Dakota	Traill Co.	339	7,958	4.3%	Rural	8	23.6	
North Dakota	Walsh Co.	714	10,468	6.8%	Rural	9	12.6	
North Dakota	Ward Co.	4,485	68,831	6.5%	Urban	45	10.0	
North Dakota	Wells Co.	302	3,916	7.7%	Rural	5	16.6	
North Dakota	Williams Co.	1,321	38,012	3.5%	Rural	23	17.4	
Ohio	Adams Co.	5,605	27,449	20.4%	Rural	31	5.5	
Ohio	Allen Co.	12,430	101,086	12.3%	Urban	113	9.1	
Ohio	Ashland Co.	3,928	52,010	7.6%	Rural	42	10.7	
Ohio	Ashtabula Co.	17,221	96,987	17.8%	Urban	110	6.4	
Ohio	Athens Co.	8,813	61,029	14.4%	Rural	61	6.9	
Ohio	Auglaize Co.	2,791	45,949	6.1%	Rural	32	11.5	
Ohio	Belmont Co.	8,186	65,495	12.5%	Urban	64	7.8	
Ohio	Brown Co.	5,960	43,707	13.6%	Urban	44	7.4	
Ohio	Butler Co.	39,943	390,689	10.2%	Urban	306	7.7	
Ohio	Carroll Co.	2,778	26,677	10.4%	Urban	18	6.5	
Ohio	Champaign Co.	3,934	38,712	10.2%	Rural	25	6.4	
Ohio	Clark Co.	22,572	134,686	16.8%	Urban	123	5.4	
Ohio	Clermont Co.	14,272	210,906	6.8%	Urban	145	10.2	
Ohio	Clinton Co.	5,164	41,902	12.3%	Rural	40	7.7	
Ohio	Columbiana Co.	13,973	100,537	13.9%	Rural	114	8.2	
Ohio	Coshocton Co.	5,450	36,583	14.9%	Rural	27	5.0	
Ohio	Crawford Co.	6,368	41,532	15.3%	Rural	42	6.6	
Ohio	Cuyahoga Co.	208,105	1,239,720	16.8%	Urban	1,125	5.4	
Ohio	Darke Co.	4,032	51,526	7.8%	Rural	36	8.9	
Ohio	Defiance Co.	3,825	38,183	10%	Rural	33	8.6	
Ohio	Delaware Co.	5,991	227,008	2.6%	Urban	99	16.5	
Ohio	Erie Co.	9,117	74,563	12.2%	Urban	75	8.2	
Ohio	Fairfield Co.	14,673	163,166	9%	Urban	96	6.5	
Ohio	Fayette Co.	4,210	28,856	14.6%	Rural	34	8.1	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Ohio	Franklin Co.	162,610	1,327,687	12.2%	Urban	1,049	6.5	
Ohio	Fulton Co.	2,920	42,083	6.9%	Urban	31	10.6	
Ohio	Gallia Co.	5,986	29,014	20.6%	Rural	40	6.7	
Ohio	Geauga Co.	2,623	95,552	2.7%	Urban	64	24.4	
Ohio	Greene Co.	12,667	169,380	7.5%	Urban	109	8.6	
Ohio	Guernsey Co.	5,709	38,069	15%	Rural	39	6.8	
Ohio	Hamilton Co.	105,524	826,970	12.8%	Urban	663	6.3	
Ohio	Hancock Co.	5,764	74,793	7.7%	Rural	57	9.9	
Ohio	Hardin Co.	3,415	30,400	11.2%	Rural	29	8.5	
Ohio	Harrison Co.	2,032	14,351	14.2%	Rural	16	7.9	
Ohio	Henry Co.	1,387	27,517	5%	Rural	25	18.0	
Ohio	Highland Co.	6,277	43,396	14.5%	Rural	48	7.6	
Ohio	Hocking Co.	5,453	27,843	19.6%	Urban	24	4.4	
Ohio	Holmes Co.	1,012	44,380	2.3%	Rural	26	25.7	
Ohio	Huron Co.	7,243	58,256	12.4%	Rural	65	9.0	
Ohio	Jackson Co.	6,283	32,634	19.3%	Rural	43	6.8	
Ohio	Jefferson Co.	11,954	64,286	18.6%	Urban	68	5.7	
Ohio	Knox Co.	5,327	63,186	8.4%	Rural	39	7.3	
Ohio	Lake Co.	16,294	231,968	7%	Urban	186	11.4	
Ohio	Lawrence Co.	12,196	56,571	21.6%	Urban	63	5.2	
Ohio	Licking Co.	17,287	181,899	9.5%	Urban	135	7.8	
Ohio	Logan Co.	4,861	46,040	10.6%	Rural	48	9.9	
Ohio	Lorain Co.	34,993	316,616	11.1%	Urban	243	6.9	
Ohio	Lucas Co.	67,195	427,154	15.7%	Urban	417	6.2	
Ohio	Madison Co.	4,031	43,613	9.2%	Urban	34	8.4	
Ohio	Mahoning Co.	43,488	226,104	19.2%	Urban	224	5.2	
Ohio	Marion Co.	10,484	64,576	16.2%	Rural	62	5.9	
Ohio	Medina Co.	9,044	183,520	4.9%	Urban	117	12.9	
Ohio	Meigs Co.	4,497	21,971	20.5%	Rural	28	6.2	
Ohio	Mercer Co.	1,804	42,403	4.3%	Rural	29	16.1	
Ohio	Miami Co.	8,872	110,245	8%	Urban	79	8.9	
Ohio	Monroe Co.	1,679	13,225	12.7%	Rural	17	10.1	
Ohio	Montgomery Co.	79,438	534,355	14.9%	Urban	467	5.9	
Ohio	Morgan Co.	2,102	13,648	15.4%	Rural	11	5.2	
Ohio	Morrow Co.	2,976	35,317	8.4%	Urban	28	9.4	
Ohio	Muskingum Co.	14,802	86,114	17.2%	Rural	92	6.2	
Ohio	Noble Co.	1,329	14,364	9.3%	Rural	12	9.0	
Ohio	Ottawa Co.	3,077	39,984	7.7%	Urban	34	11.0	
Ohio	Paulding Co.	1,912	18,763	10.2%	Rural	18	9.4	
Ohio	Perry Co.	6,075	35,483	17.1%	Urban	36	5.9	
Ohio	Pickaway Co.	6,473	59,987	10.8%	Urban	41	6.3	
Ohio	Pike Co.	6,845	26,991	25.4%	Rural	44	6.4	Higher-risk
Ohio	Portage Co.	14,155	161,924	8.7%	Urban	131	9.3	
Ohio	Preble Co.	3,681	40,557	9.1%	Rural	37	10.1	
Ohio	Putnam Co.	1,752	34,331	5.1%	Rural	19	10.8	
Ohio	Richland Co.	18,785	125,268	15%	Urban	126	6.7	
Ohio	Ross Co.	12,374	76,479	16.2%	Rural	75	6.1	
Ohio	Sandusky Co.	5,495	58,591	9.4%	Rural	55	10.0	
Ohio	Scioto Co.	18,383	72,312	25.4%	Rural	88	4.8	Higher-risk
Ohio	Seneca Co.	6,293	54,563	11.5%	Rural	53	8.4	
Ohio	Shelby Co.	3,822	47,723	8%	Rural	39	10.2	
Ohio	Stark Co.	47,512	373,008	12.7%	Urban	316	6.7	
Ohio	Summit Co.	76,084	536,582	14.2%	Urban	473	6.2	
Ohio	Trumbull Co.	31,445	200,716	15.7%	Urban	209	6.6	
Ohio	Tuscarawas Co.	9,479	92,030	10.3%	Rural	101	10.7	
Ohio	Union Co.	2,724	66,927	4.1%	Urban	31	11.4	
Ohio	Van Wert Co.	2,428	28,806	8.4%	Rural	21	8.6	
Ohio	Vinton Co.	3,146	12,585	25%	Rural	15	4.8	Higher-risk
Ohio	Warren Co.	9,526	250,298	3.8%	Urban	130	13.6	
Ohio	Washington Co.	7,447	58,883	12.6%	Rural	69	9.3	
Ohio	Wayne Co.	9,048	116,609	7.8%	Rural	87	9.6	
Ohio	Williams Co.	3,346	36,621	9.1%	Rural	38	11.4	
Ohio	Wood Co.	6,683	131,821	5.1%	Urban	89	13.3	
Ohio	Wyandot Co.	1,741	21,574	8.1%	Rural	21	12.1	
Oklahoma	Adair Co.	5,965	19,513	30.6%	Rural	26	4.4	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Alfalfa Co.	528	5,697	9.3%	Rural	6	11.4	
Oklahoma	Atoka Co.	2,482	14,311	17.3%	Rural	20	8.1	
Oklahoma	Beaver Co.	443	5,044	8.8%	Rural	4	9.0	
Oklahoma	Beckham Co.	4,198	21,990	19.1%	Rural	35	8.3	
Oklahoma	Blaine Co.	1,679	8,477	19.8%	Rural	19	11.3	
Oklahoma	Bryan Co.	7,538	48,229	15.6%	Rural	51	6.8	
Oklahoma	Caddo Co.	5,751	26,282	21.9%	Rural	39	6.8	
Oklahoma	Canadian Co.	13,207	169,507	7.8%	Urban	105	8.0	
Oklahoma	Carter Co.	9,831	48,488	20.3%	Rural	76	7.7	
Oklahoma	Cherokee Co.	8,490	48,058	17.7%	Rural	56	6.6	
Oklahoma	Choctaw Co.	4,151	14,416	28.8%	Rural	21	5.1	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Cimarron Co.	245	2,229	11%	Rural	5	20.4	
Oklahoma	Cleveland Co.	29,600	299,950	9.9%	Urban	184	6.2	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
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(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Oklahoma	Coal Co.	1,056	5,309	19.9%	Rural	10	9.5	
Oklahoma	Comanche Co.	22,255	122,390	18.2%	Urban	120	5.4	
Oklahoma	Cotton Co.	1,014	5,473	18.5%	Urban	11	10.8	
Oklahoma	Craig Co.	2,595	14,180	18.3%	Rural	19	7.3	
Oklahoma	Creek Co.	12,294	72,698	16.9%	Urban	62	5.0	
Oklahoma	Custer Co.	4,284	28,075	15.3%	Rural	35	8.2	
Oklahoma	Delaware Co.	6,422	41,491	15.5%	Rural	47	7.3	
Oklahoma	Dewey Co.	555	4,387	12.7%	Rural	8	14.4	
Oklahoma	Ellis Co.	396	3,693	10.7%	Rural	6	15.2	
Oklahoma	Garfield Co.	10,107	61,990	16.3%	Urban	77	7.6	
Oklahoma	Garvin Co.	5,361	25,793	20.8%	Rural	39	7.3	
Oklahoma	Grady Co.	6,924	56,700	12.2%	Urban	56	8.1	
Oklahoma	Grant Co.	453	4,124	11%	Rural	4	8.8	
Oklahoma	Greer Co.	1,147	5,548	20.7%	Rural	7	6.1	
Oklahoma	Harmon Co.	663	2,428	27.3%	Rural	5	7.5	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Harper Co.	304	3,176	9.6%	Rural	6	19.7	
Oklahoma	Haskell Co.	2,962	11,644	25.4%	Rural	22	7.4	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Hughes Co.	2,919	13,421	21.7%	Rural	22	7.5	
Oklahoma	Jackson Co.	4,274	24,671	17.3%	Rural	28	6.6	
Oklahoma	Jefferson Co.	1,502	5,428	27.7%	Rural	11	7.3	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Johnston Co.	2,372	10,328	23%	Rural	17	7.2	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Kay Co.	9,485	43,726	21.7%	Rural	52	5.5	
Oklahoma	Kingfisher Co.	1,491	15,313	9.7%	Rural	15	10.1	
Oklahoma	Kiowa Co.	2,149	8,437	25.5%	Rural	17	7.9	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Latimer Co.	2,612	9,580	27.3%	Rural	17	6.5	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Le Flore Co.	11,088	49,004	22.6%	Rural	67	6.0	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Lincoln Co.	5,590	34,153	16.4%	Urban	42	7.5	
Oklahoma	Logan Co.	4,433	52,029	8.5%	Urban	45	10.2	
Oklahoma	Love Co.	1,616	10,184	15.9%	Rural	12	7.4	
Oklahoma	McClain Co.	5,052	45,422	11.1%	Urban	41	8.1	
Oklahoma	McCurtain Co.	8,252	30,892	26.7%	Rural	57	6.9	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	McIntosh Co.	4,493	19,419	23.1%	Rural	31	6.9	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Major Co.	807	7,558	10.7%	Rural	10	12.4	
Oklahoma	Marshall Co.	2,697	15,947	16.9%	Rural	23	8.5	
Oklahoma	Mayes Co.	7,514	39,593	19%	Rural	54	7.2	
Oklahoma	Murray Co.	2,010	13,677	14.7%	Rural	15	7.5	
Oklahoma	Muskogee Co.	16,693	66,293	25.2%	Rural	91	5.5	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Noble Co.	1,359	10,861	12.5%	Rural	15	11.0	
Oklahoma	Nowata Co.	1,768	9,447	18.7%	Rural	16	9.0	
Oklahoma	Okfuskee Co.	2,511	11,230	22.4%	Rural	14	5.6	
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Co.	167,747	805,165	20.8%	Urban	723	4.3	
Oklahoma	Okmulgee Co.	8,700	36,937	23.6%	Urban	46	5.3	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Osage Co.	3,288	45,799	7.2%	Urban	41	12.5	
Oklahoma	Ottawa Co.	7,521	30,366	24.8%	Rural	36	4.8	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Pawnee Co.	2,964	15,695	18.9%	Urban	19	6.4	
Oklahoma	Payne Co.	9,808	83,029	11.8%	Rural	68	6.9	
Oklahoma	Pittsburg Co.	8,446	43,517	19.4%	Rural	66	7.8	
Oklahoma	Pontotoc Co.	7,260	38,074	19.1%	Rural	40	5.5	
Oklahoma	Pottawatomie Co.	14,758	73,403	20.1%	Rural	85	5.8	
Oklahoma	Pushmataha Co.	2,377	10,728	22.2%	Rural	16	6.7	
Oklahoma	Roger Mills Co.	422	3,366	12.5%	Rural	3	7.1	
Oklahoma	Rogers Co.	9,431	99,103	9.5%	Urban	63	6.7	
Oklahoma	Seminole Co.	6,042	23,484	25.7%	Rural	30	5.0	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Sequoyah Co.	10,193	39,756	25.6%	Urban	51	5.0	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Stephens Co.	8,097	43,674	18.5%	Rural	52	6.4	
Oklahoma	Texas Co.	2,161	20,635	10.5%	Rural	19	8.8	
Oklahoma	Tillman Co.	1,627	6,968	23.3%	Rural	12	7.4	Higher-risk
Oklahoma	Tulsa Co.	111,027	679,212	16.3%	Urban	524	4.7	
Oklahoma	Wagoner Co.	8,215	86,755	9.5%	Urban	51	6.2	
Oklahoma	Washington Co.	8,558	53,289	16.1%	Rural	48	5.6	
Oklahoma	Washita Co.	2,011	10,715	18.8%	Rural	14	7.0	
Oklahoma	Woods Co.	873	8,602	10.1%	Rural	10	11.5	
Oklahoma	Woodward Co.	2,725	20,054	13.6%	Rural	24	8.8	
Oregon	Baker Co.	3,897	16,933	23%	Rural	22	5.6	Higher-risk
Oregon	Benton Co.	11,252	97,406	11.6%	Urban	66	5.9	
Oregon	Clackamas Co.	48,407	423,217	11.4%	Urban	251	5.2	
Oregon	Clatsop Co.	7,150	41,595	17.2%	Rural	51	7.1	
Oregon	Columbia Co.	9,079	53,589	16.9%	Urban	39	4.3	
Oregon	Coos Co.	16,957	65,135	26%	Rural	67	4.0	Higher-risk
Oregon	Crook Co.	5,397	26,393	20.4%	Urban	19	3.5	
Oregon	Curry Co.	5,249	23,614	22.2%	Rural	25	4.8	
Oregon	Deschutes Co.	24,089	206,491	11.7%	Urban	118	4.9	
Oregon	Douglas Co.	28,573	112,226	25.5%	Rural	153	5.4	Higher-risk
Oregon	Gilliam Co.	386	2,012	19.2%	Rural	4	10.4	
Oregon	Grant Co.	1,453	7,221	20.1%	Rural	13	8.9	
Oregon	Harney Co.	1,731	7,537	23%	Rural	14	8.1	Higher-risk
Oregon	Hood River Co.	2,947	24,028	12.3%	Rural	25	8.5	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Oregon	Jackson Co.	47,599	222,153	21.4%	Urban	190	4.0	
Oregon	Jefferson Co.	7,048	25,319	27.8%	Urban	27	3.8	Higher-risk
Oregon	Josephine Co.	24,973	87,786	28.4%	Urban	96	3.8	Higher-risk
Oregon	Klamath Co.	20,025	70,404	28.4%	Rural	80	4.0	Higher-risk
Oregon	Lake Co.	1,949	8,365	23.3%	Rural	10	5.1	Higher-risk
Oregon	Lane Co.	74,726	386,187	19.3%	Urban	333	4.5	
Oregon	Lincoln Co.	10,662	50,756	21%	Rural	64	6.0	
Oregon	Linn Co.	29,129	130,516	22.3%	Urban	122	4.2	
Oregon	Malheur Co.	8,742	31,868	27.4%	Rural	40	4.6	Higher-risk
Oregon	Marion Co.	69,381	349,388	19.9%	Urban	284	4.1	
Oregon	Morrow Co.	2,399	12,257	19.6%	Rural	18	7.5	
Oregon	Multnomah Co.	142,603	795,960	17.9%	Urban	650	4.6	
Oregon	Polk Co.	15,327	89,986	17%	Urban	53	3.5	
Oregon	Sherman Co.	475	1,953	24.3%	Rural	9	18.9	
Oregon	Tillamook Co.	4,898	27,516	17.8%	Rural	38	7.8	
Oregon	Umatilla Co.	16,724	79,732	21%	Rural	86	5.1	
Oregon	Union Co.	5,778	26,167	22.1%	Rural	31	5.4	
Oregon	Wallowa Co.	1,115	7,647	14.6%	Rural	8	7.2	
Oregon	Wasco Co.	5,517	26,535	20.8%	Rural	33	6.0	
Oregon	Washington Co.	61,063	600,229	10.2%	Urban	315	5.2	
Oregon	Wheeler Co.	219	1,434	15.3%	Rural	3	13.7	
Oregon	Yamhill Co.	16,832	107,817	15.6%	Urban	78	4.6	
Pennsylvania	Adams Co.	7,846	106,017	7.4%	Urban	67	8.5	
Pennsylvania	Allegheny Co.	162,096	1,233,821	13.1%	Urban	955	5.9	
Pennsylvania	Armstrong Co.	10,490	64,664	16.2%	Urban	58	5.5	
Pennsylvania	Beaver Co.	24,562	165,682	14.8%	Urban	145	5.9	
Pennsylvania	Bedford Co.	6,816	47,395	14.4%	Rural	51	7.5	
Pennsylvania	Berks Co.	59,589	432,281	13.8%	Urban	371	6.2	
Pennsylvania	Blair Co.	23,012	120,796	19.1%	Urban	121	5.3	
Pennsylvania	Bradford Co.	8,600	59,800	14.4%	Rural	79	9.2	
Pennsylvania	Bucks Co.	40,764	645,871	6.3%	Urban	361	8.9	
Pennsylvania	Butler Co.	15,269	197,422	7.7%	Urban	149	9.8	
Pennsylvania	Cambria Co.	25,333	131,432	19.3%	Urban	121	4.8	
Pennsylvania	Cameron Co.	962	4,406	21.8%	Rural	5	5.2	
Pennsylvania	Carbon Co.	9,084	65,466	13.9%	Urban	48	5.3	
Pennsylvania	Centre Co.	8,145	157,992	5.2%	Urban	79	9.7	
Pennsylvania	Chester Co.	28,416	547,248	5.2%	Urban	255	9.0	
Pennsylvania	Clarion Co.	5,357	37,280	14.4%	Rural	43	8.0	
Pennsylvania	Clearfield Co.	13,062	77,881	16.8%	Rural	74	5.7	
Pennsylvania	Clinton Co.	5,637	37,873	14.9%	Rural	33	5.9	
Pennsylvania	Columbia Co.	8,897	65,347	13.6%	Rural	63	7.1	
Pennsylvania	Crawford Co.	13,395	82,380	16.3%	Rural	81	6.0	
Pennsylvania	Cumberland Co.	23,130	268,740	8.6%	Urban	186	8.0	
Pennsylvania	Dauphin Co.	51,368	289,049	17.8%	Urban	282	5.5	
Pennsylvania	Delaware Co.	76,753	577,040	13.3%	Urban	401	5.2	
Pennsylvania	Elk Co.	3,790	30,453	12.4%	Rural	30	7.9	
Pennsylvania	Erie Co.	55,717	269,112	20.7%	Urban	272	4.9	
Pennsylvania	Fayette Co.	30,484	125,622	24.3%	Urban	141	4.6	Higher-risk
Pennsylvania	Forest Co.	647	6,621	9.8%	Rural	7	10.8	
Pennsylvania	Franklin Co.	18,032	157,017	11.5%	Urban	113	6.3	
Pennsylvania	Fulton Co.	2,016	14,557	13.8%	Rural	10	5.0	
Pennsylvania	Greene Co.	6,977	34,566	20.2%	Rural	36	5.2	
Pennsylvania	Huntingdon Co.	5,744	43,303	13.3%	Rural	39	6.8	
Pennsylvania	Indiana Co.	11,969	82,901	14.4%	Rural	71	5.9	
Pennsylvania	Jefferson Co.	6,439	43,725	14.7%	Rural	49	7.6	
Pennsylvania	Juniata Co.	2,506	23,290	10.8%	Rural	23	9.2	
Pennsylvania	Lackawanna Co.	40,565	215,797	18.8%	Urban	204	5.0	
Pennsylvania	Lancaster Co.	53,654	556,991	9.6%	Urban	369	6.9	
Pennsylvania	Lawrence Co.	16,677	84,800	19.7%	Urban	93	5.6	
Pennsylvania	Lebanon Co.	17,633	144,003	12.2%	Urban	112	6.4	
Pennsylvania	Lehigh Co.	57,391	377,019	15.2%	Urban	296	5.2	
Pennsylvania	Luzerne Co.	66,488	326,892	20.3%	Urban	309	4.6	
Pennsylvania	Lycoming Co.	17,562	113,223	15.5%	Urban	92	5.2	
Pennsylvania	McKean Co.	7,472	39,791	18.8%	Rural	46	6.2	
Pennsylvania	Mercer Co.	19,020	109,115	17.4%	Rural	107	5.6	
Pennsylvania	Mifflin Co.	7,350	45,993	16%	Rural	46	6.3	
Pennsylvania	Monroe Co.	23,010	167,437	13.7%	Rural	127	5.5	
Pennsylvania	Montgomery Co.	58,592	865,848	6.8%	Urban	459	7.8	
Pennsylvania	Montour Co.	1,615	18,122	8.9%	Rural	17	10.5	
Pennsylvania	Northampton Co.	32,625	318,044	10.3%	Urban	206	6.3	
Pennsylvania	Northumberland Co.	16,763	90,093	18.6%	Rural	82	4.9	
Pennsylvania	Perry Co.	4,612	46,214	10%	Urban	41	8.9	
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Co.	474,962	1,570,554	30.2%	Urban	1,669	3.5	Higher-risk
Pennsylvania	Pike Co.	6,719	60,647	11.1%	Rural	31	4.6	
Pennsylvania	Potter Co.	2,422	16,203	14.9%	Rural	19	7.8	
Pennsylvania	Schuylkill Co.	23,611	143,205	16.5%	Rural	149	6.3	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Pennsylvania	Snyder Co.	3,502	39,525	8.9%	Rural	37	10.6	
Pennsylvania	Somerset Co.	10,722	72,613	14.8%	Rural	77	7.2	
Pennsylvania	Sullivan Co.	597	5,892	10.1%	Rural	7	11.7	
Pennsylvania	Susquehanna Co.	4,815	38,115	12.6%	Rural	27	5.6	
Pennsylvania	Tioga Co.	6,082	40,954	14.9%	Rural	43	7.1	
Pennsylvania	Union Co.	3,400	42,745	8%	Rural	31	9.1	
Pennsylvania	Venango Co.	9,191	49,695	18.5%	Rural	49	5.3	
Pennsylvania	Warren Co.	5,844	37,843	15.4%	Rural	32	5.5	
Pennsylvania	Washington Co.	26,989	209,962	12.9%	Urban	167	6.2	
Pennsylvania	Wayne Co.	6,268	51,132	12.3%	Rural	45	7.2	
Pennsylvania	Westmoreland Co.	44,664	352,054	12.7%	Urban	282	6.3	
Pennsylvania	Wyoming Co.	3,716	26,034	14.3%	Urban	23	6.2	
Pennsylvania	York Co.	54,195	461,385	11.7%	Urban	338	6.2	
Rhode Island	Bristol Co.	2,648	50,388	5.3%	Urban	26	9.8	
Rhode Island	Kent Co.	16,135	171,523	9.4%	Urban	134	8.3	
Rhode Island	Newport Co.	6,029	84,851	7.1%	Urban	54	9.0	
Rhode Island	Providence Co.	109,988	662,209	16.6%	Urban	655	6.0	
Rhode Island	Washington Co.	7,469	130,527	5.7%	Urban	79	10.6	
South Carolina	Abbeville Co.	3,426	24,407	14%	Rural	25	7.3	
South Carolina	Aiken Co.	22,477	174,075	12.9%	Urban	179	8.0	
South Carolina	Allendale Co.	2,241	7,508	29.8%	Rural	10	4.5	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Anderson Co.	25,205	210,069	12%	Urban	236	9.4	
South Carolina	Bamberg Co.	3,203	12,966	24.7%	Rural	24	7.5	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Barnwell Co.	5,194	20,469	25.4%	Rural	36	6.9	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Beaufort Co.	11,129	195,932	5.7%	Urban	129	11.6	
South Carolina	Berkeley Co.	20,598	245,249	8.4%	Urban	166	8.1	
South Carolina	Calhoun Co.	2,268	14,200	16%	Urban	11	4.9	
South Carolina	Charleston Co.	33,488	419,952	8%	Urban	333	9.9	
South Carolina	Cherokee Co.	9,424	56,186	16.8%	Rural	70	7.4	
South Carolina	Chester Co.	6,570	31,972	20.5%	Urban	41	6.2	
South Carolina	Chesterfield Co.	8,212	43,722	18.8%	Rural	65	7.9	
South Carolina	Clarendon Co.	6,659	30,976	21.5%	Rural	46	6.9	
South Carolina	Colleton Co.	7,864	38,618	20.4%	Rural	57	7.2	
South Carolina	Darlington Co.	13,648	62,434	21.9%	Urban	97	7.1	
South Carolina	Dillon Co.	8,050	27,766	29%	Rural	51	6.3	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Dorchester Co.	14,781	166,029	8.9%	Urban	124	8.4	
South Carolina	Edgefield Co.	3,490	27,347	12.8%	Urban	33	9.5	
South Carolina	Fairfield Co.	4,439	20,430	21.7%	Urban	32	7.2	
South Carolina	Florence Co.	25,145	136,860	18.4%	Urban	184	7.3	
South Carolina	Georgetown Co.	8,317	64,753	12.8%	Rural	82	9.9	
South Carolina	Greenville Co.	45,798	548,447	8.4%	Urban	473	10.3	
South Carolina	Greenwood Co.	11,071	69,290	16%	Rural	87	7.9	
South Carolina	Hampton Co.	3,954	18,147	21.8%	Rural	31	7.8	
South Carolina	Horry Co.	35,549	383,372	9.3%	Urban	395	11.1	
South Carolina	Jasper Co.	4,581	31,988	14.3%	Urban	38	8.3	
South Carolina	Kershaw Co.	8,927	67,917	13.1%	Urban	68	7.6	
South Carolina	Lancaster Co.	10,445	104,795	10%	Urban	99	9.5	
South Carolina	Laurens Co.	10,567	68,109	15.5%	Urban	82	7.8	
South Carolina	Lee Co.	4,128	16,119	25.6%	Rural	29	7.0	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Lexington Co.	30,188	305,147	9.9%	Urban	317	10.5	
South Carolina	McCormick Co.	1,242	9,741	12.8%	Rural	7	5.6	
South Carolina	Marion Co.	7,962	28,494	27.9%	Rural	47	5.9	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Marlboro Co.	6,209	26,003	23.9%	Rural	40	6.4	Higher-risk
South Carolina	Newberry Co.	5,637	38,343	14.7%	Rural	45	8.0	
South Carolina	Oconee Co.	8,275	80,223	10.3%	Rural	92	11.1	
South Carolina	Orangeburg Co.	18,573	83,165	22.3%	Rural	142	7.6	
South Carolina	Pickens Co.	10,672	134,405	7.9%	Urban	116	10.9	
South Carolina	Richland Co.	52,322	421,693	12.4%	Urban	363	6.9	
South Carolina	Saluda Co.	2,738	19,086	14.3%	Urban	23	8.4	
South Carolina	Spartanburg Co.	39,298	346,455	11.3%	Urban	360	9.2	
South Carolina	Sumter Co.	19,768	104,068	19%	Urban	124	6.3	
South Carolina	Union Co.	5,110	26,787	19.1%	Urban	42	8.2	
South Carolina	Williamsburg Co.	7,671	30,164	25.4%	Rural	41	5.3	Higher-risk
South Carolina	York Co.	22,599	294,057	7.7%	Urban	195	8.6	
South Dakota	Aurora Co.	84	2,772	3%	Rural	5	59.5	
South Dakota	Beadle Co.	2,223	19,356	11.5%	Rural	22	9.9	
South Dakota	Bennett Co.	868	3,339	26%	Rural	7	8.1	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Bon Homme Co.	332	7,088	4.7%	Rural	8	24.1	
South Dakota	Brookings Co.	1,269	35,442	3.6%	Rural	21	16.5	
South Dakota	Brown Co.	2,522	37,915	6.7%	Rural	23	9.1	
South Dakota	Brule Co.	358	5,324	6.7%	Rural	8	22.3	
South Dakota	Buffalo Co.	723	1,848	39.1%	Rural	3	4.1	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Butte Co.	910	10,788	8.4%	Rural	10	11.0	
South Dakota	Campbell Co.	53	1,367	3.9%	Rural	1	18.9	
South Dakota	Charles Mix Co.	1,553	9,237	16.8%	Rural	19	12.2	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
South Dakota	Clark Co.	105	3,945	2.7%	Rural	3	28.6	
South Dakota	Clay Co.	1,012	15,277	6.6%	Rural	9	8.9	
South Dakota	Codington Co.	1,719	28,756	6%	Rural	19	11.1	
South Dakota	Corson Co.	1,334	3,797	35.1%	Rural	2	1.5	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Custer Co.	325	9,024	3.6%	Urban	9	27.7	
South Dakota	Davison Co.	1,573	20,025	7.9%	Rural	16	10.2	
South Dakota	Day Co.	387	5,478	7.1%	Rural	10	25.8	
South Dakota	Deuel Co.	135	4,357	3.1%	Rural	3	22.2	
South Dakota	Dewey Co.	1,692	5,078	33.3%	Rural	11	6.5	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Douglas Co.	53	2,797	1.9%	Rural	2	37.7	
South Dakota	Edmunds Co.	130	4,103	3.2%	Rural	2	15.4	
South Dakota	Fall River Co.	500	7,373	6.8%	Rural	11	22.0	
South Dakota	Faulk Co.	69	2,117	3.3%	Rural	2	29.0	
South Dakota	Grant Co.	306	7,535	4.1%	Rural	8	26.1	
South Dakota	Gregory Co.	262	3,993	6.6%	Rural	9	34.4	
South Dakota	Haakon Co.	72	1,830	3.9%	Rural	4	55.6	
South Dakota	Hamlin Co.	202	6,395	3.2%	Rural	4	19.8	
South Dakota	Hand Co.	66	3,123	2.1%	Rural	3	45.5	
South Dakota	Hanson Co.	71	3,461	2.1%	Rural	1	14.1	
South Dakota	Harding Co.	34	1,329	2.6%	Rural	1	29.4	
South Dakota	Hughes Co.	1,420	17,674	8%	Rural	10	7.0	
South Dakota	Hutchinson Co.	294	7,375	4%	Rural	9	30.6	
South Dakota	Hyde Co.	40	1,196	3.3%	Rural	3	75.0	
South Dakota	Jackson Co.	657	2,833	23.2%	Rural	6	9.1	
South Dakota	Jerauld Co.	51	1,645	3.1%	Rural	2	39.2	
South Dakota	Jones Co.	31	870	3.6%	Rural	2	64.5	
South Dakota	Kingsbury Co.	166	5,282	3.1%	Rural	4	24.1	
South Dakota	Lake Co.	494	10,945	4.5%	Rural	6	12.1	
South Dakota	Lawrence Co.	1,405	27,234	5.2%	Rural	18	12.8	
South Dakota	Lincoln Co.	1,235	71,156	1.7%	Urban	42	34.0	
South Dakota	Lyman Co.	611	3,717	16.4%	Rural	5	8.2	
South Dakota	McCook Co.	198	5,775	3.4%	Urban	4	20.2	
South Dakota	McPherson Co.	82	2,401	3.4%	Rural	3	36.6	
South Dakota	Marshall Co.	158	4,354	3.6%	Rural	3	19.0	
South Dakota	Meade Co.	965	30,679	3.1%	Urban	19	19.7	
South Dakota	Mellette Co.	572	1,867	30.6%	Rural	4	7.0	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Miner Co.	85	2,289	3.7%	Rural	2	23.5	
South Dakota	Minnehaha Co.	14,515	203,675	7.1%	Urban	179	12.3	
South Dakota	Moody Co.	248	6,366	3.9%	Rural	4	16.1	
South Dakota	Oglala Lakota Co.	5,794	13,482	43%	Rural	10	1.7	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Pennington Co.	9,781	114,269	8.6%	Urban	91	9.3	
South Dakota	Perkins Co.	89	2,807	3.2%	Rural	3	33.7	
South Dakota	Potter Co.	50	2,450	2%	Rural	6	120.0	
South Dakota	Roberts Co.	1,556	10,157	15.3%	Rural	13	8.4	
South Dakota	Sanborn Co.	85	2,413	3.5%	Rural	1	11.8	
South Dakota	Spink Co.	228	6,232	3.7%	Rural	6	26.3	
South Dakota	Stanley Co.	93	3,014	3.1%	Rural	4	43.0	
South Dakota	Sully Co.	16	1,478	1.1%	Rural	1	62.5	
South Dakota	Todd Co.	4,563	9,256	49.3%	Rural	11	2.4	Higher-risk
South Dakota	Tripp Co.	596	5,548	10.7%	Rural	9	15.1	
South Dakota	Turner Co.	394	8,890	4.4%	Urban	5	12.7	
South Dakota	Union Co.	490	17,083	2.9%	Urban	12	24.5	
South Dakota	Walworth Co.	496	5,266	9.4%	Rural	9	18.1	
South Dakota	Yankton Co.	1,633	23,407	7%	Rural	15	9.2	
South Dakota	Ziebach Co.	1,031	2,369	43.5%	Rural	0	0.0	Higher-risk
Tennessee	Anderson Co.	9,218	79,016	11.7%	Urban	85	9.2	
Tennessee	Bedford Co.	6,692	52,088	12.8%	Rural	57	8.5	
Tennessee	Benton Co.	2,552	16,001	15.9%	Rural	19	7.4	
Tennessee	Bledsoe Co.	2,345	14,769	15.9%	Rural	16	6.8	
Tennessee	Blount Co.	9,835	139,789	7%	Urban	110	11.2	
Tennessee	Bradley Co.	12,412	110,814	11.2%	Urban	124	10.0	
Tennessee	Campbell Co.	7,803	39,578	19.7%	Urban	46	5.9	
Tennessee	Cannon Co.	1,830	14,797	12.4%	Urban	13	7.1	
Tennessee	Carroll Co.	3,856	28,431	13.6%	Rural	37	9.6	
Tennessee	Carter Co.	7,263	56,531	12.8%	Urban	55	7.6	
Tennessee	Cheatham Co.	3,025	41,742	7.2%	Urban	38	12.6	
Tennessee	Chester Co.	2,205	17,599	12.5%	Urban	14	6.3	
Tennessee	Claiborne Co.	5,073	32,400	15.7%	Rural	39	7.7	
Tennessee	Clay Co.	1,374	7,635	18%	Rural	10	7.3	
Tennessee	Cocke Co.	7,101	36,786	19.3%	Rural	56	7.9	
Tennessee	Coffee Co.	7,738	59,663	13%	Rural	75	9.7	
Tennessee	Crockett Co.	1,885	13,862	13.6%	Urban	13	6.9	
Tennessee	Cumberland Co.	6,919	63,537	10.9%	Rural	71	10.3	
Tennessee	Davidson Co.	68,951	711,280	9.7%	Urban	566	8.2	
Tennessee	Decatur Co.	1,621	11,546	14%	Rural	16	9.9	
Tennessee	DeKalb Co.	2,920	21,013	13.9%	Rural	21	7.2	
Tennessee	Dickson Co.	5,194	55,793	9.3%	Urban	61	11.7	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Tennessee	Dyer Co.	6,595	36,392	18.1%	Rural	47	7.1	
Tennessee	Fayette Co.	4,300	43,296	9.9%	Urban	36	8.4	
Tennessee	Fentress Co.	3,610	19,336	18.7%	Rural	24	6.6	
Tennessee	Franklin Co.	4,269	44,156	9.7%	Rural	53	12.4	
Tennessee	Gibson Co.	6,958	50,855	13.7%	Urban	58	8.3	
Tennessee	Giles Co.	3,548	30,560	11.6%	Rural	43	12.1	
Tennessee	Grainger Co.	3,251	24,191	13.4%	Urban	26	8.0	
Tennessee	Greene Co.	7,830	71,279	11%	Rural	97	12.4	
Tennessee	Grundy Co.	2,942	13,813	21.3%	Rural	28	9.5	
Tennessee	Hamblen Co.	8,116	65,263	12.4%	Urban	83	10.2	
Tennessee	Hamilton Co.	38,976	375,861	10.4%	Urban	392	10.1	
Tennessee	Hancock Co.	1,864	6,838	27.3%	Rural	8	4.3	Higher-risk
Tennessee	Hardeman Co.	3,245	25,493	12.7%	Rural	30	9.2	
Tennessee	Hardin Co.	4,295	27,240	15.8%	Rural	33	7.7	
Tennessee	Hawkins Co.	7,866	57,915	13.6%	Urban	55	7.0	
Tennessee	Haywood Co.	3,843	17,470	22%	Rural	22	5.7	
Tennessee	Henderson Co.	4,008	27,907	14.4%	Rural	31	7.7	
Tennessee	Henry Co.	4,650	32,328	14.4%	Rural	32	6.9	
Tennessee	Hickman Co.	3,256	25,479	12.8%	Urban	19	5.8	
Tennessee	Houston Co.	1,137	8,230	13.8%	Rural	8	7.0	
Tennessee	Humphreys Co.	2,009	19,046	10.5%	Rural	20	10.0	
Tennessee	Jackson Co.	1,836	12,022	15.3%	Rural	12	6.5	
Tennessee	Jefferson Co.	5,780	56,739	10.2%	Urban	53	9.2	
Tennessee	Johnson Co.	2,697	18,044	14.9%	Rural	19	7.0	
Tennessee	Knox Co.	41,450	495,882	8.4%	Urban	401	9.7	
Tennessee	Lake Co.	1,510	6,493	23.3%	Rural	8	5.3	Higher-risk
Tennessee	Lauderdale Co.	4,926	24,725	19.9%	Rural	26	5.3	
Tennessee	Lawrence Co.	5,431	45,476	11.9%	Rural	60	11.0	
Tennessee	Lewis Co.	1,778	12,934	13.7%	Rural	18	10.1	
Tennessee	Lincoln Co.	4,173	36,006	11.6%	Rural	43	10.3	
Tennessee	Loudon Co.	3,882	58,255	6.7%	Urban	56	14.4	
Tennessee	McMinn Co.	7,149	54,680	13.1%	Rural	64	9.0	
Tennessee	McNairy Co.	3,753	25,971	14.5%	Rural	25	6.7	
Tennessee	Macon Co.	4,195	26,225	16%	Urban	26	6.2	
Tennessee	Madison Co.	14,422	99,264	14.5%	Urban	104	7.2	
Tennessee	Marion Co.	4,161	29,101	14.3%	Urban	44	10.6	
Tennessee	Marshall Co.	3,301	35,862	9.2%	Rural	32	9.7	
Tennessee	Mauzy Co.	8,625	108,007	8%	Urban	95	11.0	
Tennessee	Meigs Co.	2,133	13,265	16.1%	Rural	16	7.5	
Tennessee	Monroe Co.	6,109	47,694	12.8%	Rural	64	10.5	
Tennessee	Montgomery Co.	21,430	235,252	9.1%	Urban	166	7.7	
Tennessee	Moore Co.	421	6,715	6.3%	Rural	4	9.5	
Tennessee	Morgan Co.	2,847	21,176	13.4%	Urban	24	8.4	
Tennessee	Obion Co.	4,503	30,365	14.8%	Rural	39	8.7	
Tennessee	Overton Co.	2,731	22,992	11.9%	Rural	28	10.3	
Tennessee	Perry Co.	1,211	8,702	13.9%	Rural	9	7.4	
Tennessee	Pickett Co.	742	5,102	14.5%	Rural	6	8.1	
Tennessee	Polk Co.	2,247	17,799	12.6%	Urban	20	8.9	
Tennessee	Putnam Co.	8,312	82,603	10.1%	Rural	89	10.7	
Tennessee	Rhea Co.	5,207	34,056	15.3%	Rural	43	8.3	
Tennessee	Roane Co.	6,183	55,256	11.2%	Urban	58	9.4	
Tennessee	Robertson Co.	6,180	75,402	8.2%	Urban	71	11.5	
Tennessee	Rutherford Co.	23,216	362,044	6.4%	Urban	261	11.2	
Tennessee	Scott Co.	5,040	22,033	22.9%	Rural	23	4.6	Higher-risk
Tennessee	Sequatchie Co.	2,612	16,943	15.4%	Urban	23	8.8	
Tennessee	Sevier Co.	7,804	99,318	7.9%	Rural	135	17.3	
Tennessee	Shelby Co.	173,305	918,382	18.9%	Urban	949	5.5	
Tennessee	Smith Co.	2,157	20,485	10.5%	Urban	20	9.3	
Tennessee	Stewart Co.	1,397	14,001	10%	Urban	15	10.7	
Tennessee	Sullivan Co.	19,043	160,891	11.8%	Urban	156	8.2	
Tennessee	Sumner Co.	12,767	204,018	6.3%	Urban	142	11.1	
Tennessee	Tipton Co.	7,508	61,577	12.2%	Urban	47	6.3	
Tennessee	Trousdale Co.	1,144	12,085	9.5%	Urban	14	12.2	
Tennessee	Unicoi Co.	2,148	17,606	12.2%	Urban	21	9.8	
Tennessee	Union Co.	3,097	20,483	15.1%	Urban	21	6.8	
Tennessee	Van Buren Co.	758	6,455	11.7%	Rural	8	10.6	
Tennessee	Warren Co.	6,302	42,014	15%	Rural	49	7.8	
Tennessee	Washington Co.	13,050	136,339	9.6%	Urban	129	9.9	
Tennessee	Wayne Co.	1,824	16,259	11.2%	Rural	17	9.3	
Tennessee	Weakley Co.	3,925	33,032	11.9%	Rural	41	10.4	
Tennessee	White Co.	3,696	28,004	13.2%	Rural	30	8.1	
Tennessee	Williamson Co.	3,462	261,536	1.3%	Urban	108	31.2	
Tennessee	Wilson Co.	8,115	159,029	5.1%	Urban	114	14.0	
Texas	Anderson Co.	6,576	57,296	11.5%	Rural	47	7.1	
Texas	Andrews Co.	1,643	18,372	8.9%	Rural	16	9.7	
Texas	Angelina Co.	14,097	87,229	16.2%	Rural	85	6.0	
Texas	Aransas Co.	3,287	24,973	13.2%	Urban	23	7.0	
Texas	Archer Co.	557	8,858	6.3%	Urban	9	16.2	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Texas	Armstrong Co.	102	1,857	5.5%	Urban	4	39.2	
Texas	Atascosa Co.	9,271	50,935	18.2%	Urban	54	5.8	
Texas	Austin Co.	2,706	31,067	8.7%	Urban	31	11.5	
Texas	Bailey Co.	907	6,853	13.2%	Rural	8	8.8	
Texas	Bandera Co.	1,805	22,127	8.2%	Urban	18	10.0	
Texas	Bastrop Co.	10,344	106,484	9.7%	Urban	81	7.8	
Texas	Baylor Co.	499	3,476	14.4%	Rural	5	10.0	
Texas	Bee Co.	5,199	30,995	16.8%	Rural	26	5.0	
Texas	Bell Co.	49,936	387,828	12.9%	Urban	309	6.2	
Texas	Bexar Co.	275,087	2,063,840	13.3%	Urban	1,359	4.9	
Texas	Blanco Co.	533	12,439	4.3%	Rural	8	15.0	
Texas	Borden Co.	44	581	7.6%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Bosque Co.	1,919	18,701	10.3%	Urban	31	16.2	
Texas	Bowie Co.	14,331	91,689	15.6%	Urban	107	7.5	
Texas	Brazoria Co.	33,700	388,946	8.7%	Urban	248	7.4	
Texas	Brazos Co.	19,303	242,515	8%	Urban	132	6.8	
Texas	Brewster Co.	705	9,381	7.5%	Rural	12	17.0	
Texas	Briscoe Co.	122	1,441	8.5%	Rural	4	32.8	
Texas	Brooks Co.	2,377	6,960	34.2%	Rural	12	5.0	Higher-risk
Texas	Brown Co.	4,748	38,411	12.4%	Rural	46	9.7	
Texas	Burleson Co.	2,376	18,739	12.7%	Urban	21	8.8	
Texas	Burnet Co.	3,254	52,578	6.2%	Rural	40	12.3	
Texas	Caldwell Co.	5,648	47,920	11.8%	Urban	41	7.3	
Texas	Calhoun Co.	2,668	19,735	13.5%	Rural	24	9.0	
Texas	Callahan Co.	1,567	14,275	11%	Urban	17	10.8	
Texas	Cameron Co.	103,235	425,819	24.2%	Urban	421	4.1	Higher-risk
Texas	Camp Co.	2,048	12,750	16.1%	Rural	15	7.3	
Texas	Carson Co.	358	5,809	6.2%	Urban	9	25.1	
Texas	Cass Co.	4,887	28,530	17.1%	Rural	33	6.8	
Texas	Castro Co.	866	7,307	11.9%	Rural	9	10.4	
Texas	Chambers Co.	3,963	51,403	7.7%	Urban	30	7.6	
Texas	Cherokee Co.	7,707	51,666	14.9%	Rural	46	6.0	
Texas	Childress Co.	775	6,834	11.3%	Rural	10	12.9	
Texas	Clay Co.	935	10,484	8.9%	Urban	9	9.6	
Texas	Cochran Co.	484	2,551	19%	Urban	4	8.3	
Texas	Coke Co.	322	3,347	9.6%	Rural	7	21.7	
Texas	Coleman Co.	1,116	7,863	14.2%	Rural	14	12.5	
Texas	Collin Co.	40,869	1,163,724	3.5%	Urban	512	12.5	
Texas	Collingsworth Co.	399	2,584	15.4%	Rural	5	12.5	
Texas	Colorado Co.	2,288	20,926	10.9%	Rural	24	10.5	
Texas	Comal Co.	8,652	184,799	4.7%	Urban	98	11.3	
Texas	Comanche Co.	1,597	13,903	11.5%	Rural	16	10.0	
Texas	Concho Co.	310	3,371	9.2%	Rural	5	16.1	
Texas	Cooke Co.	3,859	43,047	9%	Rural	42	10.9	
Texas	Coryell Co.	8,240	84,224	9.8%	Urban	47	5.7	
Texas	Cottle Co.	210	1,317	15.9%	Rural	4	19.0	
Texas	Crane Co.	449	4,557	9.9%	Rural	7	15.6	
Texas	Crockett Co.	308	2,952	10.4%	Rural	6	19.5	
Texas	Crosby Co.	1,176	5,010	23.5%	Urban	10	8.5	
Texas	Culberson Co.	406	2,159	18.8%	Rural	7	17.2	
Texas	Dallam Co.	472	7,271	6.5%	Rural	10	21.2	
Texas	Dallas Co.	316,124	2,613,712	12.1%	Urban	1,815	5.7	
Texas	Dawson Co.	1,914	12,171	15.7%	Rural	14	7.3	
Texas	Deaf Smith Co.	2,522	18,433	13.7%	Rural	19	7.5	
Texas	Delta Co.	732	5,417	13.5%	Rural	6	8.2	
Texas	Denton Co.	40,904	980,355	4.2%	Urban	363	8.9	
Texas	DeWitt Co.	3,079	19,783	15.6%	Rural	15	4.9	
Texas	Dickens Co.	210	1,734	12.1%	Rural	3	14.3	
Texas	Dimmit Co.	2,650	8,377	31.6%	Rural	17	6.4	Higher-risk
Texas	Donley Co.	329	3,275	10%	Rural	6	18.2	
Texas	Duval Co.	3,124	9,688	32.2%	Rural	19	6.1	Higher-risk
Texas	Eastland Co.	2,441	17,909	13.6%	Rural	33	13.5	
Texas	Ector Co.	20,496	161,480	12.7%	Urban	166	8.1	
Texas	Edwards Co.	279	1,423	19.6%	Rural	2	7.2	
Texas	Ellis Co.	15,547	212,548	7.3%	Urban	122	7.8	
Texas	El Paso Co.	145,850	868,890	16.8%	Urban	658	4.5	
Texas	Erath Co.	3,238	43,929	7.4%	Rural	35	10.8	
Texas	Falls Co.	2,836	16,958	16.7%	Urban	22	7.8	
Texas	Fannin Co.	3,332	37,237	8.9%	Rural	32	9.6	
Texas	Fayette Co.	1,798	24,987	7.2%	Rural	22	12.2	
Texas	Fisher Co.	407	3,639	11.2%	Rural	6	14.7	
Texas	Floyd Co.	1,074	5,250	20.5%	Rural	6	5.6	
Texas	Foard Co.	121	1,062	11.4%	Rural	2	16.5	
Texas	Fort Bend Co.	56,706	893,319	6.3%	Urban	388	6.8	
Texas	Franklin Co.	1,219	10,641	11.5%	Rural	13	10.7	
Texas	Freestone Co.	2,367	20,006	11.8%	Rural	21	8.9	
Texas	Frio Co.	3,749	18,220	20.6%	Rural	18	4.8	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Texas	Gaines Co.	1,748	22,157	7.9%	Rural	16	9.2	
Texas	Galveston Co.	35,352	357,735	9.9%	Urban	280	7.9	
Texas	Garza Co.	589	4,527	13%	Urban	7	11.9	
Texas	Gillespie Co.	1,086	27,572	3.9%	Rural	12	11.0	
Texas	Glasscock Co.	32	1,145	2.8%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Goliad Co.	788	7,144	11%	Urban	4	5.1	
Texas	Gonzales Co.	3,094	19,865	15.6%	Rural	25	8.1	
Texas	Gray Co.	3,053	20,986	14.5%	Rural	25	8.2	
Texas	Grayson Co.	13,589	143,292	9.5%	Urban	126	9.3	
Texas	Gregg Co.	17,795	125,668	14.2%	Urban	137	7.7	
Texas	Grimes Co.	3,764	31,141	12.1%	Rural	25	6.6	
Texas	Guadalupe Co.	13,250	182,953	7.2%	Urban	101	7.6	
Texas	Hale Co.	5,156	32,007	16.1%	Rural	33	6.4	
Texas	Hall Co.	527	2,820	18.7%	Rural	7	13.3	
Texas	Hamilton Co.	794	8,314	9.6%	Rural	17	21.4	
Texas	Hansford Co.	314	5,117	6.1%	Rural	7	22.3	
Texas	Hardeman Co.	494	3,509	14.1%	Rural	8	16.2	
Texas	Hardin Co.	6,468	57,819	11.2%	Urban	47	7.3	
Texas	Harris Co.	623,573	4,806,747	13%	Urban	3,626	5.8	
Texas	Harrison Co.	9,570	70,047	13.7%	Urban	59	6.2	
Texas	Hartley Co.	137	5,220	2.6%	Rural	3	21.9	
Texas	Haskell Co.	811	5,412	15%	Rural	8	9.9	
Texas	Hays Co.	13,945	269,476	5.2%	Urban	139	10.0	
Texas	Hemphill Co.	189	3,204	5.9%	Rural	3	15.9	
Texas	Henderson Co.	11,940	84,508	14.1%	Rural	81	6.8	
Texas	Hidalgo Co.	221,600	889,799	24.9%	Urban	965	4.4	Higher-risk
Texas	Hill Co.	4,609	37,320	12.3%	Rural	51	11.1	
Texas	Hockley Co.	2,928	21,227	13.8%	Urban	21	7.2	
Texas	Hood Co.	4,403	66,315	6.6%	Rural	59	13.4	
Texas	Hopkins Co.	3,862	37,834	10.2%	Rural	35	9.1	
Texas	Houston Co.	3,661	21,936	16.7%	Rural	26	7.1	
Texas	Howard Co.	4,094	30,745	13.3%	Rural	36	8.8	
Texas	Hudspeth Co.	864	3,454	25%	Urban	6	6.9	Higher-risk
Texas	Hunt Co.	12,020	108,532	11.1%	Urban	85	7.1	
Texas	Hutchinson Co.	2,287	20,176	11.3%	Rural	26	11.4	
Texas	Irion Co.	97	1,544	6.3%	Urban	2	20.6	
Texas	Jack Co.	802	8,755	9.2%	Rural	10	12.5	
Texas	Jackson Co.	1,925	15,162	12.7%	Rural	16	8.3	
Texas	Jasper Co.	6,272	32,518	19.3%	Rural	42	6.7	
Texas	Jeff Davis Co.	89	1,908	4.7%	Rural	2	22.5	
Texas	Jefferson Co.	41,778	252,095	16.6%	Urban	287	6.9	
Texas	Jim Hogg Co.	1,413	4,764	29.7%	Rural	10	7.1	Higher-risk
Texas	Jim Wells Co.	9,829	38,755	25.4%	Rural	50	5.1	Higher-risk
Texas	Johnson Co.	15,509	195,774	7.9%	Urban	120	7.7	
Texas	Jones Co.	2,022	20,316	10%	Urban	17	8.4	
Texas	Karnes Co.	2,099	15,039	14%	Rural	20	9.5	
Texas	Kaufman Co.	16,897	172,951	9.8%	Urban	110	6.5	
Texas	Kendall Co.	1,560	49,046	3.2%	Urban	21	13.5	
Texas	Kenedy Co.	26	358	7.3%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Kent Co.	63	739	8.5%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Kerr Co.	3,985	53,785	7.4%	Rural	38	9.5	
Texas	Kimble Co.	482	4,438	10.9%	Rural	9	18.7	
Texas	King Co.	3	233	1.3%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Kinney Co.	515	3,143	16.4%	Rural	4	7.8	
Texas	Kleberg Co.	6,191	30,454	20.3%	Rural	30	4.8	
Texas	Knox Co.	533	3,288	16.2%	Rural	7	13.1	
Texas	Lamar Co.	7,311	50,513	14.5%	Rural	65	8.9	
Texas	Lamb Co.	2,049	12,774	16%	Rural	16	7.8	
Texas	Lampasas Co.	2,143	22,789	9.4%	Urban	15	7.0	
Texas	La Salle Co.	1,307	6,561	19.9%	Rural	17	13.0	
Texas	Lavaca Co.	1,991	20,661	9.6%	Rural	21	10.5	
Texas	Lee Co.	1,708	17,966	9.5%	Rural	18	10.5	
Texas	Leon Co.	2,040	16,228	12.6%	Rural	21	10.3	
Texas	Liberty Co.	17,335	102,661	16.9%	Urban	108	6.2	
Texas	Limestone Co.	3,450	22,224	15.5%	Rural	24	7.0	
Texas	Lipscomb Co.	205	2,855	7.2%	Rural	4	19.5	
Texas	Live Oak Co.	1,476	11,571	12.8%	Rural	18	12.2	
Texas	Llano Co.	1,923	22,664	8.5%	Rural	19	9.9	
Texas	Loving Co.	5	47	10.6%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Lubbock Co.	38,404	318,324	12.1%	Urban	243	6.3	
Texas	Lynn Co.	820	5,751	14.3%	Urban	6	7.3	
Texas	McCulloch Co.	1,271	7,494	17%	Rural	12	9.4	
Texas	McLennan Co.	33,636	266,254	12.6%	Urban	233	6.9	
Texas	McMullen Co.	62	571	10.9%	Rural	1	16.1	
Texas	Madison Co.	1,796	13,642	13.2%	Rural	13	7.2	
Texas	Marion Co.	1,882	9,677	19.4%	Rural	12	6.4	
Texas	Martin Co.	572	5,226	10.9%	Urban	5	8.7	
Texas	Mason Co.	244	3,975	6.1%	Rural	4	16.4	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Texas	Matagorda Co.	6,167	36,182	17%	Rural	52	8.4	
Texas	Maverick Co.	16,843	57,813	29.1%	Urban	52	3.1	Higher-risk
Texas	Medina Co.	6,518	53,756	12.1%	Urban	48	7.4	
Texas	Menard Co.	215	1,979	10.9%	Rural	3	14.0	
Texas	Midland Co.	13,954	172,705	8.1%	Urban	149	10.7	
Texas	Milam Co.	3,616	25,649	14.1%	Rural	27	7.5	
Texas	Mills Co.	383	4,504	8.5%	Rural	4	10.4	
Texas	Mitchell Co.	901	8,959	10.1%	Rural	10	11.1	
Texas	Montague Co.	1,946	21,134	9.2%	Rural	18	9.2	
Texas	Montgomery Co.	48,093	680,824	7.1%	Urban	372	7.7	
Texas	Moore Co.	1,607	21,156	7.6%	Rural	28	17.4	
Texas	Morris Co.	2,403	12,082	19.9%	Rural	14	5.8	
Texas	Motley Co.	88	1,033	8.5%	Rural	4	45.5	
Texas	Nacogdoches Co.	9,590	64,995	14.8%	Rural	48	5.0	
Texas	Navarro Co.	7,810	54,775	14.3%	Rural	56	7.2	
Texas	Newton Co.	2,192	12,076	18.2%	Rural	7	3.2	
Texas	Nolan Co.	2,367	14,460	16.4%	Rural	21	8.9	
Texas	Nueces Co.	61,858	351,852	17.6%	Urban	307	5.0	
Texas	Ochiltree Co.	702	9,718	7.2%	Rural	11	15.7	
Texas	Oldham Co.	81	1,764	4.6%	Urban	4	49.4	
Texas	Orange Co.	11,987	85,125	14.1%	Urban	99	8.3	
Texas	Palo Pinto Co.	3,228	29,292	11%	Rural	44	13.6	
Texas	Panola Co.	3,025	22,730	13.3%	Rural	23	7.6	
Texas	Parker Co.	8,337	165,899	5%	Urban	93	11.2	
Texas	Parker Co.	734	9,657	7.6%	Rural	13	17.7	
Texas	Pecos Co.	1,887	14,742	12.8%	Rural	23	12.2	
Texas	Polk Co.	8,057	53,223	15.1%	Rural	54	6.7	
Texas	Potter Co.	18,199	115,100	15.8%	Urban	131	7.2	
Texas	Presidio Co.	1,322	5,970	22.1%	Rural	11	8.3	
Texas	Rains Co.	1,318	12,858	10.3%	Rural	10	7.6	
Texas	Randall Co.	8,430	146,221	5.8%	Urban	105	12.5	
Texas	Reagan Co.	273	3,161	8.6%	Rural	6	22.0	
Texas	Real Co.	450	2,819	16%	Rural	6	13.3	
Texas	Red River Co.	1,759	11,594	15.2%	Rural	17	9.7	
Texas	Reeves Co.	1,840	11,750	15.7%	Rural	25	13.6	
Texas	Refugio Co.	1,039	6,649	15.6%	Rural	10	9.6	
Texas	Roberts Co.	34	804	4.2%	Rural	0	0.0	
Texas	Robertson Co.	2,903	17,135	16.9%	Urban	24	8.3	
Texas	Rockwall Co.	4,670	123,538	3.8%	Urban	56	12.0	
Texas	Runnels Co.	1,242	9,896	12.6%	Rural	16	12.9	
Texas	Rusk Co.	6,494	52,597	12.3%	Urban	43	6.6	
Texas	Sabine Co.	1,820	10,035	18.1%	Rural	13	7.1	
Texas	San Augustine Co.	1,602	7,886	20.3%	Rural	12	7.5	
Texas	San Jacinto Co.	4,526	28,399	15.9%	Urban	26	5.7	
Texas	San Patricio Co.	12,099	70,044	17.3%	Urban	77	6.4	
Texas	San Saba Co.	646	5,873	11%	Rural	7	10.8	
Texas	Schleicher Co.	265	2,351	11.3%	Rural	4	15.1	
Texas	Scurry Co.	1,866	16,258	11.5%	Rural	18	9.6	
Texas	Shackelford Co.	343	3,201	10.7%	Rural	4	11.7	
Texas	Shelby Co.	4,370	24,163	18.1%	Rural	30	6.9	
Texas	Sherman Co.	174	2,781	6.3%	Rural	5	28.7	
Texas	Smith Co.	25,541	242,249	10.5%	Urban	190	7.4	
Texas	Somervell Co.	648	9,791	6.6%	Rural	11	17.0	
Texas	Starr Co.	20,945	65,793	31.8%	Rural	99	4.7	Higher-risk
Texas	Stephens Co.	1,173	9,374	12.5%	Rural	12	10.2	
Texas	Sterling Co.	89	1,417	6.3%	Rural	5	56.2	
Texas	Stonewall Co.	119	1,218	9.8%	Rural	3	25.2	
Texas	Sutton Co.	330	3,239	10.2%	Rural	12	36.4	
Texas	Swisher Co.	1,170	6,952	16.8%	Rural	7	6.0	
Texas	Tarrant Co.	209,689	2,161,670	9.7%	Urban	1,474	7.0	
Texas	Taylor Co.	16,795	145,481	11.5%	Urban	157	9.3	
Texas	Terrell Co.	67	693	9.7%	Rural	1	14.9	
Texas	Terry Co.	1,951	11,462	17%	Rural	11	5.6	
Texas	Throckmorton Co.	149	1,543	9.7%	Rural	3	20.1	
Texas	Titus Co.	4,169	31,273	13.3%	Rural	36	8.6	
Texas	Tom Green Co.	12,014	119,006	10.1%	Urban	97	8.1	
Texas	Travis Co.	80,371	1,332,544	6%	Urban	692	8.6	
Texas	Trinity Co.	2,801	13,996	20%	Rural	21	7.5	
Texas	Tyler Co.	3,248	20,447	15.9%	Rural	24	7.4	
Texas	Upshur Co.	5,540	42,492	13%	Urban	34	6.1	
Texas	Upton Co.	390	3,157	12.4%	Rural	7	17.9	
Texas	Uvalde Co.	6,241	24,895	25.1%	Rural	29	4.6	Higher-risk
Texas	Val Verde Co.	9,896	47,678	20.8%	Rural	36	3.6	
Texas	Van Zandt Co.	5,846	62,872	9.3%	Rural	49	8.4	
Texas	Victoria Co.	14,011	91,128	15.4%	Urban	90	6.4	
Texas	Walker Co.	6,764	79,821	8.5%	Rural	66	9.8	

Table 1—Continued
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State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Texas	Waller Co.	5,817	61,967	9.4%	Urban	32	5.5	
Texas	Ward Co.	1,264	10,946	11.5%	Rural	22	17.4	
Texas	Washington Co.	3,161	36,382	8.7%	Rural	25	7.9	
Texas	Webb Co.	66,412	268,276	24.8%	Urban	217	3.3	Higher-risk
Texas	Wharton Co.	6,340	41,811	15.2%	Rural	42	6.6	
Texas	Wheeler Co.	529	4,801	11%	Rural	10	18.9	
Texas	Wichita Co.	17,106	130,166	13.1%	Urban	120	7.0	
Texas	Wilbarger Co.	1,897	12,544	15.1%	Rural	18	9.5	
Texas	Willacy Co.	5,046	20,231	24.9%	Rural	23	4.6	Higher-risk
Texas	Williamson Co.	25,935	673,951	3.8%	Urban	310	12.0	
Texas	Wilson Co.	3,933	52,772	7.5%	Urban	30	7.6	
Texas	Winkler Co.	909	7,305	12.4%	Rural	17	18.7	
Texas	Wise Co.	4,784	74,900	6.4%	Urban	56	11.7	
Texas	Wood Co.	4,556	46,967	9.7%	Rural	39	8.6	
Texas	Yoakum Co.	733	7,523	9.7%	Rural	13	17.7	
Texas	Young Co.	1,843	17,998	10.2%	Rural	19	10.3	
Texas	Zapata Co.	4,258	13,841	30.8%	Rural	29	6.8	Higher-risk
Texas	Zavala Co.	3,501	9,382	37.3%	Rural	15	4.3	Higher-risk
Utah	Beaver Co.	466	7,348	6.3%	Rural	6	12.9	
Utah	Box Elder Co.	2,825	61,590	4.6%	Rural	35	12.4	
Utah	Cache Co.	5,058	140,450	3.6%	Urban	46	9.1	
Utah	Carbon Co.	2,464	20,530	12%	Rural	19	7.7	
Utah	Daggett Co.	40	1,011	4%	Rural	1	25.0	
Utah	Davis Co.	12,168	370,424	3.3%	Urban	130	10.7	
Utah	Duchesne Co.	2,096	20,158	10.4%	Rural	20	9.5	
Utah	Emery Co.	740	10,104	7.3%	Rural	18	24.3	
Utah	Garfield Co.	218	5,264	4.1%	Rural	6	27.5	
Utah	Grand Co.	520	9,809	5.3%	Rural	17	32.7	
Utah	Iron Co.	4,271	62,607	6.8%	Rural	30	7.0	
Utah	Juab Co.	581	12,575	4.6%	Urban	10	17.2	
Utah	Kane Co.	357	8,208	4.3%	Rural	7	19.6	
Utah	Millard Co.	769	13,328	5.8%	Rural	20	26.0	
Utah	Morgan Co.	130	12,860	1%	Urban	5	38.5	
Utah	Piute Co.	90	1,493	6%	Rural	3	33.3	
Utah	Rich Co.	83	2,634	3.2%	Rural	3	36.1	
Utah	Salt Lake Co.	62,284	1,192,255	5.2%	Urban	617	9.9	
Utah	San Juan Co.	2,586	14,411	17.9%	Rural	20	7.7	
Utah	Sanpete Co.	1,676	29,762	5.6%	Rural	15	8.9	
Utah	Sevier Co.	1,888	22,065	8.6%	Rural	14	7.4	
Utah	Summit Co.	424	43,134	1%	Rural	20	47.2	
Utah	Tooele Co.	4,090	79,981	5.1%	Urban	33	8.1	
Utah	Uintah Co.	3,419	37,162	9.2%	Rural	24	7.0	
Utah	Utah Co.	21,751	704,764	3.1%	Urban	223	10.3	
Utah	Wasatch Co.	513	36,731	1.4%	Rural	13	25.3	
Utah	Washington Co.	8,976	197,898	4.5%	Urban	78	8.7	
Utah	Wayne Co.	152	2,632	5.8%	Rural	3	19.7	
Utah	Weber Co.	16,839	269,823	6.2%	Urban	136	8.1	
Vermont	Addison Co.	2,918	37,619	7.8%	Rural	34	11.7	
Vermont	Bennington Co.	5,584	37,367	14.9%	Rural	51	9.1	
Vermont	Caledonia Co.	4,484	30,578	14.7%	Rural	30	6.7	
Vermont	Chittenden Co.	13,442	170,050	7.9%	Urban	159	11.8	
Vermont	Essex Co.	1,071	5,988	17.9%	Rural	2	1.9	
Vermont	Franklin Co.	6,210	50,732	12.2%	Urban	64	10.3	
Vermont	Grand Isle Co.	835	7,508	11.1%	Urban	14	16.8	
Vermont	Lamoille Co.	2,533	26,177	9.7%	Rural	26	10.3	
Vermont	Orange Co.	3,072	29,892	10.3%	Rural	31	10.1	
Vermont	Orleans Co.	4,813	27,618	17.4%	Rural	35	7.3	
Vermont	Rutland Co.	8,387	60,381	13.9%	Rural	77	9.2	
Vermont	Washington Co.	5,713	60,165	9.5%	Rural	71	12.4	
Vermont	Windham Co.	6,041	45,951	13.1%	Rural	55	9.1	
Vermont	Windsor Co.	6,019	58,116	10.4%	Rural	53	8.8	
Virginia	Accomack Co.	5,398	33,157	16.3%	Rural	44	8.2	
Virginia	Albemarle Co.	6,077	114,925	5.3%	Urban	64	10.5	
Virginia	Alleghany Co.	2,202	14,764	14.9%	Rural	13	5.9	
Virginia	Amelia Co.	1,467	13,419	10.9%	Urban	12	8.2	
Virginia	Amherst Co.	3,992	31,512	12.7%	Urban	30	7.5	
Virginia	Appomattox Co.	2,489	16,696	14.9%	Urban	15	6.0	
Virginia	Arlington Co.	8,462	233,976	3.6%	Urban	97	11.5	
Virginia	Augusta Co.	5,800	77,919	7.4%	Urban	51	8.8	
Virginia	Bath Co.	338	4,077	8.3%	Rural	3	8.9	
Virginia	Bedford Co.	6,423	80,798	7.9%	Urban	65	10.1	
Virginia	Bland Co.	587	6,151	9.5%	Rural	5	8.5	
Virginia	Botetourt Co.	1,821	34,092	5.3%	Urban	21	11.5	
Virginia	Brunswick Co.	3,321	15,856	20.9%	Rural	17	5.1	
Virginia	Buchanan Co.	5,178	19,329	26.8%	Rural	29	5.6	Higher-risk
Virginia	Buckingham Co.	2,822	16,983	16.6%	Rural	19	6.7	
Virginia	Campbell Co.	6,910	55,035	12.6%	Urban	49	7.1	
Virginia	Caroline Co.	3,971	31,959	12.4%	Rural	34	8.6	

Table 1—Continued
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Virginia	Carroll Co.	4,740	29,096	16.3%	Rural	41	8.6	
Virginia	Charles City Co.	867	6,580	13.2%	Urban	6	6.9	
Virginia	Charlotte Co.	2,148	11,427	18.8%	Rural	16	7.4	
Virginia	Chesterfield Co.	29,381	378,488	7.8%	Urban	211	7.2	
Virginia	Clarke Co.	598	15,312	3.9%	Urban	6	10.0	
Virginia	Craig Co.	528	4,859	10.9%	Urban	4	7.6	
Virginia	Culpeper Co.	4,280	54,250	7.9%	Urban	31	7.2	
Virginia	Cumberland Co.	1,911	9,755	19.6%	Rural	7	3.7	
Virginia	Dickenson Co.	2,864	13,714	20.9%	Rural	19	6.6	
Virginia	Dinwiddie Co.	4,390	28,112	15.6%	Urban	21	4.8	
Virginia	Essex Co.	1,938	10,644	18.2%	Rural	14	7.2	
Virginia	Fairfax Co.	48,677	1,140,521	4.3%	Urban	432	8.9	
Virginia	Fauquier Co.	3,059	74,686	4.1%	Urban	33	10.8	
Virginia	Floyd Co.	1,709	15,625	10.9%	Urban	18	10.5	
Virginia	Fluvanna Co.	1,751	28,134	6.2%	Urban	9	5.1	
Virginia	Franklin Co.	6,913	55,047	12.6%	Urban	57	8.2	
Virginia	Frederick Co.	5,658	94,839	6%	Urban	65	11.5	
Virginia	Giles Co.	2,109	16,430	12.8%	Urban	24	11.4	
Virginia	Gloucester Co.	3,859	39,546	9.8%	Urban	33	8.6	
Virginia	Goochland Co.	1,222	26,184	4.7%	Urban	16	13.1	
Virginia	Grayson Co.	2,580	15,310	16.9%	Rural	13	5.0	
Virginia	Greene Co.	1,887	21,026	9%	Urban	14	7.4	
Virginia	Greensville Co.	1,859	11,232	16.6%	Rural	25	13.4	
Virginia	Halifax Co.	6,172	33,599	18.4%	Rural	51	8.3	
Virginia	Hanover Co.	5,335	112,889	4.7%	Urban	79	14.8	
Virginia	Henrico Co.	34,876	334,855	10.4%	Urban	263	7.5	
Virginia	Henry Co.	9,944	49,765	20%	Rural	70	7.0	
Virginia	Highland Co.	118	2,303	5.1%	Rural	7	59.3	
Virginia	Isle of Wight Co.	3,691	40,149	9.2%	Urban	31	8.4	
Virginia	James City Co.	4,457	81,426	5.5%	Urban	41	9.2	
Virginia	King and Queen Co.	1,059	6,721	15.8%	Urban	3	2.8	
Virginia	King George Co.	2,136	27,867	7.7%	Rural	20	9.4	
Virginia	King William Co.	1,574	18,528	8.5%	Urban	15	9.5	
Virginia	Lancaster Co.	1,344	10,838	12.4%	Rural	14	10.4	
Virginia	Lee Co.	5,666	21,842	25.9%	Rural	37	6.5	Higher-risk
Virginia	Loudoun Co.	11,328	432,897	2.6%	Urban	151	13.3	
Virginia	Louisa Co.	3,946	39,986	9.9%	Rural	29	7.3	
Virginia	Lunenburg Co.	2,165	12,020	18%	Rural	10	4.6	
Virginia	Madison Co.	1,116	14,013	8%	Rural	11	9.9	
Virginia	Mathews Co.	792	8,467	9.4%	Urban	6	7.6	
Virginia	Mecklenburg Co.	4,877	30,511	16%	Rural	43	8.8	
Virginia	Middlesex Co.	1,500	10,958	13.7%	Rural	11	7.3	
Virginia	Montgomery Co.	6,394	98,980	6.5%	Urban	68	10.6	
Virginia	Nelson Co.	1,755	14,692	11.9%	Urban	13	7.4	
Virginia	New Kent Co.	1,214	25,000	4.9%	Urban	17	14.0	
Virginia	Northampton Co.	2,291	11,974	19.1%	Rural	14	6.1	
Virginia	Northumberland Co.	1,552	12,263	12.7%	Rural	15	9.7	
Virginia	Nottoway Co.	2,907	15,561	18.7%	Rural	19	6.5	
Virginia	Orange Co.	3,267	38,019	8.6%	Rural	31	9.5	
Virginia	Page Co.	2,856	23,747	12%	Rural	16	5.6	
Virginia	Patrick Co.	2,890	17,569	16.4%	Rural	19	6.6	
Virginia	Pittsylvania Co.	8,836	59,845	14.8%	Rural	54	6.1	
Virginia	Powhatan Co.	1,273	31,582	4%	Urban	12	9.4	
Virginia	Prince Edward Co.	3,470	21,856	15.9%	Rural	27	7.8	
Virginia	Prince George Co.	3,585	43,067	8.3%	Urban	23	6.4	
Virginia	Prince William Co.	28,932	487,523	5.9%	Urban	219	7.6	
Virginia	Pulaski Co.	5,326	33,639	15.8%	Urban	36	6.8	
Virginia	Rappahannock Co.	484	7,445	6.5%	Urban	1	2.1	
Virginia	Richmond Co.	1,299	9,099	14.3%	Rural	12	9.2	
Virginia	Roanoke Co.	6,205	96,856	6.4%	Urban	56	9.0	
Virginia	Rockbridge Co.	2,434	22,585	10.8%	Rural	28	11.5	
Virginia	Rockingham Co.	5,098	85,390	6%	Urban	51	10.0	
Virginia	Russell Co.	5,511	25,440	21.7%	Rural	20	3.6	
Virginia	Scott Co.	3,718	21,497	17.3%	Urban	38	10.2	
Virginia	Shenandoah Co.	4,813	44,905	10.7%	Rural	46	9.6	
Virginia	Smyth Co.	6,185	29,393	21%	Rural	41	6.6	
Virginia	Southampton Co.	2,520	17,897	14.1%	Rural	15	6.0	
Virginia	Spotsylvania Co.	11,986	146,744	8.2%	Urban	96	8.0	
Virginia	Stafford Co.	10,360	163,233	6.3%	Urban	92	8.9	

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Virginia	Surry Co.	915	6,506	14.1%	Urban	11	12.0	
Virginia	Sussex Co.	1,851	10,652	17.4%	Urban	17	9.2	
Virginia	Tazewell Co.	8,226	39,650	20.7%	Rural	56	6.8	
Virginia	Warren Co.	3,934	41,436	9.5%	Urban	33	8.4	
Virginia	Washington Co.	7,095	53,846	13.2%	Urban	65	9.2	
Virginia	Westmoreland Co.	3,024	18,704	16.2%	Rural	22	7.3	
Virginia	Wise Co.	7,949	35,324	22.5%	Rural	49	6.2	
Virginia	Wythe Co.	4,399	28,143	15.6%	Rural	45	10.2	
Virginia	York Co.	3,145	71,209	4.4%	Urban	42	13.4	
Virginia	Alexandria City	11,297	155,235	7.3%	Urban	81	7.2	
Virginia	Bristol City	4,508	16,884	26.7%	Urban	32	7.1	Higher-risk
Virginia	Buena Vista City	941	6,567	14.3%	Rural	9	9.6	
Virginia	Charlottesville City	4,465	45,223	9.9%	Urban	50	11.2	
Virginia	Chesapeake City	21,643	252,493	8.6%	Urban	177	8.2	
Virginia	Colonial Heights City	2,624	18,265	14.4%	Urban	27	10.3	
Virginia	Covington City	1,255	5,668	22.1%	Rural	13	10.4	
Virginia	Danville City	12,748	42,099	30.3%	Rural	75	5.9	Higher-risk
Virginia	Emporia City	1,847	5,524	33.4%	Rural	3	1.6	Higher-risk
Virginia	Fairfax City	975	24,825	3.9%	Urban	29	29.7	
Virginia	Falls Church City	393	14,518	2.7%	Urban	14	35.6	
Virginia	Franklin City	2,531	8,259	30.6%	Rural	15	5.9	Higher-risk
Virginia	Fredericksburg City	4,144	28,709	14.4%	Urban	32	7.7	
Virginia	Galax City	1,634	6,724	24.3%	Rural	18	11.0	
Virginia	Hampton City	22,693	137,970	16.4%	Urban	129	5.7	
Virginia	Harrisonburg City	4,703	51,207	9.2%	Urban	64	13.6	
Virginia	Hopewell City	6,783	22,848	29.7%	Urban	34	5.0	Higher-risk
Virginia	Lexington City	365	7,508	4.9%	Rural	4	11.0	
Virginia	Lynchburg City	12,506	79,279	15.8%	Urban	73	5.8	
Virginia	Manassas City	3,567	42,710	8.4%	Urban	39	10.9	
Virginia	Manassas Park City	1,181	16,675	7.1%	Urban	6	5.1	
Virginia	Martinsville City	3,966	13,686	29%	Rural	23	5.8	Higher-risk
Virginia	Newport News City	34,591	184,004	18.8%	Urban	189	5.5	
Virginia	Norfolk City	40,498	232,766	17.4%	Urban	193	4.8	
Virginia	Norton City	1,049	3,594	29.2%	Rural	13	12.4	
Virginia	Petersburg City	11,325	33,481	33.8%	Urban	59	5.2	Higher-risk
Virginia	Poquoson City	391	12,624	3.1%	Urban	10	25.6	
Virginia	Portsmouth City	23,307	96,989	24%	Urban	91	3.9	Higher-risk
Virginia	Radford City	1,562	16,723	9.3%	Urban	14	9.0	
Virginia	Richmond City	39,112	228,670	17.1%	Urban	227	5.8	
Virginia	Roanoke City	21,793	97,743	22.3%	Urban	144	6.6	
Virginia	Salem City	1,790	25,698	7%	Urban	26	14.5	
Virginia	Staunton City	3,166	25,942	12.2%	Urban	37	11.7	
Virginia	Suffolk City	11,554	98,630	11.7%	Urban	73	6.3	
Virginia	Virginia Beach City	32,410	454,886	7.1%	Urban	307	9.5	
Virginia	Waynesboro City	3,247	22,742	14.3%	Urban	27	8.3	
Virginia	Williamsburg City	1,140	15,757	7.2%	Urban	17	14.9	
Virginia	Winchester City	3,487	27,919	12.5%	Urban	39	11.2	
Washington	Adams Co.	4,432	20,843	21.3%	Rural	21	4.7	
Washington	Asotin Co.	4,295	22,497	19.1%	Urban	12	2.8	
Washington	Benton Co.	30,900	212,838	14.5%	Urban	152	4.9	
Washington	Chelan Co.	9,437	80,032	11.8%	Urban	66	7.0	
Washington	Clallam Co.	10,680	77,675	13.7%	Rural	63	5.9	
Washington	Clark Co.	56,603	517,036	10.9%	Urban	277	4.9	
Washington	Columbia Co.	706	4,018	17.6%	Rural	5	7.1	
Washington	Cowlitz Co.	21,365	112,058	19.1%	Urban	96	4.5	
Washington	Douglas Co.	4,978	44,147	11.3%	Urban	28	5.6	
Washington	Ferry Co.	1,659	7,435	22.3%	Rural	9	5.4	
Washington	Franklin Co.	15,596	98,461	15.8%	Urban	84	5.4	
Washington	Garfield Co.	329	2,355	14%	Rural	3	9.1	
Washington	Grant Co.	19,306	101,308	19.1%	Rural	103	5.3	
Washington	Grays Harbor Co.	15,955	77,080	20.7%	Rural	96	6.0	
Washington	Island Co.	6,158	86,744	7.1%	Rural	32	5.2	
Washington	Jefferson Co.	3,282	33,597	9.8%	Rural	23	7.0	
Washington	King Co.	189,993	2,271,238	8.4%	Urban	1,235	6.5	
Washington	Kitsap Co.	25,174	277,876	9.1%	Urban	151	6.0	
Washington	Kititas Co.	4,397	47,368	9.3%	Rural	37	8.4	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Washington	Klickitat Co.	3,454	23,248	14.9%	Rural	16	4.6	
Washington	Lewis Co.	14,638	85,307	17.2%	Rural	110	7.5	
Washington	Lincoln Co.	1,536	11,609	13.2%	Rural	9	5.9	
Washington	Mason Co.	10,736	68,238	15.7%	Rural	49	4.6	
Washington	Okanogan Co.	9,202	43,255	21.3%	Rural	62	6.7	
Washington	Pacific Co.	3,935	24,067	16.4%	Rural	27	6.9	
Washington	Pend Oreille Co.	2,668	14,153	18.9%	Rural	12	4.5	
Washington	Pierce Co.	114,807	927,313	12.4%	Urban	545	4.7	
Washington	San Juan Co.	967	18,666	5.2%	Rural	12	12.4	
Washington	Skagit Co.	16,709	131,229	12.7%	Urban	116	6.9	
Washington	Skamania Co.	1,254	12,454	10.1%	Urban	11	8.8	
Washington	Snohomish Co.	72,590	841,529	8.6%	Urban	480	6.6	
Washington	Spokane Co.	83,972	549,835	15.3%	Urban	367	4.4	
Washington	Stevens Co.	8,270	48,273	17.1%	Urban	47	5.7	
Washington	Thurston Co.	34,777	298,645	11.6%	Urban	192	5.5	
Washington	Wahkiakum Co.	610	4,691	13%	Rural	5	8.2	
Washington	Walla Walla Co.	8,213	62,085	13.2%	Urban	46	5.6	
Washington	Whatcom Co.	25,033	230,701	10.9%	Urban	160	6.4	
Washington	Whitman Co.	4,119	47,653	8.6%	Rural	24	5.8	
Washington	Yakima Co.	60,264	256,566	23.5%	Urban	250	4.1	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Barbour Co.	3,127	15,397	20.3%	Rural	15	4.8	
West Virginia	Berkeley Co.	15,964	129,538	12.3%	Urban	87	5.4	
West Virginia	Boone Co.	5,449	20,925	26%	Urban	30	5.5	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Braxton Co.	2,989	12,158	24.6%	Rural	22	7.4	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Brooke Co.	2,645	21,739	12.2%	Urban	26	9.8	
West Virginia	Cabell Co.	17,263	92,501	18.7%	Urban	97	5.6	
West Virginia	Calhoun Co.	1,786	6,056	29.5%	Rural	14	7.8	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Clay Co.	2,804	7,819	35.9%	Urban	13	4.6	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Doddridge Co.	1,189	7,719	15.4%	Rural	6	5.0	
West Virginia	Fayette Co.	8,425	39,411	21.4%	Urban	58	6.9	
West Virginia	Gilmer Co.	1,253	7,309	17.1%	Rural	9	7.2	
West Virginia	Grant Co.	1,877	10,965	17.1%	Rural	11	5.9	
West Virginia	Greenbrier Co.	6,011	32,348	18.6%	Rural	58	9.6	
West Virginia	Hampshire Co.	3,594	23,464	15.3%	Urban	30	8.3	
West Virginia	Hancock Co.	3,996	28,265	14.1%	Urban	29	7.3	
West Virginia	Hardy Co.	2,128	14,196	15%	Rural	20	9.4	
West Virginia	Harrison Co.	9,335	64,683	14.4%	Rural	83	8.9	
West Virginia	Jackson Co.	5,311	27,624	19.2%	Rural	38	7.2	
West Virginia	Jefferson Co.	5,099	58,957	8.6%	Urban	50	9.8	
West Virginia	Kanawha Co.	32,205	175,899	18.3%	Urban	213	6.6	
West Virginia	Lewis Co.	3,630	16,719	21.7%	Rural	26	7.2	
West Virginia	Lincoln Co.	5,697	19,862	28.7%	Rural	27	4.7	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Logan Co.	8,203	31,251	26.2%	Rural	48	5.9	Higher-risk
West Virginia	McDowell Co.	6,704	17,790	37.7%	Rural	35	5.2	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Marion Co.	9,169	55,799	16.4%	Rural	70	7.6	
West Virginia	Marshall Co.	4,731	29,722	15.9%	Urban	25	5.3	
West Virginia	Mason Co.	5,149	24,938	20.6%	Rural	36	7.0	
West Virginia	Mercer Co.	14,038	58,599	24%	Rural	69	4.9	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Mineral Co.	3,618	26,872	13.5%	Rural	31	8.6	
West Virginia	Mingo Co.	7,871	22,427	35.1%	Rural	23	2.9	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Monongalia Co.	8,567	106,921	8%	Urban	78	9.1	
West Virginia	Monroe Co.	1,922	12,314	15.6%	Rural	14	7.3	
West Virginia	Morgan Co.	2,293	17,380	13.2%	Urban	17	7.4	
West Virginia	Nicholas Co.	5,477	24,266	22.6%	Rural	46	8.4	
West Virginia	Ohio Co.	6,964	41,473	16.8%	Urban	44	6.3	
West Virginia	Pendleton Co.	960	6,051	15.9%	Rural	10	10.4	
West Virginia	Pleasants Co.	1,181	7,564	15.6%	Rural	6	5.1	
West Virginia	Pocahontas Co.	1,407	7,776	18.1%	Rural	18	12.8	
West Virginia	Preston Co.	5,322	34,196	15.6%	Urban	40	7.5	
West Virginia	Putnam Co.	6,441	57,070	11.3%	Urban	62	9.6	
West Virginia	Raleigh Co.	15,976	72,863	21.9%	Urban	97	6.1	
West Virginia	Randolph Co.	4,995	27,539	18.1%	Rural	35	7.0	
West Virginia	Ritchie Co.	1,894	8,239	23%	Rural	18	9.5	
West Virginia	Roane Co.	3,164	13,794	22.9%	Rural	16	5.1	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Summers Co.	3,077	11,711	26.3%	Rural	17	5.5	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Taylor Co.	2,661	16,386	16.2%	Rural	14	5.3	
West Virginia	Tucker Co.	955	6,625	14.4%	Rural	9	9.4	
West Virginia	Tyler Co.	1,559	8,081	19.3%	Rural	9	5.8	
West Virginia	Upshur Co.	4,811	23,715	20.3%	Rural	35	7.3	
West Virginia	Wayne Co.	7,838	38,025	20.6%	Urban	46	5.9	
West Virginia	Webster Co.	2,785	8,125	34.3%	Rural	14	5.0	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Wetzel Co.	3,091	14,027	22%	Rural	21	6.8	
West Virginia	Wirt Co.	1,402	5,095	27.5%	Urban	7	5.0	Higher-risk
West Virginia	Wood Co.	14,748	83,364	17.7%	Urban	97	6.6	
West Virginia	Wyoming Co.	4,745	20,570	23.1%	Rural	29	6.1	Higher-risk
Wisconsin	Adams Co.	3,421	21,211	16.1%	Rural	13	3.8	
Wisconsin	Ashland Co.	2,869	16,037	17.9%	Rural	21	7.3	
Wisconsin	Barron Co.	5,621	46,828	12%	Rural	52	9.3	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed
by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Wisconsin	Bayfield Co.	1,889	16,664	11.3%	Rural	17	9.0	
Wisconsin	Brown Co.	28,908	270,561	10.7%	Urban	194	6.7	
Wisconsin	Buffalo Co.	1,051	13,400	7.8%	Rural	10	9.5	
Wisconsin	Burnett Co.	2,231	16,973	13.1%	Rural	19	8.5	
Wisconsin	Calumet Co.	2,521	52,745	4.8%	Urban	17	6.7	
Wisconsin	Chippewa Co.	6,428	66,775	9.6%	Urban	47	7.3	
Wisconsin	Clark Co.	3,035	34,742	8.7%	Rural	28	9.2	
Wisconsin	Columbia Co.	5,016	58,337	8.6%	Urban	52	10.4	
Wisconsin	Crawford Co.	1,991	16,032	12.4%	Rural	23	11.6	
Wisconsin	Dane Co.	45,035	570,869	7.9%	Urban	349	7.7	
Wisconsin	Dodge Co.	7,832	88,539	8.8%	Rural	58	7.4	
Wisconsin	Door Co.	2,103	30,597	6.9%	Rural	32	15.2	
Wisconsin	Douglas Co.	5,430	44,238	12.3%	Urban	29	5.3	
Wisconsin	Dunn Co.	4,251	45,676	9.3%	Rural	33	7.8	
Wisconsin	Eau Claire Co.	10,226	106,835	9.6%	Urban	69	6.7	
Wisconsin	Florence Co.	550	4,708	11.7%	Rural	3	5.5	
Wisconsin	Fond du Lac Co.	9,461	104,010	9.1%	Urban	68	7.2	
Wisconsin	Forest Co.	1,571	9,344	16.8%	Rural	12	7.6	
Wisconsin	Grant Co.	4,673	51,337	9.1%	Rural	47	10.1	
Wisconsin	Green Co.	2,896	36,864	7.9%	Urban	27	9.3	
Wisconsin	Green Lake Co.	2,019	19,241	10.5%	Rural	16	7.9	
Wisconsin	Iowa Co.	1,897	23,959	7.9%	Urban	13	6.9	
Wisconsin	Iron Co.	777	6,221	12.5%	Rural	8	10.3	
Wisconsin	Jackson Co.	2,678	20,930	12.8%	Rural	18	6.7	
Wisconsin	Jefferson Co.	6,977	85,809	8.1%	Rural	54	7.7	
Wisconsin	Juneau Co.	4,179	26,743	15.6%	Rural	34	8.1	
Wisconsin	Kenosha Co.	22,153	167,920	13.2%	Urban	124	5.6	
Wisconsin	Kewaunee Co.	1,382	20,681	6.7%	Urban	16	11.6	
Wisconsin	La Crosse Co.	10,550	120,359	8.8%	Urban	66	6.3	
Wisconsin	Lafayette Co.	1,406	16,926	8.3%	Rural	12	8.5	
Wisconsin	Langlade Co.	3,281	19,528	16.8%	Rural	24	7.3	
Wisconsin	Lincoln Co.	3,104	28,345	11%	Rural	25	8.1	
Wisconsin	Manitowoc Co.	7,733	81,256	9.5%	Rural	52	6.7	
Wisconsin	Marathon Co.	12,410	138,175	9%	Urban	112	9.0	
Wisconsin	Marquette Co.	5,224	42,000	12.4%	Rural	55	10.5	
Wisconsin	Marquette Co.	1,852	15,776	11.7%	Rural	18	9.7	
Wisconsin	Menominee Co.	2,075	4,199	49.4%	Rural	7	3.4	Higher-risk
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Co.	241,787	921,977	26.2%	Urban	857	3.5	Higher-risk
Wisconsin	Monroe Co.	5,282	46,021	11.5%	Rural	47	8.9	
Wisconsin	Oconto Co.	3,545	39,660	8.9%	Urban	40	11.3	
Wisconsin	Oneida Co.	3,816	38,267	10%	Rural	41	10.7	
Wisconsin	Outagamie Co.	13,559	192,561	7%	Urban	131	9.7	
Wisconsin	Ozaukee Co.	3,172	93,115	3.4%	Urban	46	14.5	
Wisconsin	Pepin Co.	542	7,400	7.3%	Rural	8	14.8	
Wisconsin	Pierce Co.	2,063	42,597	4.8%	Urban	32	15.5	
Wisconsin	Polk Co.	4,243	45,608	9.3%	Rural	51	12.0	
Wisconsin	Portage Co.	5,970	70,799	8.4%	Rural	53	8.9	
Wisconsin	Price Co.	1,824	14,178	12.9%	Rural	19	10.4	
Wisconsin	Racine Co.	30,068	196,710	15.3%	Urban	145	4.8	
Wisconsin	Richland Co.	2,275	17,161	13.3%	Rural	14	6.2	
Wisconsin	Rock Co.	24,794	163,959	15.1%	Urban	130	5.2	
Wisconsin	Rusk Co.	2,373	14,180	16.7%	Rural	17	7.2	
Wisconsin	St. Croix Co.	4,469	96,138	4.6%	Urban	56	12.5	
Wisconsin	Sauk Co.	7,475	65,916	11.3%	Rural	61	8.2	
Wisconsin	Sawyer Co.	2,877	18,575	15.5%	Rural	17	5.9	
Wisconsin	Shawano Co.	4,790	41,017	11.7%	Rural	38	7.9	
Wisconsin	Sheboygan Co.	12,299	117,860	10.4%	Urban	83	6.7	
Wisconsin	Taylor Co.	1,824	19,946	9.1%	Rural	13	7.1	
Wisconsin	Trempealeau Co.	2,599	30,920	8.4%	Rural	31	11.9	
Wisconsin	Vernon Co.	2,775	31,110	8.9%	Urban	26	9.4	
Wisconsin	Vilas Co.	3,090	23,755	13%	Rural	23	7.4	
Wisconsin	Walworth Co.	8,541	105,705	8.1%	Rural	71	8.3	
Wisconsin	Washburn Co.	1,989	16,915	11.8%	Rural	17	8.5	
Wisconsin	Washington Co.	7,020	137,999	5.1%	Urban	73	10.4	
Wisconsin	Waukesha Co.	15,937	411,061	3.9%	Urban	212	13.3	
Wisconsin	Waupaca Co.	4,816	51,645	9.3%	Rural	43	8.9	
Wisconsin	Waushara Co.	2,948	24,932	11.8%	Rural	20	6.8	
Wisconsin	Winnebago Co.	16,496	171,049	9.6%	Urban	117	7.1	
Wisconsin	Wood Co.	9,931	73,849	13.4%	Rural	64	6.4	
Wyoming	Albany Co.	1,451	38,361	3.8%	Rural	15	10.3	
Wyoming	Big Horn Co.	639	11,876	5.4%	Rural	10	15.6	
Wyoming	Campbell Co.	2,160	47,049	4.6%	Rural	33	15.3	
Wyoming	Carbon Co.	717	14,527	4.9%	Rural	17	23.7	
Wyoming	Converse Co.	776	13,774	5.6%	Rural	11	14.2	
Wyoming	Crook Co.	99	7,417	1.3%	Rural	8	80.8	
Wyoming	Fremont Co.	4,483	39,545	11.3%	Rural	29	6.5	
Wyoming	Goshen Co.	683	12,638	5.4%	Rural	4	5.9	
Wyoming	Hot Springs Co.	243	4,609	5.3%	Rural	4	16.5	

Table 1—Continued
Retailers in more than 300 counties have the highest risk of being harmed by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts
(SNAP participation rates and the number of SNAP retailers, by county)

State	County	# of SNAP recipients	Population	% receiving SNAP benefits	Rural or urban	# of SNAP retailers	SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients	Higher-risk county
Wyoming	Johnson Co.	237	8,735	2.7%	Rural	10	42.2	
Wyoming	Laramie Co.	5,214	100,860	5.2%	Urban	60	11.5	
Wyoming	Lincoln Co.	431	20,690	2.1%	Rural	16	37.1	
Wyoming	Natrona Co.	5,662	79,565	7.1%	Urban	49	8.7	
Wyoming	Niobrara Co.	207	2,346	8.8%	Rural	3	14.5	
Wyoming	Park Co.	943	30,530	3.1%	Rural	17	18.0	
Wyoming	Platte Co.	481	8,655	5.6%	Rural	10	20.8	
Wyoming	Sheridan Co.	1,195	32,049	3.7%	Rural	15	12.6	
Wyoming	Sublette Co.	144	8,767	1.6%	Rural	10	69.4	
Wyoming	Sweetwater Co.	2,288	41,322	5.5%	Rural	34	14.9	
Wyoming	Teton Co.	49	23,341	0.2%	Rural	6	122.4	
Wyoming	Uinta Co.	1,205	20,722	5.8%	Rural	17	14.1	
Wyoming	Washakie Co.	294	7,728	3.8%	Rural	5	17.0	
Wyoming	Weston Co.	356	6,872	5.2%	Rural	10	28.1	

Notes: The authors measured the SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP participants ratio as an indicator of food access for people who receive assistance through SNAP. Retailers within counties that were below the median ratio and in the top ten percent of counties with the highest SNAP participation were marked as being most at risk of being harmed by cuts in food assistance. Because the SNAP retailers data does not account for Connecticut's transition from counties to planning regions, retailer addresses were crosswalked using ZIP Codes. However, the crosswalk is not exact since some ZIP codes cross planning region boundaries.

Source: For a list of definitions for the included store types, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Store Type Definitions"⁹ (last accessed April 2025). U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Retailer Location Data"¹⁰ (last accessed April 2025); U.S. Census Bureau, "SAIPE Model Input Data: County SNAP Benefits Data,"¹¹ December 16, 2024; U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Resident Population Estimates, Estimated Components of Resident Population Change, and Rates of the Components of Resident Population Change for States and Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024,"¹² March 12, 2025; U.S. Department of Agriculture, "2023 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes"¹³ (last accessed April 2025); CT Data Collaborative, "Connecticut ZIP to Planning Region Crosswalk,"¹⁴ September 13, 2023.

Table: Center for American Progress. Download the list of individual SNAP retailers at higher risk *here*.¹⁵

The U.S. House Committee on Agriculture will soon release its proposal for what are likely to be the *largest cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in its history*.¹⁶ Options under consideration reportedly include forcing states to take on a *portion of benefit costs*¹⁷ for the first time;¹⁸ *freezing*¹⁹ benefit increases from future Thrifty Food Plan adjustments; and *expanding*²⁰ burdensome work requirements to *older Americans and families with children*²¹—all of which would cut at the heart of the nation's food assistance system. Cuts to SNAP would not just affect Americans enrolled in the program but would also pull the rug out from under grocers, farmers, and the *broader economy*.²² A new Center for American Progress analysis identifies the 27,000 authorized SNAP retailers that would be at higher risk of financial hardship in response to such cuts.

Retailers in counties with high SNAP usage and low food access are at higher risk

The impacts of cuts to SNAP are likely to be felt most strongly in areas with the highest rates of SNAP participation. In these communities, even if a family doesn't

⁹ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/store-definitions>.

¹⁰ <https://usda-snap-retailers-usda-fns.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/USDA-FNS::snap-retailer-location-data/about>.

¹¹ <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/saipe/model-tables.html>.

¹² <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-total.html#v2024>.

¹³ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes>.

¹⁴ <https://github.com/CT-Data-Collaborative/zip-to-planningregion/blob/main/README.md>.

¹⁵ <https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/05/Higher-risk-SNAP-retailers.xlsx>.

¹⁶ <https://umidosus.org/blog/2025/02/24/house-budget-resolutions-cuts-to-snap-largest-in-us-history/>.

¹⁷ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/snap-cuts-budget-reconciliation-beautiful_n_6813a6ffe4b0964363620874.

¹⁸ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/shifting-snap-costs-to-states-would-make-future-recessions-worse/>.

¹⁹ <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/05/06/congress/house-republicans-snap-food-aid-00330620>.

²⁰ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/escape-poverty-millions-more-food-stamp-recipients-required-work-under-new-house-gop-proposal>.

²¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/worsening-snaps-harsh-work-requirement-would-take-food-assistance-away>.

²² <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/shifting-snap-costs-to-states-would-make-future-recessions-worse/>.

personally see their budget for food reduced, community residents could see their local grocer close. Families that see their benefits reduced or taken away entirely will have fewer resources to pay for the costs of *rising food prices*,²³ meaning more people will go hungry as sales at authorized SNAP retailers fall. This can be particularly difficult for businesses in communities with high rates of SNAP participation that depend on the revenue from these benefits. As *Figure 1* shows, more than 27,000 retailers in over 300 counties across the country could soon face severe financial hardship if cuts to food assistance were to be enacted.

To determine which businesses are most likely to be harmed by SNAP cuts, the authors utilized two county-level factors. First, the authors identified the top ten percent of counties with the highest *SNAP participation rates*²⁴ relative to the total population, based on *administrative participant data*²⁵ for 2022—the latest available—as well as U.S. *Census Bureau population data*.²⁶ Second, the authors used a ratio for the number of SNAP retailers per 1,000 SNAP recipients, with counties below the median ratio having limited options for families receiving assistance to use their benefits. The 27,266 businesses in the 303 counties that met both criteria are classified as being at higher risk from SNAP cuts. This includes 3,721 smaller grocery stores, 994 specialty stores, and 600 farmers and markets.

95 percent of counties with the highest rates of people receiving SNAP have limited access to retailers that accept SNAP benefits.

Importantly, access to authorized SNAP retailers fell with rising SNAP participation. In fact, 95 percent of counties with the highest rates of people receiving SNAP have limited access to retailers that accept SNAP benefits, highlighting the *disparities in food access*²⁷ among poorer parts of the country. Even if there are other stores nearby, families receiving assistance can be limited by those that accept SNAP. Rural areas are disproportionately represented among these high-risk counties, making up 77 percent of these areas despite only representing 62 percent of counties, according to the Department of Agriculture’s *Rural-Urban Continuum Codes*.²⁸ The relatively few businesses within these communities that accept SNAP payments are essential for meeting the needs of families that already struggle affording enough food. Cutting SNAP benefits would put the future of these businesses at risk by slashing a substantial source of revenue.

SNAP is a lifeline for rural economies and small grocers

Cuts to food assistance will have strong negative impacts on families’ budgets and will lead to *decreases*²⁹ in spending on food and other household goods, causing ripple effects for communities’ local economies. In rural areas, \$1 of SNAP spending generates roughly *\$1.50*³⁰ in local economic activity during recessions. *Prior research*³¹ also demonstrates that SNAP dollars have a larger relative positive impact on rural economies by increasing employment and economic output than it does for urban economies.

Grocery retailers of all sizes should *expect*³² shocks to their revenue following cuts in food assistance. SNAP benefits are vital to the economic stability of the grocery industry and related jobs in agriculture. In 2020, SNAP supported nearly *199,000*³³ jobs within the independent grocery industry and another *45,000 jobs*³⁴ in related industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and local services.

“Some stores in low-income neighborhoods have more than 50 percent SNAP sales. A 20 percent cut to SNAP would make it very difficult for stores like this, in food deserts, to remain open.”

STEPHANIE JOHNSON, National Grocers Association

²³ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-congressional-republican-budget-plan-will-hurt-americans-wallets/>.

²⁴ https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe_treemap/saipe_snap_treemap.html.

²⁵ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/guidance/model-input-data/snap.html>.

²⁶ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popst/2020s-counties-total.html>.

²⁷ <https://www.aecf.org/blog/communities-with-limited-food-access-in-the-united-states>.

²⁸ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes>.

²⁹ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2025/mar/how-cuts-medicaid-snap-could-trigger-job-loss-state-revenue>.

³⁰ https://ers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/_laserfiche/publications/93529/ERR-265.pdf?v=84771.

³¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=102286>.

³² <https://www.cnb.com/2025/04/16/proposed-snap-cuts-pressure-low-income-shoppers-retailers.html>.

³³ <https://grocers.guerrillaeconomics.net/res/Methodology.pdf>.

³⁴ <https://frac.org/blog/part-3-the-real-cost-of-cutting-snap-jobs-lost-stores-closed-communities-undermined>.

Grocers,³⁵ *farmers*,³⁶ and *researchers*³⁷ are already expressing concerns about how SNAP cuts will impact grocery retailers across the nation. In an *interview*,³⁸ Stephanie Johnson of the National Grocers Association stressed the connection between SNAP sales and independent grocers, saying, “Some stores in low-income neighborhoods have more than 50 percent SNAP sales. A 20 percent cut to SNAP would make it very difficult for stores like this, in food deserts, to remain open.” A March 2025 *study*³⁹ published by the Commonwealth Fund estimates that the cuts proposed in the House budget resolution would result in the loss of almost 78,000 food-related jobs in agriculture, retail grocery, and food processing, as well as 65,000 jobs in other industries, as local economies feel the impacts of decreased economic spending. Losing these 143,000 jobs would devastate communities and only worsen food access in rural areas.

Conclusion

Cutting food assistance would destabilize the food industry amid a period of already great uncertainty. The hardship generated by reductions in SNAP sales for retailers that depend on customers having access to these benefits coincides with the expected *rising cost of goods*⁴⁰ due to Trump’s tariffs and the *growing fears*⁴¹ of an upcoming recession. Grocery stores that are forced to cut staff and close in response to reduced food purchasing will further limit access to food in communities across the country, even for consumers who do not use SNAP.

The authors would like to thank Lily Roberts, Joe Radosevich, Natalie Baker, Emily Gee, Colin Seeberger, Madeline Shepherd, Jerry Parshall, Bianca Serbin, Bill Rapp, and Will Beaudouin for their feedback.

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ARTICLE 2



[<https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/06/03/trumps-steel-and-aluminum-tariffs-could-drive-up-grocery-costs>]

Jun. 3, 2025

How tariffs on steel and aluminum could show up on your grocery bill

Tariffs on steel and aluminum impact everything from packaging to the bottom lines of stores like Walmart.

³⁵ <https://frac.org/blog/part-5-when-snap-slips-small-towns-suffer-the-hidden-costs-of-cutting-food-assistance>.

³⁶ <https://frac.org/blog/snap-cuts-threaten-the-fabric-of-rural-communities-farms-families-and-small-businesses>.

³⁷ <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/stories/effects-cuts-snap-federal-food-program-across-south/>.

³⁸ <https://frac.org/blog/part-3-the-real-cost-of-cutting-snap-jobs-lost-stores-closed-communities-undermined>.

³⁹ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2025/mar/how-cuts-medicaid-snap-could-trigger-job-loss-state-revenue>.

⁴⁰ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/examples-of-potential-consumer-price-hikes-under-trumps-tariffs/>.

⁴¹ <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/30/nx-s1-5380204/trump-economy-gdp-tariffs-recession-consumers>.

Trade War 2.0¹ By Samantha Fields²



Canned food could get more expensive if the cost of steel and aluminum goes up. And if food distributors switch to, say, plastic, the cost of food in plastic could go up too.

Ronaldo Schemidt/AFP via Getty Images.

What's the first thing you thought about when you heard President Donald Trump was doubling tariffs on steel and aluminum? The price of groceries? Yes, no, us neither.

President Trump campaigned on the promise that he would lower prices, including food prices. But his decision to double tariffs on steel and aluminum to 50% is likely to have the *opposite effect*,³ including when it comes to grocery bills.

"Tariffs on inputs like steel and aluminum may not seem that connected to food, but they are critical for packaging," said David Ortega, a food economist and professor at Michigan State University.

He said to think about all those canned goods you buy: canned tuna, soda, beer, pet food. They're all packaged in steel or aluminum.

Usha Haley, a professor at the Barton School of Business at Wichita State University, said most of it is imported.

"The United States just does not produce enough steel. And the U.S. imports nearly 70% of tinplate steel that manufacturers use for cans of fruits, vegetables, essential foods and pet foods," she said.

If these tariffs remain in effect, she said, we're likely to start seeing all sorts of prices go up at the grocery store. And not just on canned goods.

For instance, if companies that currently use aluminum to package certain products, like soda, start using more plastic instead, that could cause plastic—and anything packaged in it—to get more expensive, too.

"There are also indirect costs. The costs of transportation, the cost of fixing up trucks *etc.*," Haley said. All of which also get more expensive as steel and aluminum do. And that can trickle down into the prices we pay for pretty much everything at the store.

John Clear, a partner on the retail team at AlixPartners, said retailers are in a tough spot: "Consumers are super conscious of all the price increases, so they know they're losing trust. But also they don't have a lot of room in their margins to continue to swallow costs," he said.

Especially after pandemic supply chain issues and the inflation that followed.

So say a company that sells canned vegetables does decide to pass along the increased cost of a steel can to customers?

Clear said that might only be an extra 2¢ to 5¢.

¹ <https://www.marketplace.org/trade-war-2-0>.

² <https://www.marketplace.org/author/samantha-fields>.

³ <https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/03/03/what-do-trumps-tariffs-mean-for-your-grocery-bill>.

“Which doesn’t seem a lot. But a can of sweet corn at Walmart is like 42¢ to 45¢,” he said.

So an extra 5¢ would make it cost about 10% more. A lot of people buying canned fruits and vegetables are on *SNAP benefits*,⁴ Clear said, which already don’t go very far.

“So if you think that’s replicated across a number of items within their basket every week, suddenly that actually becomes quite impactful, and will ultimately mean that they probably buy one less unit,” he said.

Which again, might not seem like a lot, but if you’re a big company like Walmart and thousands of customers start buying one less can of corn at thousands of stores, it adds up.

SUBMITTED PRESS RELEASE BY HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM CALIFORNIA

For Immediate Release

June 10, 2025

Farm Bureau of Ventura County Condemns ICE Activity in Oxnard

“ICE Threatens Our Industry, Our Economy, and Our Community”

Ventura County, CA—The Farm Bureau of Ventura County, representing hundreds of farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses across the region, strongly condemns the actions taken by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Oxnard this morning. Reports indicate that ICE agents attempted to enter a local packing facility without a judicial warrant, conducted operations in agricultural fields, and initiated vehicle stops on roads frequently used by agricultural workers commuting to job sites.

As working producers and stewards of Ventura County’s \$2 billion agricultural economy, we know firsthand that our industry cannot function without the contributions of our workforce. These are people we rely on, respect, and work alongside every day. They are skilled professionals who bring deep experience and an extraordinary work ethic to Ventura County’s fields and ranches. Their labor is the reason our region is recognized as one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world.

The conduct of ICE this morning, marked by racial profiling, intimidation, and attempts to enter private property without judicial authorization, constitutes an unacceptable escalation. This approach undermines constitutional rights and directly threatens the integrity of California’s agricultural economy.

Let us be unequivocal: racial profiling is illegal. Intimidation is not enforcement. Using fear to destabilize the workforce that powers our farms is a reckless and short-sighted tactic with far-reaching consequences. These actions erode community trust, disrupt harvests, and impose undue strain on operations large and small. When our workforce is afraid, fields go unharvested, packinghouses fall behind, and market supply chains, from local grocery stores to national retailers, are affected. This impacts every American whoeats.

We urge swift and coordinated action at the local, state, and Federal levels to safeguard farmworkers and ensure the continued strength of our agricultural industry.

Local Actions We Urge Ventura County and City Governments to Take:

- Law enforcement agencies must be trained on their constitutional responsibilities, including the right to decline unlawful orders from ICE, CBP, or other Federal entities. The defense of “I was just following orders” is neither legally nor morally sufficient. Officers must be empowered to uphold civil liberties, not violate them.
- The Ventura County Sheriff’s Office should implement a policy to notify the Rapid Response Network (RRN) when ICE operations occur, similar to how fire departments notify the Red Cross during house fires. RRN offers legal assistance, emergency support, and trauma-informed care to affected families, resources essential to maintaining community stability.
- We recommend the County train designated staff that work throughout the county, such as Weights and Measure & Ag Commissioner staff to serve as legal observers during ICE operations. The presence of trained observers, who docu-

⁴<https://www.marketplace.org/story/2023/03/21/one-mom-on-what-the-end-of-additional-snap-benefits-means-to-her-family>.

ment and question from a safe distance, has been shown to deter unlawful detentions and reduce instances of racial profiling.

State Legislative Action Needed:

We call on California's Assemblymembers and State Senators to strengthen and expand protections for immigrant workers statewide. This includes:

- Standardized training for local agencies
- Stronger limits on cooperation with Federal immigration enforcement
- Prohibitions against data-sharing or indirect involvement in ICE operations

Federal Oversight and De-escalation:

We urge our Federal representatives to:

- Conduct immediate investigations into ICE activity in Ventura County
- Withhold funding from operations that violate constitutional protections
- Take legislative steps to reduce the militarization of immigration enforcement in agricultural communities

Farm Bureau members care deeply about their workers, not as abstract labor, but as human beings and valued community members who deserve dignity, safety, and respect. Ventura County agriculture depends on them. California's economy depends on them. America's food system depends on them.

We invite our colleagues in local government, especially the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, city councils, and departments with direct community interface, such as Human Services, the Farmworker Resource Program, and Public Health, to add their voices and leadership to this effort.

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SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Response from Hon. Brooke Rollins, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Questions Submitted by Hon. Glenn Thompson, a Representative in Congress from Pennsylvania

Question 1. While the farm bill provides significant funding for voluntary farm conservation programs each year, the demand for the programs far exceeds the available funding. To allow for additional funding, the SUSTAINS Act was introduced to allow for private donations directly into the existing programs including EQIP, CSP and RCPP. The authority has now been law for several years but was never implemented by the Biden Administration. Can you provide the Committee with update on implementation of the SUSTAINS Act?

Answer. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration failed to fulfill its duty of implementing the SUSTAINS Act. USDA is working to formulate a plan to execute and implement the program moving forward.

Question 2. On April 14, 2025, USDA announced that the Climate-Smart Commodities Program is being reformed as the Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) initiative. Can you update the Committee on the status of the reworked initiative? What is the process for AMP and what guidance has USDA given program participants that wish to modify their application or project? Is there a timeframe for projects to be resubmitted and approved?

Answer. Recipients for all projects were given the opportunity to continue work in AMP through an amendment of the original award to meet the threshold of USDA's priorities. Agreement holders were notified of this opportunity on May 15, 2025, and were given until June 20, 2025, to submit amendment packages. The agency is currently reviewing the amendment packages and will proceed with signature and approval for those that meet the initiative priorities.

Question 3. As reported, USDA canceled on June 11th some Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) awarded grants that were to receive funding through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Will program participants that had their projects canceled be able to reapply for RCPP or modify their current terms or appli-

cation? How is USDA working with entities that received or were expecting IRA funding through RCPP for applications and projects that have been canceled?

Answer. On July 4, 2025, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law, which rescinded all unobligated Inflation Reduction Act funding for RCPP. Awards with programmatic partnership agreements and supplemental agreements that were signed were allowed to move forward. It is important to note that no RCPP contracts were canceled. Applicants who were not awarded are encouraged to reach out to their state RCPP Coordinator to strengthen their proposal for consideration in the next funding cycle using farm bill funding.

Question 4. USDA's Rural Development programs are crucial to the rural economy, the heartbeat of America. They provide the foundation and services needed to help rural America thrive. USDA knows rural America. I have concerns with the FY 2026 President's Budget Request that proposes to terminate the USDA Rural Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program and the Rural Business Development Grants Program. Will you commit to working with me and this Committee to keep these USDA programs available for rural America and the farmers they serve?

Answer. USDA acknowledges the role that Rural Development programs play in supporting rural communities and farmers. The Administration's budget proposal reflects a commitment to fiscal responsibility and streamlining programs to maximize impact. We are committed to evaluating all avenues to support rural economic development and job creation, consistent with the President's vision for a strong American economy.

Question 5. I am a strong supporter of the USDA Rural Development Innovation Center and included codifying language in the farm bill that passed the House Agriculture Committee last year. Has USDA considered collaborating with the Cooperative Extension Service to help disseminate information, hold joint virtual webinars or in-person sessions, *etc.*, about the multitude of RD programs available?

Answer. The Rural Development Innovation Center is dedicated to enhancing program delivery and empowering rural communities through strategic partnerships and data-driven solutions. USDA is exploring collaboration with the Cooperative Extension Service to disseminate information, host joint webinars, and conduct in-person sessions.

Question 6. From EMS stations to childcare centers, USDA's Community Facilities Programs play a vital role in helping rural communities invest in essential infrastructure. How is USDA ensuring that these funds can continue to be accessible to small and under-served communities, and will you explore new flexibilities or outreach efforts to improve program delivery?

Answer. Ensuring these funds are accessible, especially for rural communities, is a priority. We are continuously reviewing our program delivery to streamline processes and reduce burdens, making it easier for communities with limited capacity to apply. This includes exploring new flexibilities in application requirements and providing targeted technical assistance and outreach.

Question 7. High-speed internet remains out of reach for many rural communities, limiting opportunities for education, business, health care, and local government services. How is USDA RD adapting its broadband deployment strategy, particularly through ReConnect, to ensure these investments are timely, technologically flexible, and accessible to counties with limited grant-writing capacity?

Answer. USDA Rural Development is adapting our broadband deployment strategy to address the unique challenges of rural communities. We aim to prioritize technological flexibility, allowing for various solutions that best suit local needs. For counties with limited grant-writing capacity, we are bolstering our outreach and support services, providing direct assistance, workshops, and clear guidance to help them navigate the application process and secure the funding critical for closing the digital divide.

Small Rural Communities

Question 8. Small rural communities and systems face numerous challenges in providing clean drinking water and ensuring adequate waste disposal. USDA has often been the largest source of grant financing for rural communities and systems. The FY 2025 enacted funding level for USDA's Water and Wastewater grants is \$380 million. The FY 2026 budget proposes \$144 million for the same programs. How can rural communities secure much needed funding for their systems when the proposed level is well below the programs' historic funding levels?

Answer. We recognize the challenges rural communities face in maintaining and upgrading their water and wastewater infrastructure, and Rural Development remains a steadfast partner in these efforts. The President's FY 2026 budget proposal reflects a broader strategy to prioritize fiscal discipline and target resources where

they are most impactful. Our commitment to supporting essential water and wastewater systems in rural America is unwavering. We will continue to maximize the impact of available funds through strategic allocations, leveraging partnerships, and emphasizing projects that demonstrate the highest need and long-term sustainability.

Question 9. Several states have pointed to staffing shortages in the state SNAP offices as the reason for skyrocketing error rates coming out of the pandemic. Enhanced IT systems, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI), stand out as a potential solution for states who are struggling with workforce challenges. What barriers exist at the Federal level to prevent states from using AI, and what steps has the Department taken to remove unnecessary barriers and encourage states to use AI in their administration of SNAP?

Answer. SNAP is unique among Federal programs due to requirements in the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 that State SNAP agencies certify SNAP households using state agency employees that were hired under a merit system. As I outlined in my February 13, 2025, letter to state, Tribal, Territory, and Local Government Partners, I am committed to supporting state innovation through approval of waivers and pilot projects. AI holds enormous potential to streamline access to nutrition benefits, reduce administrative burden, and improve customer experience.

USDA encourages state agencies to implement system enhancements that can streamline the SNAP application process and prepare cases for final eligibility determination by merit staff.

Question 10. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 required the Department to issue guidance and promulgate notice-and-comment rulemaking on SNAP EBT card security. What is the status of the rulemaking, and when can we expect a rule to be published in the *Federal Register*?

Answer. USDA Food and Nutrition Service takes its responsibility of helping to prevent fraud, particularly SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) theft, seriously. USDA has made significant and sustainable progress, in partnership with states, third-party EBT processors, and authorized SNAP retailers, to modernize EBT systems and reduce fraud. USDA anticipates the rule, “Enhancing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Security Measures,” will publish in the *Federal Register* next year.

Question 11. The most recent data from the Department estimates that 1.6 percent of all SNAP benefits were trafficked from 2015 to 2017, representing about \$1 billion. When will the Department publish an updated estimate of trafficking in SNAP?

Answer. FNS has strengthened its focus on SNAP trafficking, including expanding the use of data analysis to detect fraudsters and taking immediate administrative action to ensure that stores that violate SNAP rules no longer participate in the program. Retailers who commit program violations may also be subject to monetary penalties, fines, and/or criminal prosecution.

Question 12. SNAP state administrative expenses have increased by 30 percent since 2019, and the Congressional Budget Office even estimates these costs will increase by 40 percent over the 10 year budget window, far outpacing inflation. Does the Department know what is driving the increase in the costs at the state level? What specific state and local government costs are increasing?

Answer. SNAP State Administrative Expenses (SAE) are affected by many factors, such as participation levels, the number and salary level of state agency staff, inflation, the location of state agency offices, issuance costs, worker training costs, degree of automation, and level of fraud control activity. The increase in SNAP SAE is driven by increased spending on certification activities and automated data processing operations and systems development. These investments include developing remote systems and expanded call centers, streamlining eligibility determinations, implementing required program changes, hiring additional state staff to manage increased applications, and updating legacy platforms.

Question 13. As part of their SNAP state administrative expenses, how much are states spending on SNAP outreach? Has spending on outreach increased? Please share outreach spending broken down by state going back to Fiscal Year 2015.

Answer. Spending on outreach has increased but represents a small percentage of SNAP SAE costs. In FY 2015, the state share of outreach expenditures was \$36,185,786 and the Federal share was \$36,028,618. FY 2015 SNAP outreach spending (Federal + state) totaled \$72,214,404.

In FY 2024, the state share of outreach expenditures was \$76,867,615. The Federal share was \$76,841,391. The total (Federal + state) spending for FY 2024 was \$153,709,006. This represents an increase of \$40,838,997 in state costs, and an in-

crease of \$81,494,602 in total costs (Federal + state), between FY 2015 and FY 2024. Outreach represented 0.92% of SAE in FY 2015 and 1.3% of SAE in FY 2024.

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
FY 2015		
Alabama	127,664	127,664
Alaska	14,826	14,825
Arizona	3,388,798	3,388,798
Arkansas	190,412	33,315
California	8,219,735	8,219,736
Colorado	156,803	156,802
Connecticut	552,983	552,982
Delaware	121,912	121,911
District of Columbia	71,286	71,285
Florida	166,658	166,657
Georgia	1,286,102	1,286,102
Guam		
Hawaii	197,843	197,843
Idaho	0	0
Illinois	1,082,119	1,082,118
Indiana	450,537	450,537
Iowa	89,552	89,551
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	181,821	181,821
Maine		
Maryland	1,188,989	1,188,990
Massachusetts	690,592	690,592
Michigan	320,491	320,491
Minnesota	1,651,239	1,651,238
Mississippi	29,215	29,213
Missouri	183,856	183,856
Montana	0	0
Nebraska	293,851	293,852
Nevada	1,362,138	1,362,138
New Hampshire	5,458	5,457
New Jersey	197,598	197,598
New Mexico	0	0
New York	3,340,935	3,340,935
North Carolina	454,715	454,716
North Dakota	50,790	50,790
Ohio	1,174,552	1,174,551
Oklahoma		
Oregon	395,899	395,899
Pennsylvania	1,198,841	1,198,842
Rhode Island	454,668	454,667
South Carolina	1,399,438	1,399,438
South Dakota		
Tennessee	558,868	556,452
Texas	2,372,264	2,372,264
Utah	0	2,355
Vermont	434,075	434,074
Virginia	109,473	109,473
Virgin Islands		
Washington	1,409,908	1,409,909
West Virginia	83,714	83,713
Wisconsin	525,168	525,168
Wyoming	0	0
U.S.	36,185,786	36,028,618

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
FY 2016		
Alabama	169,752	169,752
Alaska	16,294	16,295
Arizona	1,519,645	1,519,647
Arkansas	107,509	107,508
California	8,069,173	8,069,174
Colorado	309,084	309,084
Connecticut	564,944	564,944
Delaware	109,032	109,032
District of Columbia	73,669	73,669
Florida	184,833	177,785
Georgia	1,196,147	1,196,147
Guam		
Hawaii	326,167	50,000
Idaho	0	0
Illinois	949,863	949,863
Indiana	480,982	480,983
Iowa	152,841	152,841
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	243,752	243,752
Maine		
Maryland	1,267,285	1,267,285
Massachusetts	705,638	705,637
Michigan	469,331	469,331
Minnesota	2,100,982	2,100,980
Mississippi	48,778	48,780
Missouri	224,363	224,363
Montana	8,923	8,923
Nebraska	319,074	319,074
Nevada	1,570,901	1,570,900
New Hampshire	3,679	3,680
New Jersey	182,798	182,798
New Mexico		
New York	3,252,832	3,252,833
North Carolina	537,598	537,599
North Dakota	50,339	50,340
Ohio	1,604,339	1,604,339
Oklahoma		
Oregon	347,706	347,707
Pennsylvania	1,400,472	1,400,473
Rhode Island	495,231	495,231
South Carolina	996,703	996,703
South Dakota		
Tennessee	332,158	329,013
Texas	2,626,359	2,626,358
Utah	0	15,997
Vermont	444,234	444,235
Virginia	80,720	80,720
Virgin Islands		
Washington	1,458,892	1,458,892
West Virginia	109,320	109,320
Wisconsin	742,047	742,047
Wyoming	0	0
U.S.	35,854,389	35,584,034
FY 2017		
Alabama	201,852	201,853
Alaska	46,386	46,386

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Arizona	0	2,582,935
Arkansas	25,912	25,912
California	9,772,870	9,772,870
Colorado	584,689	584,690
Connecticut	536,915	536,916
Delaware	110,629	110,629
District of Columbia	65,728	65,728
Florida	176,251	176,251
Georgia	1,267,110	1,267,110
Guam		
Hawaii	194,141	194,140
Idaho	0	0
Illinois	1,110,225	1,110,225
Indiana	468,774	468,774
Iowa	128,614	128,614
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	289,712	289,712
Maine	512	511
Maryland	1,511,679	1,511,680
Massachusetts	725,873	725,872
Michigan	536,168	536,168
Minnesota	2,163,606	2,163,608
Mississippi	71,500	71,501
Missouri	432,293	432,294
Montana	17,252	17,252
Nebraska	318,247	318,246
Nevada	1,634,951	1,634,950
New Hampshire	8,474	8,473
New Jersey	220,392	220,392
New Mexico		
New York	6,724,077	6,724,077
North Carolina	387,826	387,825
North Dakota	62,497	62,497
Ohio	1,822,642	1,822,641
Oklahoma		
Oregon	372,382	372,380
Pennsylvania	1,478,280	1,478,280
Rhode Island	434,324	434,323
South Carolina	1,280,235	1,280,234
South Dakota		
Tennessee	352,927	352,927
Texas	2,601,381	2,601,381
Utah	24,539	24,538
Vermont	477,538	477,537
Virginia	87,691	87,690
Virgin Islands		
Washington	3,067,709	3,067,710
West Virginia	104,456	104,456
Wisconsin	698,042	698,042
Wyoming	0	0
U.S.	42,597,301	45,180,230
FY 2018		
Alabama	198,687	198,688
Alaska	32,098	32,098
Arizona	7,118,109	2,593,630
Arkansas	25,502	25,499
California	10,144,023	10,144,024
Colorado	709,687	709,687

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Connecticut	416,542	416,542
Delaware	115,035	115,035
District of Columbia	83,280	83,280
Florida	177,955	177,955
Georgia	1,407,651	1,407,651
Guam		
Hawaii	131,510	131,509
Idaho	0	0
Illinois	1,268,334	1,268,334
Indiana	530,216	530,216
Iowa	146,782	146,782
Kansas		
Kentucky	424	424
Louisiana	269,256	269,256
Maine		
Maryland	1,290,151	1,290,151
Massachusetts	798,380	798,380
Michigan	1,457,714	1,457,714
Minnesota	2,438,828	2,438,793
Mississippi	99,931	99,932
Missouri	552,033	552,033
Montana	9,401	9,401
Nebraska	368,489	368,488
Nevada	1,527,612	1,527,612
New Hampshire	4,266	4,266
New Jersey	128,251	128,251
New Mexico		
New York	6,858,325	6,858,325
North Carolina	842,599	842,598
North Dakota	59,181	59,181
Ohio	2,273,370	2,273,369
Oklahoma	0	0
Oregon	745,475	745,476
Pennsylvania	1,519,238	1,519,237
Rhode Island	524,189	524,188
South Carolina	1,252,211	1,252,211
South Dakota		
Tennessee	551,479	551,480
Texas	3,267,084	3,267,083
Utah	22,415	22,414
Vermont	486,962	486,962
Virginia	92,643	92,643
Virgin Islands		
Washington	3,749,468	3,749,468
West Virginia	123,807	123,807
Wisconsin	595,575	595,576
Wyoming	0	0
U.S.	54,414,168	49,889,649

FY 2019

Alabama	239,052	239,052
Alaska	66,955	66,956
Arizona	12,897,607	2,725,399
Arkansas	27,727	27,727
California	13,629,085	13,629,085
Colorado	1,227,185	1,227,185
Connecticut	491,326	491,327
Delaware	132,712	132,713
District of Columbia	103,075	103,075
Florida	166,107	166,108

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Georgia	1,481,430	1,481,430
Guam		
Hawaii	210,882	210,881
Idaho		
Illinois	1,488,865	1,488,864
Indiana	414,169	414,170
Iowa	119,880	119,881
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana	261,058	261,058
Maine		
Maryland	1,760,449	1,760,447
Massachusetts	1,059,965	1,059,966
Michigan	1,495,971	1,366,774
Minnesota	2,518,185	2,518,185
Mississippi	104,845	104,845
Missouri	381,944	381,943
Montana	10,059	10,060
Nebraska	387,383	387,383
Nevada	1,288,008	1,288,007
New Hampshire		
New Jersey	216,621	216,621
New Mexico		
New York	6,135,827	6,135,827
North Carolina	826,633	826,633
North Dakota	53,463	53,464
Ohio	1,980,111	1,980,110
Oklahoma	0	0
Oregon	751,501	751,500
Pennsylvania	1,818,039	1,818,039
Rhode Island	482,872	482,873
South Carolina	1,515,524	1,515,524
South Dakota		
Tennessee	709,052	709,052
Texas	3,058,103	3,058,103
Utah	23,250	23,250
Vermont	570,962	570,963
Virginia	62,143	62,142
Virgin Islands		
Washington	3,719,835	3,719,836
West Virginia	123,093	123,093
Wisconsin	878,858	878,857
Wyoming	0	0
U.S.	64,889,811	54,588,408

FY 2020

Alabama	297,926	297,926
Alaska	52,441	52,442
Arizona	2,785,664	2,785,664
Arkansas	61,916	61,916
California	16,382,406	16,382,406
Colorado	1,660,694	1,660,695
Connecticut	443,481	443,482
Delaware	130,164	130,165
District of Columbia	175,507	80,393
Florida	244,846	244,847
Georgia	1,740,347	1,740,347
Guam		
Hawaii	522,131	0
Idaho		

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Illinois	1,727,066	1,727,065
Indiana	481,744	481,745
Iowa	193,789	193,790
Kansas	46,443	46,443
Kentucky		
Louisiana	211,607	211,607
Maine		
Maryland	2,393,860	2,393,861
Massachusetts	1,057,862	1,057,861
Michigan	1,505,308	1,505,308
Minnesota	2,607,555	2,607,555
Mississippi	177,973	177,974
Missouri	403,084	403,084
Montana	10,060	10,060
Nebraska	334,448	334,447
Nevada	1,185,464	1,185,464
New Hampshire		
New Jersey	305,850	305,850
New Mexico		
New York	5,640,744	5,640,744
North Carolina	394,036	394,037
North Dakota	59,762	59,763
Ohio	1,846,295	1,846,295
Oklahoma	0	0
Oregon	736,148	736,148
Pennsylvania	1,900,575	1,900,575
Rhode Island	305,301	305,301
South Carolina	1,319,824	1,319,824
South Dakota		
Tennessee	686,896	686,896
Texas	1,426,644	1,426,644
Utah	12,468	12,468
Vermont	707,977	707,978
Virginia	36,178	36,178
Virgin Islands		
Washington	4,097,331	4,097,331
West Virginia	125,538	125,539
Wisconsin	700,504	700,504
Wyoming		
U.S.	57,135,857	56,518,622

FY 2021

Alabama	286,127	286,128
Alaska	101,498	101,499
Arizona	2,881,047	2,881,047
Arkansas	76,344	76,345
California	15,079,814	15,079,814
Colorado	2,156,083	2,156,083
Connecticut	234,084	234,084
Delaware	135,873	135,872
District of Columbia	103,940	103,940
Florida	222,545	222,545
Georgia	1,976,679	1,976,680
Guam		
Hawaii	392,483	392,483
Idaho		
Illinois	1,986,888	1,986,887
Indiana	244,901	244,901
Iowa	219,063	219,064
Kansas	60,451	60,451

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Kentucky		
Louisiana	238,793	238,793
Maine	399	397
Maryland	2,551,627	2,551,627
Massachusetts	1,329,963	1,329,964
Michigan	1,435,475	1,435,475
Minnesota	2,833,324	2,833,324
Mississippi	194,661	194,661
Missouri	434,527	434,527
Montana	20,120	20,120
Nebraska	386,826	386,826
Nevada	1,188,356	1,188,357
New Hampshire		
New Jersey	253,876	253,876
New Mexico		
New York	7,094,242	7,094,242
North Carolina	1,516,424	1,516,424
North Dakota	49,260	49,261
Ohio	2,354,293	1,849,878
Oklahoma	408,776	408,775
Oregon	18,688,155	688,155
Pennsylvania	2,769,332	2,769,331
Rhode Island	119,909	119,910
South Carolina	1,432,153	1,432,152
South Dakota		
Tennessee	766,005	766,005
Texas	2,009,354	2,009,353
Utah	42,367	42,367
Vermont	557,294	557,294
Virginia	39,868	39,868
Virgin Islands		
Washington	4,122,616	4,122,616
West Virginia	125,845	125,232
Wisconsin	764,123	764,124
Wyoming		
U.S.	79,885,783	61,380,757
FY 2022		
Alabama	140,555	140,556
Alaska	75,554	75,554
Arizona	2,785,719	2,785,719
Arkansas	72,401	72,401
California	17,501,604	17,501,603
Colorado	2,701,157	2,701,157
Connecticut	465,578	465,578
Delaware	186,149	186,149
District of Columbia	177,405	177,405
Florida	181,706	181,706
Georgia	2,257,675	2,257,674
Guam		
Hawaii	396,894	396,893
Idaho		
Illinois	2,203,305	2,203,304
Indiana	342,640	342,640
Iowa	246,693	246,693
Kansas	54,585	54,584
Kentucky	76,276	76,276
Louisiana	573,548	573,548
Maine	4,462	4,457
Maryland	3,229,171	3,229,171

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Massachusetts	1,413,670	1,413,670
Michigan	2,070,360	2,070,360
Minnesota	2,963,475	2,963,474
Mississippi	190,767	190,767
Missouri	564,448	564,448
Montana	23,972	23,973
Nebraska	325,577	325,577
Nevada	1,277,764	1,277,764
New Hampshire	0	
New Jersey	885,609	885,609
New Mexico		
New York	5,242,227	5,242,229
North Carolina	1,946,629	1,946,629
North Dakota	60,593	60,594
Ohio	2,240,929	1,980,293
Oklahoma	611,474	611,475
Oregon	679,930	679,929
Pennsylvania	2,836,921	2,836,920
Rhode Island	352,572	352,571
South Carolina	1,400,876	1,400,876
South Dakota		
Tennessee	618,872	618,872
Texas	5,530,134	5,530,133
Utah	36,157	36,157
Vermont	548,090	548,092
Virginia	67,681	67,680
Virgin Islands		
Washington	4,180,904	4,180,904
West Virginia	125,539	125,539
Wisconsin	1,131,101	1,131,101
Wyoming		
U.S.	70,999,348	70,738,704

FY 2023

Alabama	246,668	246,669
Alaska	0	109,168
Arizona	4,188,514	4,188,514
Arkansas	89,460	89,460
California	15,916,817	15,916,818
Colorado	3,087,364	3,087,364
Connecticut	143,870	143,870
Delaware	184,067	184,066
District of Columbia	246,658	246,658
Florida	254,076	254,076
Georgia	2,347,651	2,347,651
Guam		
Hawaii	407,647	407,647
Idaho		
Illinois	2,382,014	2,382,014
Indiana	561,002	561,003
Iowa	247,053	247,053
Kansas	66,978	66,977
Kentucky	106,995	106,995
Louisiana	477,265	477,265
Maine	181	178
Maryland	2,484,209	2,484,210
Massachusetts	1,813,333	1,813,334
Michigan	2,007,185	2,007,184
Minnesota	3,135,571	3,135,571
Mississippi	204,352	204,352

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
Missouri	660,105	660,105
Montana	22,998	22,999
Nebraska	325,454	325,453
Nevada	1,300,490	1,300,472
New Hampshire	13,112	13,113
New Jersey	798,553	798,553
New Mexico		
New York	4,128,987	4,128,987
North Carolina	1,037,935	1,037,936
North Dakota	67,952	67,953
Ohio	2,094,574	2,094,573
Oklahoma	914,234	914,234
Oregon	874,135	874,134
Pennsylvania	2,986,605	2,986,606
Rhode Island	608,482	608,481
South Carolina	1,778,148	1,778,148
South Dakota		
Tennessee	865,007	865,007
Texas	5,103,289	5,103,288
Utah	44,345	44,344
Vermont	688,007	688,008
Virginia	260,851	260,850
Virgin Islands		
Washington	4,831,113	4,831,113
West Virginia	114,345	114,345
Wisconsin	1,484,455	1,484,455
Wyoming		
U.S.	71,602,106	71,711,254

FY 2024

Alabama	173,588	173,587
Alaska	184,536	184,537
Arizona	3,562,676	3,562,677
Arkansas	102,705	102,705
California	15,966,394	15,966,394
Colorado	2,709,382	2,709,382
Connecticut	174,184	174,184
Delaware	162,333	162,333
District of Columbia	258,425	258,425
Florida	210,504	210,504
Georgia	2,320,659	2,320,660
Guam		
Hawaii	522,276	522,275
Idaho		
Illinois	2,214,420	2,214,421
Indiana	569,008	569,008
Iowa	272,259	272,258
Kansas	125,578	125,578
Kentucky	157,058	157,059
Louisiana	440,602	440,603
Maine	0	0
Maryland	1,755,901	1,755,901
Massachusetts	2,282,348	2,282,348
Michigan	2,086,267	2,086,267
Minnesota	4,223,385	4,223,384
Mississippi	203,414	203,414
Missouri	731,977	731,977
Montana	29,631	29,630
Nebraska	337,976	337,977
Nevada	1,626,237	1,626,237

**National Data Bank Version 8.2 Public Use SC4—Up To 99 Variables—
States Ascending—Continued**

State/Territory	SNAP Outreach State Share	SNAP Outreach Total Fed Share
New Hampshire	56,266	30,040
New Jersey	1,919,238	1,919,238
New Mexico	29,939	29,940
New York	5,324,729	5,324,730
North Carolina	1,764,683	1,764,683
North Dakota	116,597	116,596
Ohio	2,429,718	2,429,717
Oklahoma	1,188,153	1,188,153
Oregon	1,017,824	1,017,825
Pennsylvania	1,818,108	1,818,108
Rhode Island	475,248	475,249
South Carolina	1,849,483	1,849,483
South Dakota		
Tennessee	920,343	920,343
Texas	6,760,558	6,760,558
Utah	21,931	21,931
Vermont	766,062	766,061
Virginia	313,152	313,152
Virgin Islands		
Washington	5,089,296	5,089,296
West Virginia	121,481	121,481
Wisconsin	1,481,083	1,481,082
Wyoming		
U.S.	76,867,615	76,841,391

07/09/2025, 12:29 p.m.

Question 14. The most recent study published by the Department on foods typically purchased by SNAP households contains purchasing data from 2011. Does the Department plan to initiate a new study on the food choices of SNAP and non-SNAP households as part of the Food and Nutrition Service's next Research and Evaluation plan?

Answer. FNS initiated a study on the food purchases of SNAP households in late Fiscal Year 2023 and expects its completion in Fiscal Year 2026.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Angie Craig, a Representative in Congress from Minnesota

USDA Workforce/Staffing

Question 1. In your Senate confirmation hearing testimony, you said "we must work with the great men and women of USDA and the stakeholder community to immediately and comprehensively get a handle on the state of animal-disease outbreaks, including H5N1 and New World Screwworm, and do everything possible to eradicate them." Yet on your first day in the office, you fired ¼ of the great men and women who worked at USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which plays a major role in responding to animal-disease outbreaks.

How does cutting a 14 person staff by 25 percent further our efforts to test for and track diseases like H5N1, which is impacting on the price of eggs people have to pay at the store each day?

Answer. USDA worked swiftly to rescind the termination notices those employees received.

Question 1a. Given that the United States reviews and judges foreign countries own animal-disease control programs and have cited weaknesses in those programs as an excuse to keep foreign animal product imports out, isn't there a danger that your actions could lead to similar reviews and decisions by other nations and hurt our farmers ability to export U.S. animal products?

Answer. There have not been any barriers to trade imposed by other countries as a result of the subsequently rescinded terminations you mentioned above. I will continue to work to ensure that APHIS has the resources needed to maintain mission critical activities, including providing technical expertise in discussions regarding sanitary and phytosanitary export issues.

Question 2. In a press release on your first full day on the job, you said you “welcome DOGE’s efforts at USDA because we know that its work makes us better, stronger, faster, and more efficient.” So are you promising farmers, ranchers, loggers and the other stakeholders who depend on USDA and the services it provides that the DOGE recommended personnel reductions you have adopted will not result in any slowdown or delay in services to these constituencies by the Department and its agencies nor any degradation in the quality of work these constituencies enjoyed prior to these personnel reductions?

Answer. I fully support President Trump’s directive to eliminate wasteful spending and ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively. USDA is optimizing building capacity and consolidating underutilized offices to reduce inefficiencies while continuing to prioritize frontline services for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. I understand the array of mission critical positions and programs at the Department and will ensure that those areas have the resources and personnel they need to continue serving the American people.

Question 2a. Does DOGE have to review farm loans or guarantees over \$500,000? Who else has to review these loans?

Answer. I have hired people at the Department who are dedicated to finding and resolving inefficiencies. Their charge is simple, to help me refocus USDA on its core mission of serving the American people rather than the bureaucracy of Washington D.C. These efficiency personnel perform a concurrent review of Farm Loan Programs applications. This process began on April 30 and there has not been a delay in the processing of applications for direct loan or loan guarantee assistance. Notably, FSA underwriting policies and procedures have not been altered by this new review process. FSA submits a request for review upon receipt of an application, allowing the review to occur concurrently with FSA’s own application analysis. All reviews to date have been cleared and completed within 1 business day of submission, thus avoiding delays.

Question 3. It is my understanding that the Department fired 28 people with the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas one day, only to rescind some of the firings the next day. The NBAF is the forefront of our nation’s efforts to protect against transboundary, emerging, and zoonotic animal diseases that threaten our nation’s food supply, agricultural economy, and public health. Additionally, several positions in the Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) were likewise fired only to have the Department attempt to correct the error.

Were these firings a clerical mistake or did someone have second thoughts about the initial decision to fire these people after the fact?

Question 3a. Didn’t you or someone at the Department review the list of terminated positions before they went out in order to catch obviously careless mistakes like this?

Question 3b. With the threat of bird-flu further spreading throughout the country, plus other potential animal diseases, how could the NBAF or FSIS be on the chopping block in the first place; wasn’t there any discussion before these decisions were made?

Answer 3-3b. There have not been any reductions in force at USDA. The standup of NBAF continues to be a priority, and voluntary resignations will not negatively impact the mission transfer timeline.

Question 4. We know that many of the jobs at USDA require specific education and training, if not years of experience, in order to address the specific challenges USDA is faced with resolving every day. Do you agree with that statement?

Question 4a. Do you have the ability to replace these experienced folks who have left the agency? Do you have permission to hire given the hiring freeze this Administration had required?

Question 4b. How many people can you hire? How many have been hired? What roles are they filling? What about roles in agricultural research or in cybersecurity? What about those with knowledge about loans and loan processing? Are you able to job-share so that as people with years of experience leave, they can co-work with new staff who need to get up to speed quickly?

Answer 4-4b. USDA is committed to providing the most efficient and effective service possible to meet and exceed the needs of the people we serve. We will continue to review, assess, and solve for the best ways to ensure that service.

Question 4c. Does USDA have enough trained epidemiologist to battle H5N1 or to prevent the spread of New World Screwworm? Does USDA have enough experienced staff to negotiate with foreign countries about opening new markets?

Answer. I will continue working to ensure USDA has the resources needed to maintain mission critical activities, including preventing the spread of the New World Screwworm and expanding market access.

Question 5. We have been informed that 17 USDA employees were fired from the Agricultural Research Service's U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Nebraska. This action led Laura Field, Executive Director of the Nebraska Cattlemen to *express*¹ her organization's concern given the importance of the Center to the beef industry and potential for losing the Center's ability continue to do groundbreaking research. In her view, USMARC isn't a place with wasteful spending and inefficiencies.

Is she wrong? Were the 17 employees who were let go an unnecessary wasteful expense? Can you guarantee to Ms. Field and us that USMARC will not see any slowdown or loss of productivity or innovation due to these cuts?

Answer. Eleven probationary employees at USMARC were released and all were subsequently offered reinstatement. Any employees that have left their position at USMARC did so voluntarily. Critical research at USMARC continues without any slowdown or loss of productivity or innovation.

ATTACHMENT



[<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/business-inputs/article/2025/02/19/usda-cuts-stretch-across-nations-top>]

Array of Jobs, Grants Lost Across Ag

USDA Cuts Stretch Across Nation's Top Research Labs to Small, Urban Farmers Markets

2/19/2025 12:33 PM CST

By *Chris Clayton*,¹ DTN Ag Policy Editor



¹ <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/business-inputs/article/2025/02/19/usda-cuts-stretch-across-nations-top>.

¹ <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/author?authorFullName=Chris%20Clayton>.

Opened in May 2023, the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas, was called the crown jewel in foreign animal disease research to defend agriculture from such outbreaks. The local newspaper reported 28 scientists and staff were terminated as part of the USDA job cuts. (DTN file photo by Chris Clayton)

Editor's Note: This story is updated from the Tuesday, Feb. 18, version.

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Omaha (DTN)—There are still no concrete details about the number of job cuts at the U.S. Department of Agriculture or which grant contracts have been canceled, but ground-breaking meat labs and the country's new crown jewel facility for combating foreign animal diseases were not spared from cuts.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday called for “radical transparency” to shed light on what he views as wasteful spending across Federal agencies.

For people and groups impacted, they see the cuts in a different light.

At least 17 employees were laid off at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska, the *Lincoln Journal-Star* first reported. Known as USMARC, the science lab has 35,000 acres and more than 25,000 livestock, including cattle, sheep and hogs. The facility conducts research on meat quality and safety, animal breeding and genetics, feed quality and efficiency, and overall livestock production.

Laura Field, executive director of Nebraska Cattlemen, said her members started hearing about the layoffs at USMARC last week. “We know there have been categories of folks that have been lost, and it's a real concern for us because the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center is such an important part of the beef industry from a production perspective,” Field said. “The research they have done there is so ground-breaking, and if they have losses that impact their ability to function, what that could mean for the cattle industry.”

Beyond the research, Field noted the facility has 25,000 head of livestock that need to be taken care of as well.

Field added, “I think we all believe firmly that there is probably some need for the government to take a look at positions and have conversations about wasteful spending and efficiencies, but USMARC is certainly not a place where that is the case. We think they are already operating on a pretty thin budget, and they're doing a really good job given all of the work they are doing.”

Along with cuts at USMARC, the local newspaper in Manhattan, Kansas, the *Mercury*, reported at least 28 people had been fired at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), a \$1.25 billion, state-of-the-art USDA/Department of Homeland Security research facility that just opened within the past 2 years. NBAF is the country's only level 4 biosecurity lab for animals and the first lab capable of diagnostics and vaccines for zoonotic diseases. Among those fired was a high-level researcher working on avian influenza, the *Mercury* reported.

NBC News then reported USDA had “accidentally” fired researchers working on avian influenza.

In a statement late Tuesday to DTN, USDA confirmed the department was seeking to rehire employees working on avian influenza.

“USDA continues to prioritize the response to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Several job categories, including veterinarians, animal health technicians, and other emergency response personnel have been exempted from the recent personnel actions to continue to support the HPAI response and other animal health priorities. Although several positions supporting HPAI were notified of their terminations over the weekend, we are working to swiftly rectify the situation and rescind those letters—USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service frontline positions are considered public safety positions, and we are continuing to hire the workforce necessary to ensure the safety and adequate supply of food to fulfill our statutory mission.”

Individual Stories

At the USDA National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa, the *Iowa State Daily* reported the lab's 2022 student employee of the year was fired. Logan Conner had worked at the lab for more than 2½ years and was a research technician at the facility before being released on Friday.

“It was completely out of the blue,” Conner told the school newspaper. “No one at the building had any say or jurisdiction over who got fired (or) when—it was all just probationary employees.”

In Illinois, A.J. Ruggieri, an Army veteran who served 2½ years in Africa, described himself as a Republican who voted for Trump, but also someone who started a new job in early December doing communications for the Natural Resources Con-

servation Service (NRCS). He noted he got the job partially because of his veteran status. He had thought he accepted an offer for a deferred resignation but was instead told on Friday he was being terminated under the probationary period status instead. He noted his wife is also ill with influenza.

“The first thing I did was call my wife. How were we going to pay for the prescriptions she needed? How were we going to pay for the emergency-room visit we had planned because her condition had worsened overnight?” Ruggieri wrote in the *Champaign News-Gazette*. “As I stood there, I was no longer a Federal employee. Was my Federal health insurance gone? What about dental insurance? We still have one child with braces. No clarification was given. There was no indication that the premiums were being paid from my paycheck, no severance discussed, nothing.”

Ruggieri added, “Everything comes at a cost. The only thing constant is change, but my question is not whether we can make America great again, but how do we do so? There is no civility in this, no courage, no honor, no consideration for the citizen employee. Just the bottom line cloaked in a technicality of a Federal regulation.”

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alana Henry found out Friday night her group’s 3 year, \$165,000 farmers[?] market grant had been taken away from USDA because it falls under the category of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Henry’s organization, the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, had a signed contract with USDA last fall. It was among \$33.5 million in grants to 113 groups across 43 states expand local and regional food systems, especially in under-served urban and rural communities.

“We had already started working on it and had received our first disbursement,” Henry told DTN. “You know, I had kind of been on pins and needles, so I’m not entirely surprised, but of course there is a level of shock and anger.”

Henry, who also operates an urban farm, said the grant was meant to help expand a neighborhood farmers’ market and also further help provide fruits and vegetables to young mothers on the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, as well as seniors in the area who buy food at the farmers market.

“We were very excited about creating a space for them to purchase from vendors who were authorized to accept those benefit programs and do it in a way that preserves their dignity,” Henry said.

Henry is unsure how to proceed after being told the grant “no longer effectuates agency priorities regarding diversity, equity and inclusion programs and activities,” based on the letter she received.

“Not only is it unfair, but clearly they didn’t understand the sort of impact of the work we are doing and have been doing, but it’s also potentially illegal,” Henry said, noting USDA’s breach of contract.

Henry was not aware Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins spent Tuesday just a few miles away speaking to a conference of farmers in downtown Kansas City.

“I wish I had known that because I would have shown up,” Henry said.

USDA, White House on Cuts

In response to questions from DTN, a spokesperson responded Tuesday afternoon, “Secretary Rollins fully supports President Trump’s directive to optimize government operations, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA’s ability to better serve American farmers, ranchers, and the agriculture community. We have a solemn responsibility to be good stewards of Americans’ hard-earned taxpayer dollars and to ensure that every dollar is being spent as effectively as possible to serve the people, not the bureaucracy.”

The spokesperson added, “As part of this effort, USDA has released individuals in their probationary period of employment. Secretary Rollins understands the array of mission-critical positions and programs at the Department, and she will ensure that those areas have the resources and personnel they need to continue serving the American people.”

USDA has not released details about the full number of people terminated across the department or the grants that have been rescinded.

Speaking Tuesday on RFD-TV, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said, “The United States Department of Agriculture is filled with incredible, hard-working people. But there’s also some realignment that needs to happen. Only 6% of our workforce actually goes into the office. There’s 106,000 employees and 29 different departments. Are we doing everything to the best of our ability with the best people to serve our farmers and our ranchers?”

An anonymous USDA employee on Wednesday called out DTN for quoting Rollins above and not fact-checking that statement. A report by the White House Office of Personnel Management in 2024 showed USDA had 112,659 employees in Fiscal Year 2023 with 26,449 eligible for “telework” that year. The percentage of employees who worked remotely and did not work in the office was 23% of the workforce,

meaning 77% of USDA employees actually worked in their offices nationwide that year. A link to the report is below.

See, OPM telework report, 2024 <https://www.opm.gov/telework/history-legislation-reports/status-of-telework-in-the-federal-government-2024.pdf>.

The White House Office of Communications also on Tuesday issued a statement from the President calling for “Radical Transparency About Wasteful Spending.” The statement said the government spends too much on programs, contracts and grants that do not promote the interests of the American people.

“For too long, taxpayers have subsidized ideological projects overseas and domestic organizations engaged in actions that undermine the national interest,” according to the President’s statement. “The American people have seen their tax dollars used to fund the passion projects of unelected bureaucrats rather than to advance the national interest. The American people have a right to see how the Federal Government has wasted their hard-earned wages.”

The President called for department agencies “to take all appropriate actions to make public, to the maximum extent permitted by law and as the heads of agencies deem appropriate to promote the policies of my Administration, the complete details of every terminated program, canceled contract, terminated grant, or any other discontinued obligation of Federal funds. Agencies shall ensure that such publication occurs in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the underlying contract, grant, or other award.”

For more, see “Forest Service, NRCS Among Agencies Hit by Mass Firings as USDA Cuts Jobs” here: https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/article/2025/02/14/forest-service-nrcs-among-agencies?itm_source=parsely-api

Question 6. We have lost countless dedicated public servants at the Forest Service, many of whom held wildfire certifications and served on the line during fire season, and nearly all of whom played essential support roles for the Agency’s core functions. How can you guarantee us that these cuts and hiring freezes will not result in any deterioration of the Forest Services’ ability to provide for public safety when wildfires strike?

Answer. In support of the President’s vision and the Secretary’s direction, the Forest Service worked with OPM to exempt wildland fire hiring from the national hiring pause. The agency has nearly met our target of having 11,300 firefighters on board for the summer peak. Additionally, we have invited staff who had voluntarily separated from the Forest Service through the deferred resignation program and who hold current red cards, to come back and support fire assignments this season. We have already had these staff members taking assignments into support roles. We will do everything we can to reduce the

Question 7. We are already *hearing*² concerns about the Elon Musk universal Federal employee buyout. Specifically, meatpackers worry that if many food safety inspectors take the buyout, it could lead to plant shutdowns for lack of inspectors. Plus, with the hiring freeze in place, questions remain on whether we are bringing on replacement meat inspectors.

Can you tell us how many food inspectors are taking advantage of deferred resignation programs, and whether you foresee any potential shutdown of meat-packing facilities due to insufficient number of inspectors?

Answer. As part of this reorientation, the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP), a completely voluntary tool, was used to empower employees to decide what is best for them. As of May 1, 2025, 555 employees from FSIS voluntarily elected deferred resignation. These departures had no impact on the agency’s ability to provide inspection coverage at establishments. Because of the essential nature of their work, FSIS frontline inspectors and veterinarians were not offered the opportunity to participate in the second round of DRP. FSIS frontline positions are considered public safety positions pursuant to Secretarial Memorandum 1078–008 issued on April 22, and USDA is continuing to hire the workforce necessary to ensure the safety of food to fulfill our statutory mission.

ATTACHMENT



[<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/trumps-funding-freeze-hurts-american-farmers-and-consumers-rcna192333>]

²<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/trumps-funding-freeze-hurts-american-farmers-and-consumers-rcna192333>.

Trump's funding freeze leaves American farmers like me out in the cold

How the Administration's funding freeze threatens the infrastructure that keeps rural communities—and everyday America—running.

Feb. 16, 2025, 10:52 AM EST

By Rob Larew, President, National Farmers Union



Editor's note: the video is retained in Committee file.

The Trump Administration's decision to pause and review Federal funding has sparked uncertainty for many Americans. Even if you have not personally felt the effects yet, you soon might, because these abrupt freezes are hitting family farmers and ranchers hard. And when farmers struggle, every consumer feels it at the grocery store.

Agriculture is a complex industry, often overlooked in national policy discussions. Farmers take on an immense amount of financial risk to put a crop into the ground or raise a herd of livestock, only to be wiped out by a natural disaster, rising costs or collapsing markets. The programs under review—or those completely frozen—help family farmers manage risk, access credit and stay afloat when times get tough.

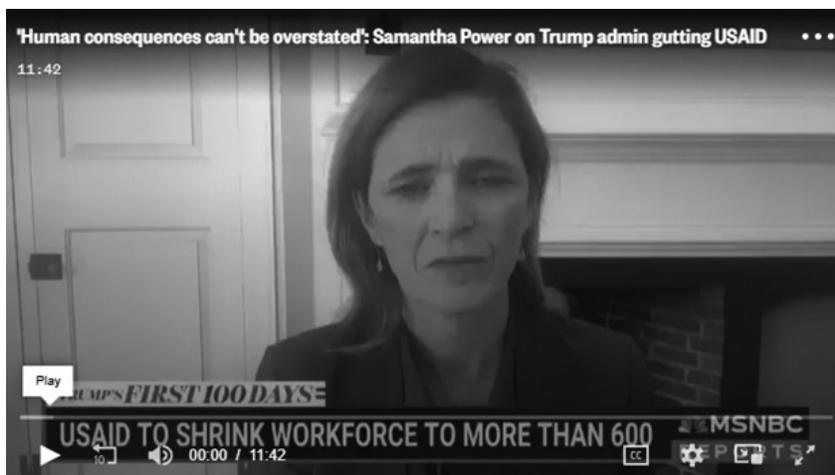
Without intervention, these cuts will ripple through rural economies.

Like all businesses, farmers need some stability to succeed. As a sixth-generation farmer from West Virginia, I understand the Administration's desire to root out waste, fraud and abuse in Federal programs. But the current freeze is creating chaos instead of reform. No one knows what funding will be available, or if key programs will have the staff needed to operate. Here are a few examples of the funding freeze's real-world impacts on America's farmers.

The freeze has most immediately impacted Federal conservation and voluntary climate-smart agriculture projects. Across the country, farmers have been left in limbo after making sustainability investments, trusting that the government would uphold its commitments.

For example, some farmers who purchased cover crop seed to improve soil health or installed solar panels to reduce energy costs are now learning that Federal reimbursements have been cut off. These are not theoretical losses. These are real financial burdens that could push family farms into bankruptcy. Without intervention, these cuts will ripple through rural economies. Every farm that goes out of business means fewer families in rural communities, less money spent at the local businesses, fewer kids in the local schools, and fewer tax dollars for roads, hospitals and emergency services.

Farmers and policymakers in both parties have broadly supported international food aid for decades. American farmers produce more food than we can consume, and food aid donations serve the dual purpose of providing a new market opportunity for farmers and feeding people in need around the world. The U.S. purchased roughly \$2 billion in food aid last year from American farmers; dismantling our food aid program is certain to disrupt market prices and create additional stress for U.S. food producers.



Editor's note: the video is retained in Committee file.

Beyond agriculture, the funding freeze threatens the infrastructure that keeps rural communities running. Federal grants and loans help small towns replace aging and costly infrastructure, such as broadband and water systems, and invest in local meat and food processing. Local entities have relied on Federal loans and loan guarantees—*existing commitments* that the government is now freezing, leaving farmers, investors, lenders and rural communities on the hook for funds already spent.

Shrinking the size of the Federal workforce might seem like a reasonable way to cut costs, but in agriculture it could have disastrous consequences. Farmers rely on Federal employees to administer disaster relief, risk management programs and conservation initiatives, and rural areas already struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff.

One of the more alarming impacts could be on U.S. Department of Agriculture food safety inspectors. Meatpacking plants cannot operate without them, meaning staffing shortages could slow or shut down processing facilities. This would hurt livestock growers, who already face limited options due to industry consolidation. It would also reduce meat supply, driving up prices for consumers. These funding freezes do not just hurt individual farmers. They reinforce a food system already dominated by a handful of powerful corporations. Over the past several decades, agriculture has become more concentrated, with a few companies controlling everything from seeds and fertilizers to meatpacking and grain trading. Farmers have few choices on where to sell their products, leaving them at the mercy of companies that keep farm prices low while raising costs for consumers.

Every farm that goes out of business means fewer families in rural communities, less money spent at the local businesses, fewer kids in the local schools, and fewer tax dollars for roads, hospitals, and emergency services.

Further instability in Federal programs only strengthens these monopolies. When family farmers lose access to credit, conservation programs or technical assistance, they are more likely to be forced out of business or absorbed by corporate interests. That means less competition, fewer independent farmers and higher grocery prices for American families.

Finally, Federal research funding drives breakthroughs in crop and animal science, safeguarding our food supply from emerging diseases and advancing technologies that help farmers produce more with fewer resources. However, the current funding freeze has stalled agricultural research, leaving farmers without the tools they need to adapt to a changing climate and evolving threats. Investing in agriculture is investing in the future—ensuring farmers can keep farming, rural communities can stay vibrant, and every American can have access to safe, affordable food.

Supporting family farmers and ranchers means supporting the backbone of our nation. These funding cuts are not just numbers on a budget spreadsheet; they represent real dollars that sustain families and power rural economies. Freezing spending and making sweeping decisions without Congressional oversight just adds more

uncertainty to a stressed farm economy. The right way to evaluate government programs is through thoughtful, measured approaches that protect taxpayer dollars without causing harm to family farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Policymakers must listen to the voices of those most impacted and recognize the real-world consequences of any cuts. Our rural economy and food system—and therefore all of America—depends on it.



Rob Larew

Rob Larew is a leader in agriculture, public policy and rural advocacy. Larew leads the second-largest general farm organization as the 15th President of National Farmers Union, representing more than 230,000 family farmers and ranchers across the country. A sixth-generation farmer from West Virginia, Larew has dedicated his career to advancing the interests of family farmers and rural communities across the United States.

Question 7a. How long it takes to train a new meat inspector, assuming USDA might have to try to staff up?

Answer. Formal and on-the-job-training of new inspectors depends on the position they are hired in. It ranges from 2 weeks (for food inspectors, GS 5–7) to around 6 weeks (for Consumer Safety Inspectors, GS 5–9).

Question 8. According to the President's Executive Order, once the hiring freeze is lifted, you will only be able to hire one employee for every four that have left, presumably whether through buyout, firing, or reduction in force. Given the competing needs for USDA researchers, loan officers, food inspectors, firefighters, and other positions that deal directly with America's farmers, ranchers, and loggers, how will you prioritize which functions gets these precious staff resources and which functions do without?

Answer. USDA will continue to assess staffing needs to ensure mission critical activities are carried out and will use the funding provided by Congress to implement programs across the Department. I will also continue to work with agencies to understand where opportunities and challenges are.

Question 9. President Trump has proposed slashing USDA funding for the very technical assistance that farmers around the country rely on for valuable farm income and which allow them be better stewards of their land. We hear daily how vital this support is to America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. Do you support the President's cuts to programs that directly support our hard-working farmers and ranchers?

Answer. USDA fully supports President Trump's directive to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively. USDA will continue to prioritize frontline services for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. I understand the array of mission critical positions and programs at the Department and will ensure that those areas have the resources and personnel they need to continue serving the American people.

Question 9a. NRCS staff are the boots on the ground that are there to help America's farmers and ranchers. How many NRCS staff have left, been fired, or been bought up this year? How can you say that you are putting farmers first, when the very people that who's job is to help farmers are being terminated or bought out?

Answer. Approximately 2,455 NRCS staff voluntarily took the Deferred Resignation Program. I will ensure the Natural Resources Conservation Service has the resources necessary to perform mission critical work.

Question 10. We understand the Department's earlier efforts to fire its probationary employees and conduct additional mass layoffs is currently being stayed by court order as the ongoing litigations continues. During that initial round of firings of probationary employees, we heard countless stories of veterans losing their jobs under this Administration. While the firing of probationary employees at USDA did not qualify as a reduction-in-force (RIF), if you wanted to honor the service of these veterans performed for their country, you could have applied in this instance the same protections and preferences veterans would enjoy under a formal RIF. Instead, you chose to fire those probationary employees who also served their nation in the military along with everyone else.

Don't you believe the men and women who wore the uniform and wanted to continue to serve in a different capacity deserve just a little more consideration than a summary firing without considering of any alternatives for them?

Question 10a. According to several reports, each individual agency & Department had the final say on these firings plus a list of possible exceptions were given. Is

it your testimony that the President and OPM in directing this action provided no flexibility or guidance to protect veterans from being subject to this action?

Answer 10–10a. Over the last 4 years, USDA’s workforce grew by 8%, and employees’ salaries increased by 14.5%—including hiring thousands of employees with no sustainable way to pay them. This all occurred without any tangible increase in service to USDA’s core constituencies across the agricultural sector. With respect to probationary employees, they have been restored to the respective employment status they each held prior to their termination. USDA paid each probationary employee any commensurate back pay, from the respective date of termination. USDA also acted diligently to complete the administrative steps related to notifying the probationary employees of their reinstatement, ascertaining whether some of the probationary employees choose to resign, processing the reinstatements for purposes of all relevant USDA record systems, and returning the reinstated employees to duty status.

Question 11. During your initial firing of probationary employees, hundreds of them came forth to show that their termination notices indicated that their probationary period of employment was terminated due to poor performance. This notice was given to employees who had no performance review, those who did have reviews but received favorable reviews, and even those who were promoted after a favorable review. On April 18, 2025, a Federal judge issued an order requiring USDA to provide these employees with a written statement, stating that their termination was not performance or fitness based but was made as part of a government-wide mass termination. This notice can be found on USDA’s website, which also includes a statement from the Department that it believes this order to be both legally and factually erroneous.

Who made the decision at USDA to send these notices to probationary staff since they must have been drafted before you were sworn in?

Question 11a. Who at USDA was involved in these conversations since you were not yet sworn in as the Secretary? Under what authority were they acting?

Question 11b. On your first day, you held a party while these notices were being sent. Would you do it again?

Question 11c. You have testified to Congress that no one at USDA has been fired. Yet, thousands of employees who were at USDA prior to January 20, 2025 have been terminated, resigned, placed on administrative leave, been part of a reductions in force, or have taken a deferred resignation. Please provide a list, by agency, division, mission area, or program area of the positions that were staffed prior to January 20, 2025 which are no longer staffed.

If any positions have been eliminated at USDA, please provide a list of positions that have been eliminated.

Answer 11–11c. Over the last 4 years, USDA’s workforce grew by 8%, and employees’ salaries increased by 14.5%—including hiring thousands of employees with no sustainable way to pay them. This all occurred without any tangible increase in service to USDA’s core constituencies across the agricultural sector. It is the policy of USDA not to release personally identifiable information of USDA employees. With respect to probationary employees, they have been restored to the respective employment status they each held prior to their termination. USDA paid each probationary employee any commensurate back pay, from the respective date of termination. USDA also acted diligently to complete the administrative steps related to notifying the probationary employees of their reinstatement, ascertaining whether some of the probationary employees choose to resign, processing the reinstatements for purposes of all relevant USDA record systems, and returning the reinstated employees to duty status.

Question 12. Section 3(c) of Executive Order “Implementing The President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ Workforce Optimization Initiative” requires all Departments and agencies to initiate large-scale reductions in force (RIFs), or mass firings. We understand USDA has completed its plan for compliance with this Order, even as the Courts have paused its implementation.

Was the Department given a target number or goal to hit for the reductions in force that every Department and agency is required to implement pursuant to this Executive Order?

Question 12a. As the Executive Order directs the Department to prioritize for RIFs those employees who are **not** designated as essential during a lapse in appropriations, has USDA looked at who was previously deemed non-essential in the first Trump Administration’s government shutdown during 2018 and 2019. Tell me what guidance you gave your staff when you asked them to figure out who gets RIF’d and who stays?

Answer 12–12a. Over the last 4 years, USDA’s workforce grew by 8%, and employees’ salaries increased by 14.5%—including hiring thousands of employees with no sustainable way to pay them. This all occurred without any tangible increase in service to USDA’s core constituencies across the agricultural sector. On July 24, 2025, USDA announced an intended reorganization to make certain USDA can afford its workforce. To date, much of USDA’s personnel reduction was through voluntary retirements and the Deferred Retirement Program (DRP), a completely voluntary tool. As of July 24, 2025, approximately 15,364 individuals voluntarily elected deferred resignation. When necessary, USDA will continue to fully leverage voluntary programs such as the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments (VSIPs). At this time, it is unlikely that USDA will perform any large-scale reductions in force, focused and limited reductions in force may be implemented only if needed.

Question 13. Where are you in terms of the USDA reorganization and office moves? I understand my Republican colleagues in the Senate are pleading for you to move offices to their states.

Have you had any conversations with elected officials about these moves?

Question 13a. Has GSA begun working on procuring office space for staff to move into?

Question 13b. Will you commit to notifying Congress before a local or regional USDA office is closed or otherwise impacted by a restructuring or lease termination?

Question 13c. Will you commit to holding public meetings on proposed closures in the county where the USDA office is located?

Question 13d. Will you commit to holding the required public meetings for any proposed closures of county or regional FSA offices?

Answer 13–13d. USDA announced on August 1, 2025, the opening of a 30 day public comment period for stakeholders, including USDA employees, Members of Congress, and agricultural and nutrition partners, to provide feedback on the Department’s reorganization plan, as outlined in the Secretary’s memorandum issued on July 24, 2025.

Question 14. Eliminating telework and remote schedules and requiring USDA Federal workers to work daily from an office, often not one affiliated with their agency, has resulted in higher costs as well as a drastic loss in productivity and morale, compromising the services USDA provides for the American public, most notably farmers. Yet previously, the Secretary herself indicated that a flexible work schedule was integral to her success. Given the USDA’s commitment to science and services to the American public, when will the USDA begin shifting back to telework and remote work schedules to increase productivity and reduce costs?

Answer. A 2023 study conducted by the GAO reported an 11% space utilization for USDA headquarters alone. Interestingly, Congress has set a utilization goal of 60%, which means that Congress agrees in-office work leads to greater productivity. I am committed to ensuring the most efficient and effective Department as possible. That effort is only possible when employees are at work, in an office, ready and available to serve Americans. In addition, President Trump issued a Presidential Action Memo that directed agencies to take all necessary steps to terminate remote work arrangements and require employees to return to work in-person at their respective duty stations on a full-time basis. USDA will continue to comply with this directive.

Question 15. We continue to be concerned about staffing issues at USDA offices. How many USDA NRCS offices are currently unstaffed? According to a late *March Agri-Pulse* article,³ “At least eight USDA offices in Indiana are devoid of NRCS staff following recent cuts, as are six in Kansas, five in Oklahoma, four in Missouri and three in Minnesota.”

Answer. Public Law 115–334, Section 12410 indicates: “The Secretary shall not close any field office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service unless, not later than 30 days before the date of the closure, the Secretary submits to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a notification of the closure.” It also indicates: “The Secretary shall not permanently relocate any field-based employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the rural development mission area if doing so would result in a field office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the rural development mission area with two or fewer employees, unless, not later than 30 days before the date of the permanent relocation, the Secretary submits to

³<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/22487-workforce-cutbacks-strip-many-nrcs-offices-of-staff>.

the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a notification of the permanent relocation.” NRCS has adhered to these prohibitions, ensuring no county-based employees have been relocated in a manner that would necessitate notification to the Committees on Appropriations.

ATTACHMENT



[<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/22487-workforce-cutbacks-strip-many-nrcs-offices-of-staff>]

Workforce cutbacks strip many NRCS offices of staff

03/05/25 6:07 AM By *Noah Wicks*¹



The USDA Service Center in Malvern, Arkansas (Photo: USDA)

Update: A Federal appeals board on Wednesday ordered USDA to allow fired probationary employees to return to work until April 18. In a statement to Agri-Pulse, a USDA spokesperson said the agency “will work to abide by the ruling and has no further comment at this time.” Read more here.²

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service didn’t have a district conservationist in Bradley County, Arkansas, for almost 11 years before Josh Hardin showed up.

When Hardin was hired by NRCS last August, he was tasked with bringing life to an office that had not existed in over a decade. After the agency rented a space in an old bank building for him to work from, he brought in chairs and tables from home, decorated the space with potted plants and outfitted the kitchen with supplies.

Hardin worked hard to rebuild relationships with area farmers who were distrustful of the agency, which for years only sent conservationists from Mississippi or other parts of Arkansas to help them address soil erosion, water quality and other

¹ <https://www.agri-pulse.com/authors/295-noah-wicks>.

² <https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/22509-judge-orders-usda-probationary-employees-reinstated>.

natural resource concerns. He had the right degrees, knew the community and operated a farm a few counties over, he said. When he first applied for the post, Hardin said his supervisors saw him as a “perfect fit.”

Despite the hour and 10 minute drive to work every day, Hardin finally felt like he’d landed his dream job. He helped at least 30 new “clients,” as he calls them, apply for conservation programs during his tenure. He believes that number is an undercount.

“Rarely in life do we get to be in a place where it’s like an eclipse,” Hardin said. “You’re doing what you want to do, you’re making the money you need to make to do it and people are also happy you’re there.”

Then the email came.

On Feb. 13 and 14, at least 1,200 probationary NRCS employees were informed that their positions were terminated, as were workers in other branches of USDA. Hardin was one of them.



Josh Hardin (Photo: Josh Hardin)

“We lost a man that was energetic and was really, really well equipped to work with the people here,” Arkansas timber and cattle producer Allen Primm said of Hardin’s termination.

Now, the Bradley County office once again lacks a district conservationist of its own, leaving farmers without a local contact qualified to initiate contracts or authorize payments. Buyouts and firings have shrunken staffs at other USDA field offices as the Trump Administration works to downsize the Federal workforce. Leases for some locations will soon be terminated.

At least eight USDA offices in Indiana are devoid of NRCS staff following recent cuts, as are six in Kansas, five in Oklahoma, four in Missouri and three in Minnesota, according to a tally by one source familiar with these offices. Some of these are “effectively shuttered,” the source said.

NRCS Chief Louis Aspey told reporters Monday at Commodity Classic in Denver that the agency would stretch staff to cover offices that lost personnel. While he said there shouldn’t be any offices “without any staff there at all,” he added, “If there are, we’re realigning at the state level to make sure that there’s seamless coverage.”

In a statement, a USDA spokesperson said Secretary Brooke Rollins “fully supports President Trump’s directive to improve government, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA’s many services to the American people.”

The spokesperson also mentioned the idea of “consolidating certain field offices,” a move they said “helps ensure that the American people’s hard-earned taxpayer dollars are used effectively while USDA continues to prioritize the delivery of essential services to farmers, ranchers, and producers.”

In a *memo circulated on Jan. 20*,³ Office of Personnel Management Acting Director Charles Ezell gave agency heads 4 days to identify all probationary employees, or employees with only 2 years of service or less, and “promptly determine whether those employees should be retained at the agency.”

When mid-February came around, as many as 200,000 probationary employees across the Federal Government received emails informing them they were fired. *In a petition filed*⁴ to the Merit Systems Protection Board last week, Special Counsel Hampton Dellinger said some 5,900 USDA employees were removed from their jobs.

Agencies in recent weeks have attempted to bring back some fired staffers seen as critical, like scientists working on the government’s highly pathogenic avian influenza response.

Federal Judge William Alsup of the Northern District of California on Feb. 27 *ordered OPM*⁵ to rescind its Jan. 20 directive, noting in his ruling that it “did not have the authority to direct the firing of employees, probationary or otherwise, in any other Federal agency.” OPM *revised its initial guidance*⁶ on Tuesday, adding a statement saying it “is not directing agencies to take any specific performance-based actions regarding probationary employees.”

Another 75,000 workers across the entire Federal Government have voluntarily accepted deferred resignation and will receive full pay and benefits until Sept. 30.

³ <https://www.agri-pulse.com/ext/resources/pdfs/Guidance-on-Probationary-Periods-Administrative-Leave-and-Details-1-20-2025-FINAL.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.agri-pulse.com/ext/resources/pdfs/USDA-Systemic-Stay-%28redacted%29.pdf>.

⁵ <https://www.agri-pulse.com/ext/resources/pdfs/Alsup-order.pdf>.

⁶ <https://www.agri-pulse.com/ext/resources/pdfs/OPM-Guidance-Memo-on-Probationary-Periods-Administrative-Leave-and-Details-3-4-2025.pdf>.

The mass workforce reductions follow a *years-long effort by NRCS leaders*⁷ to bring on enough new workers to offset a seemingly endless stream of employee departures due to retirements and job changes while also expanding the agency's ranks to handle \$19.5 billion in new conservation dollars provided by the Inflation Reduction Act. While NRCS had 11,709 full-time staff last October and aimed to reach 14,000 by 2026, recent employee losses are certain to have set back those efforts.

The agency's remaining county office employees are now likely to face heavier workloads, longer travel distances for on-the-ground visits and confusion stemming from frozen Federal funds. It may take a while for some producers to feel the effect of the staff cuts, but many will see impacts eventually, said Kansas Farmers Union Executive Director Nick Levendofsky.

"The paperwork is stacking up. The work that needs to be done out in the field and on the ground is stacking up. And people are scrambling to pick up the pieces, basically," said Levendofsky, who noted Kansas has lost at least 81 NRCS staffers in recent weeks.

One four-county service area went from having an NRCS technician in each office to having one for all four counties, said one respondent to a *survey released last week*⁸ by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Some survey participants expected backlogs for cultural resources, engineering and wetland compliance to grow, while others said producers may be left waiting for payments amid shortages of qualified agency employees able to handle project inspection and check-out.

"Certainly, the loss of Federal capacity is being felt," said Jeremy Peters, NACD's CEO.

Speaking to *Agri-Pulse* in Washington, House Ag Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pa., offered some criticism of the NRCS staff terminations, saying "it makes no sense when you have a farm bill that promotes technical service for farmers to downsize the number of professionals" who provide that assistance.

The Trump Administration is now beginning the process of *terminating state and county office leases*⁹ as part of its cost-cutting efforts. So far, it is looking to do so at 58 facilities used by NRCS and the Farm Service Agency, according to an online database the Department of Government Efficiency calls its "Wall of Receipts."

Acting FSA Chief Steve Peterson told *Agri-Pulse* Monday at Commodity Classic that any lease terminations will not occur until "down the road," giving agency leaders some time to make plans for relocating staff. He said the purpose is to "evaluate savings and see whether or not there's the ability to renegotiate or find other locations in those areas to possibly find cheaper rent."

As the Trump Administration attempts to shrink the Federal workforce, it makes sense that it would also try to limit the amount of buildings it leases, said Bruce Knight, who served as NRCS chief during the George W. Bush Administration.



Bruce Knight (Credit: Bruce Knight)

"If we're going to have fewer folks in government, you don't need the office space to house people who aren't there," Knight told *Agri-Pulse*.

Still, legal hurdles may complicate any Trump Administration efforts to downsize FSA and NRCS operations, particularly at the county level.

Language in the 2018 Farm Bill bars the [A]griculture [S]ecretary from closing any NRCS field offices or leaving them with fewer than two employees through staff relocations without notifying the House and Senate Ag Committees 30 days in advance. This provision likely remains in effect after two temporary farm bill extensions, said recently retired ag policy lobbyist Ferd Hoefner.

Additionally, the funding package approved by lawmakers in fiscal 2024 barred USDA from using appropriated funds to close Farm Service Agency county offices or leave county offices with two or fewer staff by relocating employees, unless it sought approval from the House and Senate Appropriations committees in advance. The government is currently being funded under terms of the FY24 appropriations legislation.

⁷<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/21766-getting-grounded-inside-usdas-efforts-to-staff-up-to-meet-farmers-environmental-challenges>.

⁸<https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-02-28-Conservation-District-Survey-Report.pdf>.

⁹<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/22481-usda-prepares-for-some-state-county-office-lease-terminations>.

“Both Republican and Democratic Administrations have tried to close county offices and Congress routinely blocks it,” Hoefner said, though he added “normal process is going to go by the wayside” in the Trump Administration.

Hardin, the terminated Arkansas employee, has filed an appeal with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, submitted a grievance with the Office of Special Counsel and is interested in joining a lawsuit filed by the American Federation of Government Employees should it become a class action, all in the hopes of getting his job back.

And he says he’s not the only one trying.

“If you’re a Federal employee, you just don’t know which way is up right now,” he said. “It feels like that’s the point, that the chaos, that these people are intentionally inflicting drama and abuse so we’ll just run away. But I think they underestimate the people they’re messing with. They’re really just making us all want to fight more.”

Rebekah Alvey, Phil Brasher and Lydia Johnson contributed to this report.

For more news, go to www.agri-pulse.com.

Editor’s note: This story was updated to include comment from a USDA spokesperson.

Question 16. We are concerned with USDA local and regional office and staff capacity. How many USDA county, local, regional offices are under consideration for closure, lease termination, consolidation, or other changes? How many USDA offices around the country are unstaffed, how many are understaffed, and how many have been consolidated or otherwise impacted by staffing issues?

Answer. USDA is optimizing building capacity and consolidating underutilized offices to reduce inefficiencies while continuing to prioritize frontline services for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. I understand the array of mission critical positions and programs at the Department and will ensure that those areas have the resources and personnel they need to continue serving the American people. NRCS and FSA has ensured no county-based employees have been relocated in a manner that would necessitate Congressional notification.

Farm Bill

Question 17. The economic assistance package Congress passed last year makes payments based on planted acres. Crop insurance operates based on planted acres. The farm safety net, however, is based on base acres resulting in farmers possibly getting payments for commodities they don’t even grow. Congress established base acres in order to comply with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules which limit how much the U.S. can spend to support farmers; rules that don’t apply equally to all WTO members. If we’re going to ignore our trade commitments like the USMCA to impose tariffs, why shouldn’t we just ignore the WTO and reconsider the whole base acre approach to the farm safety net in favor of a planted-acre approach?

Answer. Base acres are a critical mechanism to ensure that safety net programs do not influence planting decisions. This is a core principle to ensure that our farmers have fair and consistent protection while they take on the hard work of feeding, fueling, and clothing the world.

Question 18. We were unable to extend authorization of every farm bill program at the end of last term. Can you describe the impact that has had?

Question 18a. Are you hearing from folks involved in the orphan programs that did not get funded?

Answer 18–18a. USDA implements the programs that are authorized and funded by Congress.

Question 18b. What about regarding reimbursement of skimmed/electronically stolen benefits—have you heard about the impacts of that expiration from states operating SNAP or from participants, who are victims of skimming?

Answer. USDA continues to work diligently to prevent fraud and ensure program integrity. FNS has made significant and sustainable progress in partnership with states, third-party EBT processors, and retailers to modernize EBT systems and reduce fraud. FNS has several important initiatives underway to strengthen protection for program benefits.

Question 19. More than 20 percent of agriculture products produced in the U.S. are exported, and foreign markets have an outsize impact on the national farm economy. The last trade war that the President started was a \$27 billion hit to farmers. How will the current much larger trade war impact American producers and farmers?

Answer. President Biden left American farmers and ranchers with a nearly \$50 billion trade deficit. President Trump’s leadership to seek fair and reciprocal treat-

ment for our great producers will bring more stable long-term market opportunities around the world for agricultural exports.

Question 20. Suggested cuts to SNAP in the reconciliation process are projected to cost farmers over \$30 billion in farm income. This is approximately the same size as the tariff impacts that devastated prices during the first Trump Administration. Does USDA have a plan to address an additional hit to farm income? The combination of trade policy that removes markets for Americans and domestic policy that also diminishes demand at-home is a deadly one for farmers in this country. How are farming families supposed to survive such a major hit to their bottom line?

Answer. We are aggressively pursuing market access opportunities across the globe. I am proud of the work our team is doing to support concrete wins for American farmers and ranchers. Just a few of these include:

- Maintaining fair *dairy access in Costa Rica*⁴ for American dairy farmers.
- Protecting pork market access in Panama.
- Removing non-tariff barriers for almonds in Japan.
- Resolving barriers to poultry market access in Angola, the 9th largest market globally for U.S. poultry.

ATTACHMENT



U.S. Department of Agriculture

[<https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/28/make-agriculture-great-again-trade-win-secretary-rollins-secures-greater-market-access-costa-rica-us>]

Make Agriculture Great Again Trade Win: Secretary Rollins Secures Greater Market Access with Costa Rica for U.S. Dairy Industry

Release No.: 0121.25

Published: May 28, 2025



(Washington, D.C., May 28, 2025)—Under U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins' leadership, American dairy producers will have greater market access as Costa Rica has approved the first U.S. dairy facility to be registered under their *new*

⁴<https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/28/make-agriculture-great-again-trade-win-secretary-rollins-secures-greater-market-access-costa-rica-us>.

*streamlined approval process.*¹ The Trump Administration continues to break down non-tariff barriers, and this latest action is the first of many wins ahead for American dairy producers.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, USDA is putting Farmers First. Securing greater market access for American dairy farmers is a much-needed win for the U.S. dairy industry and will give our producers better increased access to a \$130 million market in Costa Rica. I look forward to continuing to Make Agriculture Great Again by breaking down trade barriers and opening new markets for our farmers and ranchers around the globe,” **said Secretary Rollins.**

On May 22, Costa Rica’s National Animal Health Service (SENASA) officially approved the first American dairy cooperative for export to Costa Rica, making it the first U.S. dairy facility to be registered under the new streamlined approval process that eases market access for U.S. dairy products. This first registration paves the way for future U.S. dairy exports to Costa Rica, a \$60 million market in 2024, that could have been lost if the Trump Administration was not able to navigate their new process.

This Make Agriculture Great Again trade win comes on the heels of other major efforts from the Trump Administration to expand market access for American producers. In the last 2 months, USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has worked with India to reduce tariffs on U.S. Bourbon imports by 50 percent, resulting in a likely \$2 million increase in distilled spirits exports to India in 2025. USDA has also worked with Panama to exempt U.S. pork from Panama’s import quota mechanism and Pakistan to eliminate its arbitrary genetically engineered ban on U.S.-grown soybeans, resulting in the immediate sale of 65,000 metric tons of U.S.-grown soybeans in the country. The FAS efforts to expand market access also included working with Japan to lift the mandatory aflatoxin testing requirements on U.S. almonds, resulting in a likely eight to ten percent increase of U.S. almond exports to Japan annually.

Farm Labor Uncertainty

Question 21. We hear a great deal from the Administration about mass deportation plans and raids on businesses that have scooped up non-documented residents, legal foreign residents, and even U.S. citizens. At a hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee, Zippy Duvall, the President of the American Farm Bureau, warned that “Trump’s deportation plans could lead to farms going out of business and an interruption in our food supply” at a scale comparable to the COVID–19 pandemic.

Given that American agriculture’s dependence on foreign human labor, would you agree with American Farm Bureau President Duvall’s assessment or is he wrong?

Answer. The President has been unequivocal that there will be no amnesty, and I think that’s very important. It is possible for our farmers to be successful through a combination of American labor, foreign workers that come legally to our country, and increased automation. Some reform within the current governing structure concerning the visa process will also be necessary.

Question 21a. Do you believe there is a danger that the Administration’s current and proposed actions on immigration may make even legal workers think twice before coming here to the U.S. to work, because farmers are certainly telling us they are worried about that?

Answer. Workers that are in the United States legally have no reason to be concerned.

Question 22. During your testimony before the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee last month, you said that you were working to reform the H–2A program with the Department of Labor and the White House.

Can you provide an update on how those efforts are going?

Question 22a. Who, besides cabinet officials and your staff, is involved?

Please provide the House Agriculture Committee regular updates on this work.

Answer 22–22a. Conversations between the Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, and other relevant entities in the Executive branch are ongoing. I will update the House Agriculture Committee on these conversations whenever appropriate.

¹ https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Costa+Rica+Dairy+Facility+Registration+Requirements_San+Jose_Costa+Rica_CS2025-0011.pdf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Funding Freeze/Cancellations

Question 23. The Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities initiative, now known as Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) has proved to be a valuable addition to USDA's efforts to promote voluntary, farmer-led conservation in rural America. We have heard participants around the country describe being left waiting, uncertain whether farmers will be compensated for the tremendous environmental, economic, and agronomic benefits they have been working toward. I strongly urge you to improve communication moving forward.

Can you confirm USDA will honor its promises to farmers and ranchers and provide the same amount of funding originally obligated to each PCSC project be available under AMP?

Question 23a. Will AMP applications be reviewed and re-approved on a rolling basis? What is the expected timeline for projects to hear from USDA?

Answer 23–23a. The Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) initiative will champion USDA's mission with the policy priorities of Farmer First, Market and Value Chain Development, and Community and Cooperative Development. AMP will continue to fund conservation practices and support farmers. Recipients for all projects were given the opportunity to continue work in AMP through an amendment of the original award to meet the threshold of USDA's priorities. Agreement holders were notified of this opportunity on May 15, 2025, and were given until June 20, 2025, to submit amendment packages. The agency is currently reviewing the amendment packages and will proceed with signature and approval for those that meet the initiative priorities.

Question 24. In mid-April, the three nationwide awardees of the USDA NIFA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) lost access to their USDA reimbursement portal. This is both an infuriating and devastating development for these networks of practitioners, and for farmers and farm workers across the country who rely on this programming. All three networks have shut down their services, exacerbating the mental health crisis facing farmers across the country. Frozen payments and continued uncertainty around whether or not the FRSAN contract will ultimately be honored continues to cause significant harm to American producers who struggle with mental health, especially amid dire economic conditions.

Why was FRSAN, an essential program that supports farmers in emergency situations, paused at all?

Question 24a. This program is life or death. When can we expect this lifeline to American farmers who are struggling to be turned back on?

Answer 24–24a. The funding for FRSAN is not paused.

Question 25. On March 7th, USDA terminated all FY 2025 contracts for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS) because the agency determined that the agreements "no longer effectuate agency priorities." These programs were successful in building stronger economies and regional supply chains by connecting farmers, ranchers, and fishermen to local market opportunities—outcomes that I believe should be in line with the agency's priorities. These cancellations totaling over \$1 billion will shutter valuable local markets for producers and take away healthy, nutritious foods from schoolchildren and families in need. These programs are not just relics of COVID programming, LFPA and LFS serve as models of USDA procurement that are both targeted and effective and, unlike the Farmers to Families Food Boxes that came before it, it supported local and regional producers and organizations to prioritize equitable distribution.

When you abruptly canceled \$660 million from LFS and \$420 million from LFPA, the farmers that prepared to grow and provide food for their local communities and already signed contracts for seed, labor, and transportation, are now left with huge holes in their pockets and lost markets, since these programs operate on a reimbursement basis. In addition, food banks and schoolchildren will no longer receive local, healthy products through LFPA and LFS.

How does taking away resources and markets from farmers and food away from low-income people and children align with the agency's priorities?

Answer. With 16 robust nutrition programs in place, I will work to ensure USDA remains focused on its core mission: strengthening nutrition assistance for those most in need, supporting agricultural markets, and ensuring access to nutritious food.

Question 25a. On March 14th, over 80 of my colleagues sent a letter to USDA following the termination of LFPA and LFS agreements demanding answers and justification. Your agency's response on April 2nd left a number of our questions unanswered and simply pointed to the increase of Section 32 purchases to support The

Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)—a program your agency has also terminated \$500 million in CCC funding for.

Secretary Rollins, you point to TEFAP as a reprieve for farmers and hungry Americans when you slashed local foods programs and at the same time, cut half a billion dollars from TEFAP. Are you aware that overall, cutting LFPA, LFS, and TEFAP will provide quality food to fewer Americans even accounting for the sporadic Section 32 purchases?

Answer. USDA released in March over \$450 million in previously obligated funds for LFPA and LFS to fulfill existing commitments and support ongoing local food purchases. USDA continues to purchase food for TEFAP, with more than \$271 million spend in FY 2025 thus far.

Question 25b. Secretary Rollins, your letters from April 2nd and April 29th indicated that current LFPA and LFS may be extended upon request. What factors are considered in the evaluation of an extension request? Will an extension be funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)? When can we expect those extensions to be confirmed?

Answer. USDA continues to work with individual recipients based on their circumstances to assess extension requests. Extensions provide recipients with a longer period of time to expend previously obligated LFPA and LFS funds. Extensions continue to be confirmed as details are finalized between the Department and the requesting recipient.

Question 26. The Rural Energy for America Program, commonly known as REAP, offers grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems. Since its inception in the bipartisan farm bill in 2008, REAP has provided grants and loans that have helped more than 21,000 farms and 32,710 rural small businesses.

In March, USDA announced the release of previously frozen REAP funding, but by April there will still reports on the ground of funding being under review and grants being frozen. The Ranking Members of both the Senate and House Ag Committees sent your agency a letter asking for an update on April 25th, but they have not received a response since. Are any REAP grants still frozen?

Question 26a. Why has your agency not responded if the funds are out the door?

Question 26b. Why were these funds were frozen in the first place? This program is a win-win for our nation's farmers and rural communities, and freezing funding threatens not only those projects, but calls into question if our constituents can trust the Federal Government to uphold their end of the bargain when they enter into a contract.

Answer 26–26b. USDA has released all previously frozen funds for REAP. We are committed to processing these as quickly and efficiently as possible. The process of thoroughly reviewing and obligating a large volume of grants, particularly after a period of programmatic assessment, is complex and ongoing. Our priority has been to ensure the proper and timely disbursement of funds to eligible recipients.

Question 27. Previously at USDA, grants and awards were recommended by USDA-subject matter experts (SMEs) in collaboration with independent scientific reviewers. Under the new Administration, additional mechanisms have been added for the review and recommendation process with non-SMEs having disproportionate influence on award decisions. Please describe the qualifications of those reviewing the awards in these additional stages and the experience they have in agricultural research.

Answer. Once applications for a program are received, the NIFA National Program Leader for the program convenes a peer-review panel led by a panel chair. All identities of the peer reviews are kept confidential. Once recommendations are made for awards to be funded, the recommended projects go through compliance and due diligence to ensure the prospective grantee is eligible to receive NIFA funding. Finally, all recommended projects are administratively reviewed by an internal team at USDA to ensure the projects align with Administration priorities. Once completed, the project directors are notified of the status of their application.

Question 28. USDA grants and awards for FY 2025 have been delayed given these additional mechanisms. What is the timeline for the release of FY25 awards and what will the USDA do to ensure this delay does not impact USDA's relationships with agricultural researchers and stakeholders? Moreover, given the involvement of the office of efficiency/DOGE, what will the USDA do to guarantee scientific integrity remains USDA's primary priority for NIFA, ARS, ERS, and other REE mission areas?

Answer. NIFA is making use of all mechanisms to deliver FY25 funds to stakeholders in an efficient manner. NIFA leaders have remained in contact with partner

universities and stakeholder organizations to ensure they are kept abreast of our progress and what to expect in the time between now and the end of FY25 to ensure obligation of 1 year funds.

Question 29. Previously published RFAs (notifications of funding opportunities) have been removed from the USDA NIFA websites and the timing for the release of the new RFA continues to shift. Because of this significant delay, researchers and stakeholders will have limited time to submit proposals which will impact research, timelines, and outcomes that can benefit U.S. agriculture. How will the USDA prevent the delay in the release of the RFA from compromising the mission of NIFA and ensure the programs continue to operate with funds allocated to the most critical agricultural issues?

Answer. USDA NIFA intends to obligate all 1 year funding by September 30, 2025. NIFA staff are identifying mechanisms to do this such as funding meritorious unfunded proposals from FY24 RFAs and streamlining peer review processes for other RFAs to meet the fiscal year deadline.

Question 30. As of June 17th a large number of awards from previous years have been terminated or suspended often for using scientific terms such as “climate” or “sustainable”. Many of the terminated research projects will have direct impacts on farmers, production, market access and farm revenue. Given USDA’s commitment to science and supporting farmers and producers, when will these suspensions be lifted, terminations rescinded, and the awards accessible to researchers and scientists?

Answer. Putting American Farmers First means cutting the millions of dollars that are being wasted on woke DEI propaganda. Under President Trump’s leadership, I am putting an end to the waste, fraud, and abuse that has diverted resources from American farmers and restoring sanity and fiscal stewardship to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Food Aid

Question 31. In your termination letters for 27 Food for Progress and 17 McGovern-Dole projects you stated that the terminated agreements “are not in alignment with the foreign assistance objectives of the Trump Administration.” According to your own website the key objective of the McGovern-Dole Program “is to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, especially for girls.” Can you identify what exactly you are opposed to? Are fighting hunger and promoting literacy are not objectives for this Administration?

Answer. Fighting hunger and promoting literacy remain core objectives of the McGovern-Dole program. The FY25 Notice of Funding closed on June 23, 2025, and my team is actively reviewing projects that align with President Trump’s foreign policy objectives in putting Americans first. Individual projects that do not meet this standard were terminated.

Question 32. I have heard that the termination of the McGovern-Dole and Food for Progress programs was at the request of the White House and that there may have been a list of proposed cancellations that went beyond what you terminated. Please provide a full list of proposed cancellations and the justifications for why those programs were going to be canceled.

Answer. A full list of terminated McGovern-Dole and Food for Progress projects was provided to your staff on May 22, 2025.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) has terminated 27 Food for Progress agreements and 17 McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program agreements that are not in alignment with the foreign assistance objectives of the Trump Administration. All terminated awardees will be reimbursed for costs incurred up to the effective date of termination. A sample, redacted termination letter for each program is attached.

Please note that all U.S. agricultural producers have received payment for commodities in which partners have drawn down or have requested to be drawn down from the Department; and that partners are required to deliver any commodity en route to its final destination in accordance with the Agreement.

While certain projects were terminated, USDA/FAS continues to administer both the Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programs:

- **14 active Food for Progress projects remain in 17 countries; and**
- **30 active McGovern-Dole projects remain in 22 countries.**

In addition, USDA/FAS is planning for the next phase of the programs; having published the FY25 McGovern-Dole notice of funding opportunity on May 9, and is finalizing its notification of FY 25 funding opportunity for Food for Progress.

27 Terminated Food for Progress Awards

Fiscal Year	Country	Organization	Short Description
FY14	Guatemala	Gov. of Guatemala	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY16	Haiti	CRS	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY18	Guatemala	Technoserve	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY19	Peru	NCBA CLUSA	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY19	West Africa	CNFA	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY20	Bangladesh	Land O Lakes	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY20	Colombia	Prtncrs of the Amrcs	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY20	DR	IESC	Studying arbitrary scientific guidelines
FY20	Uganda	CRS	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY20	West Africa	Technoserve	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY22	Thailand	Winrock	Providing financing and cash assistance
FY22	Peru	NCBA CLUSA	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY22	Jamaica	ACDI/VOCA	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY22	Malawi	Winrock	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY22	Burundi	Technoserve	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY23	Nepal	Lutheran Wrld Relief	Providing financing and cash assistance
FY23	Bangladesh	ACDI/VOCA	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY23	Lesotho	Land O Lakes	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY23	Ivory Coast	Technoserve	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY23	Mauritania	Prtncrs of the Amrcs	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY24	Sri Lanka	IESC	Studying methane emissions in dairy sector
FY24	Cambodia	Land O Lakes	Supporting another government's lab research
FY24	Tanzania	Lutheran Wrld Relief	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY24	Tunisia	Prtncrs of the Amrcs	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY24	Benin	Prtncrs for Devpt.	Connecting producers to non-U.S. markets
FY24	Madagascar	CRS	Mandating climate-smart practices
FY24	Rwanda	CNFA	Building capacity for government instns.

17 McGovern-Dole Terminations

FY	Country	Organization
FY19	Uzbekistan	Mercy Corps
FY19	Togo	CRS
FY20	Guatemala	CRS
FY20	Honduras	CRS
FY20	Mali	CRS
FY21	Benin	CRS
FY21	Burkina Faso	CRS
FY21	Kyrgyzstan	Mercy Corps
FY21	Laos	CRS
FY21	Sierra Leone	CRS
FY22	Burundi	CRS
FY22	Lesotho	CRS
FY22	Madagascar	CRS
FY22	Timor-Leste	CARE
FY23	Nepal	WFP
FY23	Nicaragua	Project Concern Int'l
FY24	Guinea-Bissau	CRS

ATTACHMENT 1

[Date]

[Address]

Dear [Address]

This letter provides notice that the United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), is terminating your federal award, Food for Education Agreement #OGSM: FFE-XXX-20XX-XX, McGovern-Dole 20XX [Country] (the "Agreement"). FAS is terminating the Program Agreement in accordance with Part V, Paragraph D, of the Agreement; 7 C.F.R. § 1599.17; and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.340-343.

Termination. FAS notes that this termination is not a result of any noncompliance with the Agreement on the part of [**Organization**]. FAS has determined that the McGovern-Dole Agreement specified above does not align with the foreign assistance objectives of the Department. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4); 7 C.F.R. § 1599.17(a)(2). Pursuant to, among other authorities, 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.339–343, which are applicable to your Agreement, the Department hereby terminates award No. (FFE–XXX–20XX–XXX) in its entirety effective June 30, 2025.

Closure. You must submit all final reports and a final payment request no later than 120 calendar days after June 30, 2025. You will be reimbursed for costs incurred up to the effective date of termination that are determined to be consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.343, *Effects of suspension or termination*. FAS will evaluate the allowability of other expenses incurred following termination as appropriate, as described at 2 C.F.R. § 200.472. **However, properly incurred expenses associated with the security, integrity, and disposition of any commodities currently in [**Organization**] possession, or en route to their final destination, shall be reimbursed.** Any open balance remaining 120 days after the effective date of termination will be unavailable for payment.

If you do not submit all reports in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement within one (1) year of the effective termination date, FAS must proceed to close out the Agreement with the information available. In these circumstances, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.344, FAS must report your material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement in SAM.gov using the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS). In this way, failure to submit timely and accurate final reports may affect your future funding.

Recipients are required by Federal regulation to retain all Federal Agreement records consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

[**Organization**] is responsible for ensuring the security and integrity of any undistributed donated or procured commodities and must dispose of such commodities only as agreed by FAS. If [**Organization**] has active shipments en route to the final program destination, [**Organization**] is instructed to work with FAS to facilitate the delivery of those commodities in accordance with the Agreement and cease any further calls forward for commodities under the Agreement.

Any sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income that have not been disbursed must be used or returned only as agreed to by FAS. Within 120 days of the date of termination, please send repayment via check for the funds representing the remaining cash resources. The check should be made payable to the Foreign Agricultural Service, and mailed to:

USDA FMMI FMS Collections
PO Box 979099
St. Louis, MO 63179–9000

If the method of delivery requires a physical street address, the following address should be used:

U.S. Bank
Lockbox 979099
1005 Convention Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63101

Please ensure that the check is accompanied by clear information on the Program Agreement number and date, the country name, and the program.

Termination of the Agreement does not affect FAS's right to disallow costs and recover funds based on a later audit or other review. In addition, termination does not affect a recipient's obligation to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections, or other transactions, including final indirect cost rate adjustments (refer to 2 C.F.R. § 200.345).

If you have questions, contact lindsay.carter@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

MARK SLUPEK,
Acting Associate Administrator and General Sales Manager,
Foreign Agricultural Service,
United States Department of Agriculture.

ATTACHMENT 2

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

This letter provides notice that the United States Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation CCC is terminating your federal award, Food for Progress Agreement [Redacted], Food for Progress FY 2024 [Redacted] (the "Agreement"). CCC is terminating the Program Agreement in accordance with Part IV, Paragraph D, of the Agreement; 7 C.F.R. § 1499.16; and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.340–343.

Termination. CCC notes that this termination is not a result of any noncompliance with the Agreement on the part of [Redacted]. CCC has determined that the Food for Progress award specified above does not align with the foreign assistance objectives of the Department. The award is therefore inconsistent with, and no longer effectuates, Department priorities and is no longer necessary or desirable. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4); 7 C.F.R. § 1499.16(a)(2). Pursuant to, among other authorities, 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.339–343, which are applicable to your award, the Department hereby terminates award No. [Redacted] in its entirety effective May 31, 2025.

Closure. You must submit all final reports and a final payment request no later than 120 calendar days after May 31, 2025. You will be reimbursed for costs incurred up to May 31, 2025, that are determined to be consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.343, *Effects of suspension or termination*. CCC will evaluate the allowability of other expenses incurred following termination as appropriate, as described at 2 CFR 200.472. **However, properly incurred expenses associated with the security, integrity, and disposition of any commodities currently in [Redacted] possession, or en route to their final destination, shall be reimbursed.** Any open balance remaining 120 days after the date of this notice will be unavailable for payment.

If you do not submit all reports in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement within one (1) year of the effective termination date, CCC must proceed to close out the award with the information available. In these circumstances, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.344, CCC must report your material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the award in SAM.gov using the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS). In this way, failure to submit timely and accurate final reports may affect your future funding.

Recipients are required by Federal regulation to retain all Federal award records consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

[Redacted] is responsible for ensuring the security and integrity of any undistributed donated commodities and must dispose of such commodities only as agreed to by CCC. **If [Redacted] has active shipments en route to the final program destination, [Redacted] is instructed to facilitate the delivery of those commodities in accordance with the Agreement and cease any further calls forward for commodities under the Agreement.**

Any sale proceeds, CCC-provided funds, interest, or program income that have not been disbursed must be used or returned only as agreed to by CCC. Within 120 days of the date of termination, please send repayment via check for the funds representing the remaining cash resources. The check should be made payable to the Commodity Credit Corporation, and mailed to:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

If the method of delivery requires a physical street address, the following address should be used:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Please ensure that the check is accompanied by clear information on the Program Agreement number and date, the country name, and the program.

Termination of the agreement does not affect CCC's right to disallow costs and recover funds based on a later audit or other review. In addition, termination does not affect a recipient's obligation to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, collections, or other transactions, including final indirect cost rate adjustments (refer to 2 C.F.R. § 200.345).

If you have questions, contact your FAS Program Contact at [Redacted].
Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Foreign Agricultural Service,
United States Department of Agriculture.

Question 33. Food for Progress purchases and monetizes U.S. commodities. This program helps build the agricultural sector in other countries while directly helping U.S. farmers. You claim to support farmers, if that is true the why are you canceling programs that directly support U.S. farmers?

Answer. The Food for Progress program has not been canceled. 14 active projects remain ongoing in 17 countries. Individual projects that did not align with the Department's foreign assistance objectives were terminated. All commodity purchases for the terminated projects had already taken place. The FY26 Notice of Funding closed July 31, 2025.

MAHA Commission

Question 34. In last month's MAHA Report, in Section 1, "The Shift to Ultra-Processed Foods", under the heading "Government Programs Compounding the Issue", the report notes that crop insurance primarily covers traditional field crops, that specialty crops account for only 17 percent of the entire Federal crop insurance portfolio, and subsidies for fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and support for organic foods account for a mere 0.1 percent of the farm bill spending.

If these facts are, using the report's terms, "compounding the issue", then what is the solution?

Answer. We must do more to improve the health outcomes of our children and families, and President Trump knows agriculture is at the heart of the solution. Secretary Kennedy and I are actively working together in crafting sensible Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) that are set to be released soon. The agencies are working to ensure Federal nutrition advice is sound, simple, and clear. The guidelines will prioritize whole, healthy, and nutritious foods such as dairy, fruits, vegetables, and meats.

Question 34a. It appears the report is setting up for a call to increase farm bill funding for crop insurance and other programs that specifically support specialty crops to encourage their production; would that be a fair assessment?

Answer. I look forward to sharing more information as it pertains to critical support for our producers when the report is released soon.

Question 34b. How do we pay for such increases? Should they be paid for by reduction in support for traditional field crops?

Answer. As the report is announced soon, I look forward to sharing more information.

Question 34c. Given this sentiment, has Secretary Kennedy or others on the MAHA Commission shared their thoughts on the increases in the farm safety net included in reconciliation and how they view it in a MAHA context?

Answer. We are working diligently to make sure our farmers and producers are able and equipped to continue providing the healthiest food to children and families.

Question 34d. Secretary Kennedy has repeatedly amplified unproven and unscientific claims that threaten America's farmers and food producers, including calling sugar a poison. Why should America's sugar growers trust an Administration that lets their primary voice for human health disparage an entire industry based on nothing but his own personal view?

Answer. My commitment is to continue working with American farmers to ensure that our producers have a seat at the table

Question 34e. What have you said to him directly regarding his comments, if anything?

Answer. Secretary Kennedy and I share the same views, working to ensure our farmers, ranchers, and producers have a seat at the table, and the tools needed to continue providing food for the country and world.

Question 35. Secretary Kennedy has taken drastic steps to undermine national vaccination policy. Do you share his views and are you allowing him to dictate how you approach vaccination strategy for animals?

Answer. Secretary Kennedy and I both look forward to assisting American farmers, ranchers, and producers, in our commitment to ensuring that we have the healthiest nation, even as it pertains to our vaccine strategy.

Question 36. We have heard from many farmers and farm groups that the MAHA report was threatening to them. I understand the White House is trying to assuage

the feelings of farmers by hosting meetings with various ag groups this week and next.

What are you hearing from farmers?

Question 36a. What should I tell my farmers to help ease their concerns?

Answer 36–36a. America's farmers and ranchers dedicate their lives to feeding their country and the world, and in doing so have created the safest and most abundant and affordable food supply in the world. Secretary Kennedy and I both look forward to assisting American farmers, ranchers, and producers, in our commitment to ensuring that we have the healthiest nation.

Oversight

Question 37. We are concerned that Members of this Committee are not getting regular updates on the important work of USDA, like H5NI or New World Screwworm to name just two areas of concern. I think we've only had one New World Screwworm briefing for staff, and none for Members. This is unacceptable. Will you commit to provide regular briefings to Members and staff on these issues?

Answer. Yes. Of note, USDA's Office of Congressional Relations hosts a monthly Congressional briefing to provide HPAI and New World Screwworm (NWS) updates and has held multiple additional Congressional briefings in conjunction with my announcements related to NWS and the southern border ports.

Question 38. Do you not believe that Congress, particularly this Committee of jurisdiction, has an important oversight function?

Question 38a. Committee Democrats have read more about what USDA is doing in press releases and statements from groups like the Cattleman, that we have heard from the USDA Office of Congressional Relations.

This is serious. The work of Congress is serious. Our oversight role is serious. Why are we not getting the news and information from USDA in a timely manner?

Answer 38–38a. USDA has, and will continue to hold, regular briefings on a multitude of topics across all mission areas. We have provided technical assistance on legislation to any office that requested us to do so. We regularly provide advanced copies of press releases and notices to the Hill on upcoming issues. We are responding to every letter, email, and phone call from our colleagues in Congress. Our briefings are bipartisan. Our responses to Congressional offices are bipartisan. We invite your office and any other office to engage with us.

Question 39. Secretary Rollins, your budget proposal zeroes out funding for Conservation Technical Assistance. This is a highly unpopular proposal here on the Hill, as you will see reflected throughout the appropriations process. If Congress provides funding for this program and others that you have rashly proposed cutting, can you guarantee that you will implement the bill we passed as legally required?

Answer. USDA will follow the law.

SNAP

Reconciliation Cuts

Question 40. In the Republicans' reconciliation package, an extreme provision was included to create an unfunded mandate for states to pay for a portion of SNAP benefits, ranging anywhere from 5 to 25 percent in any given year, with little to no ability for the state to predict where they'll fall in that range. CBO estimates that, collectively, states would be forced to reduce or eliminate food assistance for about 1.3 million people in an average month.

What are the options or authority that states will have to meet the match in other ways if they aren't able to find the money—*i.e.*, via SNAP benefit and eligibility cuts? The bill doesn't explicitly provide states with that authority and, in our markup, our Chairman refused to answer the question of what would happen if a state couldn't meet their match. But without other options, states would have to drop out of the program entirely if they couldn't meet their match. Under the majority's proposed reconciliation bill, will states that cannot meet their match be able to cut benefits or eligibility by an equivalent amount?

Answer. The One Big Beautiful Bill (P.L. 119–21) was signed into law on July 4. USDA FNS is currently reviewing the enacted legislation to assess its immediate impacts on our programs, including SNAP. FNS is committed to ensuring a smooth and effective implementation, and I will direct my team to update you as soon as there is additional guidance.

Purchase Restriction Waivers

Question 41. We support promoting healthier diets and lifestyles for all Americans. I do have serious concerns, though, with us making life more difficult for Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet. We shouldn't make a pro-

gram that is supposed to make their lives easier too confusing and too frustrating for anyone to want to participate in.

Yet, you have already approved three different waivers, each of which have different restrictions on what can be purchased with SNAP. One restricts soda and candy, one restricts soda and energy drinks, and one restricts candy, candy-coated items, gum, licorice, mints, fruit leathers, sweetened baking chocolate, fruit or nuts with any sugar or honey added, granola bars—unless they include flour—and various types of popcorn if it has any sugar content, like kettle corn.

You state in your approval letters that these waivers cannot “in any way impede inter-operability of SNAP program benefits” and that purchases made across state lines won’t negatively impact SNAP eligibility for households.

What happens if someone participating in SNAP in a restricted state purchases a restricted item across state lines? Nothing? Folks living near state lines can switch stores so they don’t have to deal with confusing red tape? How’s that going to be effective in determining whether restrictions are effective in these demonstration projects?

Answer. SNAP restriction waivers do not affect or impede SNAP inter-operability. SNAP restrictions operate at the state level, and all SNAP recipients making a purchase with SNAP benefits within a state with an approved waiver must comply, regardless of residency. The terms and conditions of the waiver approval require each state to track and evaluate out-of-state transactions in bordering states.

Question 41a. What kind of signage are you requiring retailers provide to explain this to folks so they can avoid embarrassment at checkout with all these changes?

Answer. Each state approved for a SNAP restriction waiver is required to develop in-depth SNAP client and SNAP retailer communication plans detailing education materials and methods. State agencies are working collaboratively with retailers to develop these communication plans to ensure clear guidance, staff training, consistent messaging, and effective outreach to customers to ensure they understand what foods are and are not allowable for purchase with SNAP benefits.

Question 41b. Can retailers in these states that don’t want to deal with this red tape and confusion to opt out of these pilots?

Answer. Retailers may not opt out of the SNAP restriction waivers. Participation is mandatory for all retailers in states with approved waivers. However, approved states are offering 6 months lead time or more to educate retailers about the waiver restrictions and provide technical assistance to support them as they come into compliance to support these pilot projects.

Question 41c. For example, will a grocer that doesn’t know that a granola bar was reformulated last week and no longer includes flour be penalized for committing a violation if they sell it to a SNAP participant? Will the participant be penalized if they try to buy it?

Answer. FNS is committed to program integrity and is providing ongoing technical assistance to state agencies, who are, in turn, working closely with retailers. SNAP restriction waivers are not implemented immediately upon approval which allows for careful planning and coordination of restricted items. State agencies will be in continued communication with retailers to ensure compliance with the waiver restrictions as new products enter the marketplace.

Question 42. These SNAP purchase restriction waivers specifically depend on the SNAP-Ed program—the one which Republicans want to eliminate—to “provide additional nutrition support and education” as part of state assessment of the pilot’s success. Given that the reconciliation bill eliminated SNAP-Ed, will you be reevaluating those approvals?

Answer. SNAP restriction waivers are not dependent on the SNAP-Ed program, and states have the flexibility to tailor evaluation plans based on available resources.

SNAP Data Security

Question 43. In response to the Administration’s May 20th Executive Order 14243, “Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos,” USDA issued a letter to SNAP state agencies on May 6th, requesting “unfettered access” to sensitive data on program participants, including, but not limited to, names, dates of birth, personal address, Social Security Numbers and benefits received. While a recent court filing from USDA indicates that your department will not collect this data while it works to comply with the Privacy Act, we still have significant concerns. There are already secure mechanisms to combat the rare instances of fraud in SNAP, like the National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC), Quality Control system, and fraud investigators within FNS and states. So, it’s clear that sprawling access to SNAP recipients’ personal data is not necessary to ensure the

program is running well. Instead, consolidating the personal data of tens of millions of Americans puts their data at serious risk and could undermine trust in the program moving forward.

Secretary, when will the National Accuracy Clearinghouse be implemented in all states? Is it still on track to be live nationwide by the statutory deadline of the October 2027 deadline (as USDA's website states)?

Answer. Yes, all states are on track to implement the NAC nationwide by October 2027.

Question 43a. And as you know, the NAC uses Social Security Numbers, and dates of birth are used by the state agencies to find a positive match. However, these identifiers are not uploaded directly to the NAC. In order to protect participant information, state agencies will use a privacy-preserving record linkage process—or PPRL—to convert these data elements to a secure cryptographic hash before sharing the information to the NAC. The PPRL process allows the NAC to accurately match individuals, while preventing the collection and storage of the names, social security numbers, and dates of birth in the NAC system. If your agency insists on moving forward with consolidating SNAP data under this Executive Order, do you commit to using a privacy-preserving record linkage process to protect Americans' sensitive personal data?

Answer. Due to pending litigation, USDA is unable to comment on this question.

SNAP Skimming

Question 44. As you know, SNAP skimming is a form of theft that occurs when an illegally installed device on a point-of-sale terminal steals information from a SNAP recipient's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to make unauthorized purchases and drain the SNAP recipient's account without their knowledge. Unfortunately, EBT cardholders don't have the same Federal consumer protections as debit and credit card holders, including reimbursement for losses due to unauthorized electronic transactions.

In December 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2023 to address this issue by authorizing Federal funds to pay for the benefit reimbursements. From 2022 to 2024, all 53 states and Territories reported instances of skimming and over \$320 million in stolen benefits had been replaced under the 2023 CAA authority.

Unfortunately, last December, Democrats and Republicans negotiated a bipartisan deal to extend the law replacing stolen SNAP benefits for an additional 4 years, but at the eleventh hour, Speaker Johnson and Republicans in Congress reneged on that deal, blocking reimbursement of stolen SNAP benefits.

The 2023 CAA instructed USDA to promulgate regulations to require states to comply with those updated security measures. The Biden Administration convened a working group with states, retailers, processors, and industry experts and coordinated with the Accredited Standards Committee X9 to write and inform this regulation. In fact, they had this regulation slated to be published by April or May of this year, but it has not yet been published by the new Administration.

Secretary, we know you share in the desire to prevent the theft of SNAP dollars from low-income families—and even participated in a raid last month to target some of these bad actors. When does the Administration plan to publish this rule to require states to make security updates to prevent this type of theft? Will USDA mandate the transition to chip card and/or mobile technologies, both of which show promise in combating electronic theft?

Answer. USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) takes its responsibility of helping to prevent fraud—particularly SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) theft—seriously and has made significant and sustainable progress in partnership with states, third-party EBT processors, and retailers to modernize EBT systems and reduce fraud. USDA anticipates the rule, “Enhancing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Security Measures,” will publish in the *Federal Register* next calendar year.

Trade

Question 45. *Politico* reported that Trump officials delayed and redacted the USDA quarterly outlook for U.S. agricultural trade because the report predicts an increase in the nation's trade deficit in farm goods. The May 2025 report was dated May 29, but was not released until June 2. The written analysis accompanying the report still has not been published.

These delays and redactions undermine trust in USDA research. Secretary Rollins, what was your involvement in this delay? Was this delay due to understaffing at USDA? Given the importance of timely, politically independent, and complete re-

ports, what will you do to ensure that such delays do not occur in the future? Can you commit to preventing future interference with USDA research processes?

Answer. While many of the data products released by USDA are required by statute, others—including the quarterly *Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade* report—do not have this same requirement. USDA determined releasing only the data is sufficient for stakeholder needs. We remain committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful data in service to U.S. agriculture.

Question 46. The written analysis that typically accompanies the report is a valuable tool for analysts, farm groups, commodity traders, and policy makers. Can you explain why the written analysis was redacted? Even if this analysis is not required by statute, why would you block publication of critical USDA insights that help decisionmakers take informed actions to best support U.S. agriculture? When can we expect this written analysis?

Answer. In an effort to simplify this report's information and maintain clear communication of the data, only the actual data was published. USDA will continue to evaluate the best way to provide clear and transparent information that best serves farmers.

Question 47. We are already seeing China increase soy purchases from countries such as Brazil and Argentina, hurting U.S. soy exports. What will you do to help U.S. soy producers compensate for the market access they have lost because of the President's on-again off-again tariffs?

Answer. Response: President Biden left American farmers and ranchers with a nearly \$50 billion trade deficit. President Trump's leadership to seek fair and reciprocal treatment for our great producers will bring more stable long-term market opportunities around the world for agricultural exports.

We are aggressively pursuing market access opportunities across the globe. I am proud of the work our team is doing to support concrete wins for American farmers and ranchers. Just a few of these include:

- Maintaining fair *dairy access in Costa Rica*⁵ for American dairy farmers.
- Protecting pork market access in Panama.
- Removing non-tariff barriers for almonds in Japan.
- Resolving barriers to poultry market access in Angola, the 9th largest market globally for U.S. poultry.

Question 47a. Secretary Rollins, you have been very vocal in your support of the President's tariff policies. Could you tell me, specifically, what role you have played in these trade deliberations? If you did not play a direct role, who was responsible for these policies which are having such a profound impact on our nation's farmers?

Answer. I have consistently been the number one advocate for American farmers and ranchers in pushing for fair trading relationships around the world. I regularly speak directly to my counterparts in other governments about the unfair treatment our producers are facing, as well as working closely with my colleagues across President Trump's cabinet to ensure that farmers have a vocal seat at the table in all of our international negotiations.

Question 48. You recently returned from a trip to Rome where you were focused on improving market access to Italy and the EU. According to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service Data, Italy imported \$1.8 billion in U.S. agricultural goods in 2024. Even if you are successful in increasing demand for U.S. agriculture in Italy and similar markets, how will these efforts even begin to address the harm our farmers are already feeling from lost market access and damaged trading relationships with countries such as China (who imported \$27.3 billion in U.S. agriculture in 2024), Canada (who imported \$32.4 billion in 2024), and Mexico (who imported \$31.3 billion in 2024)?

Question 48a. What have been the concrete outcomes of your ongoing campaign to promote U.S. agriculture abroad?

Question 48b. How much did your trip cost?

Answer 48-48b. We are aggressively pursuing market access opportunities in every country around the world. There is no single country that we can rely on as the only destination for our agricultural exports. Our Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs team is working daily in markets around the world to reduce trade barriers and improve access for American farmers, ranchers, and foresters. I am

⁵ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/28/make-agriculture-great-again-trade-secretary-rollins-secures-greater-market-access-costa-rica-us>. **Editor's note:** the press release is incorporated as an attachment to Ms. Craig's *Question 20* response.

proud of the work our team is doing to support concrete wins for American farmers and ranchers. Just a few of these include:

- Maintaining fair *dairy access in Costa Rica*⁶ for American dairy farmers.
- Protecting pork market access in Panama.
- Removing non-tariff barriers for almonds in Japan.
- Resolving barriers to poultry market access in Angola, the 9th largest market globally for U.S. poultry.

Question 49. You recently returned from a trip to the UK. What agreements were signed there?

Question 49a. How much did your trip cost?

Answer 49–49a. While in the UK, I secured major wins for American exporters of energy resources, including fair market access for wood pellets to be utilized to support energy production in the UK, as well as additional opportunities to import ethanol produced in the U.S. I also highlighted additional opportunities for U.S. unmilled rice exports to the UK and advocated for the U.S. seafood industry and U.S. dairy products, which are unfairly targeted by risk classifications or are only accepted due to minor technicalities that can be addressed through partnerships between the U.S. and UK Governments. Throughout my visit, I fought to improve the public misperception about the safety, quality, and consistency of America's agricultural products. Through conversations with American farmers who export to the UK, I confirmed they are interested in exporting more products, and UK importers and retailers are interested in selling and promoting more American agricultural goods.

Question 50. You have traveled internationally extensively during your first few months. How much have taxpayers paid for those trips?

Answer. International travel is very common across Administrations for senior leadership within USDA. To date, I have traveled to the United Kingdom and Italy on official business with reciprocal visits here in the United States. USDA will continue to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars when performing such travel.

Food Safety

Question 51. One of the only actions you've taken on food safety was to cancel The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) and the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI). These committees were established in 1988 and 1971 respectively, are made up of volunteers, and were extremely low cost at under \$500,000.

One of the NACMCF projects that was pending before the panel was terminated was seeking advice from the expert panel on how to strategically use Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), in addition to any other current or emerging technologies and strategies, to help FSIS rank and focus resources on foodborne microbial pathogen subtypes based on public health risk. How does USDA intend to access this important insight?

Answer. I fully support the President's directive to improve government, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA's many services to the American people. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) continues to deliver its mission to keep the supply of meat, poultry and egg products safe, wholesome and properly labeled for consumers. FSIS has extensive food safety expertise and utilizes its technical background to guide advancements in the food safety space in the U.S. and abroad. FSIS scientists regularly collaborate with Federal public health partners and researchers across USDA to evaluate new technologies and explore new applications of existing technology, including how to use WGS data to target the microbial pathogens of greatest public health concern. We will continue to rely on the vast experiences and resources within the Department and Federal Government, to generate science and data that informs our work and upholds our commitment to protecting consumers from foodborne illness. Additionally, FSIS senior leadership will continue to meet regularly with consumer and industry groups to hear concerns and receive feedback.

Question 51a. Another pending NACMCF project sought to acquire a better understanding of the factors that contribute to *Cronobacter* contamination of powdered infant formula and the production environment to increase the effectiveness of prevention and management strategies. This is critical information that could be useful in preventing outbreaks involving infant formula products. How will this be accessed?

⁶ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/28/make-agriculture-great-again-trade-win-secretary-rollins-secures-greater-market-access-costa-rica-us>. **Editor's note:** the press release is incorporated as an attachment to Ms. Craig's *Question 20* response.

Answer. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) does not regulate infant formula.

Question 51b. For the 2025–2027 committee term, NACMCF was to work on charges related to *Listeria* in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products from FSIS, in response to the deadly Boar's Head outbreak last year. This would have been important research to have in helping to prevent future outbreaks in RTE products. How does USDA intend to obtain this scientific expertise?

Answer. Protecting consumers from foodborne illness is a top food safety priority for USDA. On July 15, I announced a new, comprehensive plan to bolster USDA's efforts to combat foodborne illness. Under President Trump's leadership, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is enhancing *Listeria* sampling, prioritizing thorough food safety assessments in ready-to-eat establishments, collecting more and better in-plant data on *Listeria* risk factors and taking immediate enforcement actions to address recurring noncompliance and ensure safe food production. FSIS experts will also be analyzing the new data collected as part of this effort to identify further enhancements to sampling and inspection.

Miscellaneous Topics

Question 52. Secretary Rollins, we are hearing from producers throughout the country about the uncertain Federal funding and policy environment. With regard to conservation, states and conservation districts are facing this as well, and are worried that they will be expected to step in when NRCS does not. Can you speak to the importance of program consistency and reliability when it comes to conservation planning and implementation specifically, and how you're working to ensure farmers can rely on USDA?

Answer. USDA will continue to uphold President Trump's commitment to America's farmers and ranchers while making sure the critical programs our customers rely on remain available.

Question 53. Secretary Rollins, your proposal to zero out conservation technical will massively hinder the ability of farmers to enroll in USDA conservation programs. No farmer wants this program cut. And at a bipartisan, conservation-related hearing last week, every witness before the Committee confirmed this by sharing how essential Conservation Technical Assistance is to producers. The President's initial budget release claimed that many farmers have been forced to participate in the program, an outright lie, as these programs have always been voluntary. Why did you recommend cutting this support for farmers?

Answer. The President's Budget eliminates discretionary funding for conservation technical assistance because it has historically received over \$1 billion in mandatory funding, in addition to funding at the state and local levels. While funding has helped producers deploy conservation practices on their lands, many have been forced to participate in the program in order to comply with state environmental regulations such as California's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, which regulates agricultural runoff. These cost drivers should be connected to the resource demands they impose.

Question 54. Secretary Rollins, the President's budget proposed eliminating funding for the Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program (CFLRP), one of the Agency's most popular and effective programs. There is bipartisan support for this program in Congress and vulnerable communities depend on the forest management activities it funds. It's clear that a cut to this program will actively hinder our ability to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and support economic revitalization in rural communities. Can you please explain why you proposed zeroing out CFLRP?

Answer. As an Agency, we are looking to maximize the return of every dollar entrusted to us. We will continue to leverage collaboratives to achieve priority forest landscape outcomes.

Question 55. Secretary Rollins, according to the Forest Service itself, "in its first 10 years, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program created nearly \$2 billion in local labor income and supported an average of 5,440 jobs annually." The program also treated an area larger than New Jersey, and between FY 2013 and FY 2019, accomplished 19 percent of the Forest Services total hazardous fuels treatments and 15 percent of the timber volume sold. A proposal to cut this program runs counter to your own proposed goals for forest management. Why was this program cut?

Answer. As an Agency, we are looking to maximize the return of every dollar entrusted to us. We will continue to leverage collaboratives to achieve priority forest landscape outcomes.

Question 56. Secretary Rollins, your budget proposal includes slashing support for state, Tribal, and private forestry programs. These programs provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the nation's forests and grasslands, protect communities from wildland fire, and restore forest ecosystems. I don't think there's a forestry group or stakeholder out there that would support wholesale elimination of an entire branch of the Forest Service, so why should Congress?

Answer. The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of Federal and state governments. The budget request anchors to a return to federalism, which is a priority for the Trump Administration. It encourages increasing state and local governments' authority to fund the management of state and privately-owned forests, community preparedness, and public risk mitigation activities in alignment with local priorities. Our partnerships with states and local governments are a key aspect of managing the nation's forests. We will continue our steadfast partnerships with states and local communities to ensure America's forests are healthy and resilient. Changing the funding model to have our non-Federal partners contribute more significantly ensures that all of us have a financial stake in managing our forests.

Question 57. Secretary Rollins, your budget strips all funding from Rural Development Business and Industry loans, and Rural Business Development grants. The only reason given is that these programs are duplicative of programs elsewhere in government, but I am here to tell you that there aren't other programs doing this work or providing this capital. Only about 15 percent of businesses are in rural areas and cuts to these rural development programs will hurt these rural businesses. USDA which is the only agency with a proven track record of in rural America, why does this USDA think that other agencies are better suited to serve rural America?

Answer. The Trump Administration continues our commitment to rural America, and we are doing so by reforming the Federal bureaucracy. Reducing government spending, by ending duplicative programs, and enhancing accountability, we are ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being used responsibly.

Question 58. Secretary Rollins, USDA's budget zeros out the ReConnect rural broadband program. Can you please explain why this Administration doesn't think rural America deserves the same access to the internet as their more urban counterparts?

Answer. The Trump Administration absolutely believes that rural Americans deserve reliable, affordable, and fast broadband internet. USDA continues to work with our partners at FCC and the Department of Commerce in deploying the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BEAD program provides \$42.5 billion for broadband deployment.

Question 59. Bolstering America's domestic energy supply chain has always been a joint effort across several Federal agencies. Our nation's farmers rely on the supply chains the renewable energy sector provides. How is USDA working with other agencies to strengthen our domestic energy supply by boosting agriculture-related products like biofuels, synthetic aviation fuel or solar?

Answer. I am in consistent communication with Administrator Zeldin and the White House about the importance of biofuels to the farm and rural economy. I am supportive of Administrator Zeldin's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard with the highest ever volume requirements for American grown biofuels. America's national security depends on our energy security, and biofuels are a crucial asset that bring more jobs and help farmers in rural America. I will continue advocating for biofuels and for policies that support a strong commodity market.

Question 59a. When did you last speak with Secretary Wright about these issues?

Answer. Secretary Wright and I meet regularly to develop plans for energy generation and transmission. I'm proud to partner with Secretary Wright so we can continue to serve the President's vision of unleashing American energy.

Question 60. In your testimony, you state that you "addressed the avian flu." So is it done? Have we no more transmission? No more poultry dying? No more dairy cows being impacted?

Answer. My five-pronged strategy to improve biosecurity on poultry farms and lower egg prices is working. I will continue to implement this strategy and explore all options to help all producers protect their animals from avian influenza.

Question 61. Given the MAHA reports call for reducing ultra processed foods in schools, will the MAHA recommendations, due out in August, include support for

programs like the Local Food for Schools initiative that not only helped create a pipeline for delicious healthy food items but also supported local farmers?

Answer. The work of the MAHA Commission is ongoing, and we look forward to sharing those recommendations soon. USDA continues to have 16 robust nutrition programs in place.

Question 62. How will USDA work with school nutrition operators to better understand operational challenges and provide policy recommendations that would support the MAHA report goals? We understand that the SNA has invited you and Secretary Kennedy to meet with their members. Is that something you will commit to before the August report is released?

Answer. As I mentioned at my confirmation hearing, children are suffering from diet-related chronic disease at unheard of rates. School lunch is an important part of that conversation, because we should all want it to be the best meal eaten, not just the best meal served. States and nutrition program operators have a significant role in administering the FNS Child Nutrition Programs these programs. There are various opportunities to tailor child nutrition program implementation to local needs and circumstances. I look forward to hearing innovative ideas from those at the state level and those who directly serve our children in cafeterias across the country.

Question 63. What is USDA doing to communicate the opportunity to drive growth in our rural economies at this critical time and ensure that the Administration, including the Office of Management and Budget, understands the direct impact that a strong Renewable Volume Obligations can have on American farmers and U.S. agriculture markets?

Answer. USDA acknowledges the vital role that Rural Development programs play in supporting rural communities and farmers. The Administration's budget proposal reflects a commitment to fiscal responsibility and streamlining programs to maximize impact. We are always open to constructive dialogue with Congress and this Committee to ensure rural America has the resources it needs to thrive. We are committed to evaluating all avenues to support rural economic development and job creation, consistent with the President's vision for a strong American economy.

Question 64. It is imperative that EPA take a careful and judicious approach to Small Refinery Exemption (SRE) petitions and ensure that biofuel blending volumes are not negatively impacted by any action on pending SRE petitions. If mishandled, SREs could short-circuit the RVO, destabilize farm economies, and wipe out the benefits of a strong rule. We all saw a preview of the relationship between blending volumes and agriculture markets in the last few weeks when soybean prices fell by 28¢ and bean oil trading was halted all due to a rumor about EPA's planned blending volumes and when EPA was forced to publicly dispel a rumor that it would be approving all 169 pending small refinery exemptions after RIN prices dropped precipitously. What is USDA doing to ensure that the Administration understands how abuse of SRE authority hurts American farmers?

Answer. I remain in consistent communication with Administrator Zeldin and the White House about the importance of biofuels to the farm and rural economy. I am supportive of Administrator Zeldin's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard with the highest ever volume requirements for American grown biofuels. America's national security depends on our energy security, and biofuels are a crucial asset that bring more jobs and help farmers in rural America. I will continue advocating for biofuels and for policies that support a strong commodity market.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Austin Scott, a Representative in Congress from Georgia

Specialty Crops

Question 1. USDA's Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program provided much-needed aid to specialty crop producers across the country, particularly to the diverse group of growers across my district in Georgia. However, as you are aware, specialty crop growers are still facing a number of challenges such as labor costs and increased costs of production. What is your planned timeline for distribution of the remaining 15% payment rate allocated in the MASC program, and do you plan to provide additional assistance to the specialty crop sector, whether via the MASC program or another initiative?

Answer. USDA has issued the second round of MASC payments.

Question 2. Unfair trade practices continue to impact the U.S. agriculture industry. In recent years, U.S. fruit and vegetable growers have faced increased competition from foreign-subsidized and less regulated imports being dumped into our markets. This dramatically impacts Southeast producers and threatens the success and

future of seasonal and perishable produce. How can the Administration help level the playing field for American many specialty crop farmers who are currently forced to compete with lower costs of production in other countries, primarily Mexico?

Answer. Unfair foreign trade practices undermine the competitiveness of American farmers and ranchers, creating an uneven playing field, in foreign markets and here at home. I am fighting to ensure that we address unfair practices, and I am proud to support President Trump's reciprocal tariff negotiations, so that our producers can compete on a level playing field.

Disaster Relief Implementation and Oversight

Question 3. Madam Secretary, Congress appropriated substantial disaster relief funding to respond to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024. Can you provide an update on how those funds will be distributed, what states or regions have received support, and what the current outstanding needs are?

Answer. USDA has announced the projected timeline for development and delivery of each of the components that comprise the full suite of Supplemental Disaster Assistance for agricultural producers online at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/20232024-supplemental-disaster-assistance>.

ATTACHMENT



[<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/20232024-supplemental-disaster-assistance>]

2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance

What It Is

The *American Relief Act of 2025*,¹ Pub. L. No. 118–158 (the Act), signed into law on Dec. 21, 2024, provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture with more than \$30 billion to deliver disaster recovery assistance to farmers and livestock producers. Below is a projected timeline for development and delivery of each of the components that comprise the full suite of Supplemental Disaster Assistance for agricultural producers.

Projected Timeline

Timeline Summary²

Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP)

The *Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP)*³ provides economic loss assistance for covered commodities based on 2024 planted and prevented planted acres.

Important Dates

- **March 19, 2025:** Sign-up began
- **August 15, 2025:** Sign-up ends

Nearly \$8B in payments have been paid out to date. View more payment information on the *ECAP Dashboard*.⁴

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Drought and Wildfire

The *Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)*⁵ for Drought and Wildfire will provide assistance for losses due to drought and wildfires in 2023 and 2024.

Important Dates

- **May 29, 2025:** DA announced ELRP payments to begin livestock producers impacted by drought and wildfires in 2023 and 2024. *ELRP Rule*⁶ published on the *Federal Register*.

¹<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/10545>.

²[See table below.]

³<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-commodity-assistance-program>.

⁴<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-commodity-assistance-program/dashboard>.

⁵<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-livestock-relief-program-elp>.

⁶<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09581/emergency-livestock-relief-program-elp-2023-and-2024>.

- Farm Service Agency *ELRP* webpage.⁷
- **May 30, 2025:** The target date for FSA county offices to sign and certify.

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Flooding and Wildfire on Non-Federal Lands

The Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Flooding will provide assistance for losses due to flooding wildfire on non-Federal [lands.] USDA has never stood up an assistance program for livestock due to flooding, this requires more time due to needed software changes.

Important Dates

- **Week of September 8, 2025:** The target for program announcement

Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)

The *Supplemental Disaster Relief Program*⁸ will provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses of revenue, quality or production of crops due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024.

Important Dates

For producers with indemnified losses:

- **July 10, 2025:** Sign-up began

For uncovered losses (shallow losses) including producers without crop insurance, and quality losses we need more time to collect the data:

- **October 2025:** The target for sign-up to begin

General Block Grant Authority

USDA is using general block grant authority to pay on losses due to adverse weather events for 2023 and 2024. General block grants will not duplicate assistance for which USDA covers a similar loss.

- USDA has received general block grant requests from:
 - Florida—*announced July 21, 2025*⁹
 - Georgia
 - North Carolina—*announced September 5, 2025*¹⁰
 - South Carolina
 - Tennessee
 - Virginia—*announced July 28, 2025*¹¹

Timing

We are currently engaging with the above states to negotiate their final agreement. These are agreements between the states and USDA.

New England and Pacific Block Grant

Provides compensation for necessary expenses related to crop, timber and livestock losses, including on-farm infrastructure as a consequence of any adverse weather event in 2023 and 2024. Small block grants will not duplicate assistance for which USDA covers a similar loss.

- New England and Pacific block grants were specifically earmarked by Congress to cover:
 - Alaska
 - Connecticut
 - Hawaii
 - Maine
 - Massachusetts
 - New Hampshire

⁷ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-livestock-relief-program-elp>.

⁸ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/sdrp>.

⁹ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-events/news/07-21-2025/secretary-rollins-announces-6759-million-disaster-assistance-farmers>.

¹⁰ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-events/news/09-05-2025/usda-announces-2212-million-grant-agreement-cover-agricultural-losses>.

¹¹ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-events/news/07-28-2025/secretary-rollins-announces-609-million-disaster-assistance-farmers>.

- Rhode Island
- Vermont

Timing

FSA is actively engaged with all eight states eligible working to refine these agreements. These are agreements between the states and USDA.

Important Dates
Timeline Summary

Date	Program	Milestone
March 19, 2025	Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP)	Sign-up began
May 29, 2025	Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Drought and Wildfire	USDA starts ELRP payments to livestock producers impacted by drought and wildfire in 2023 and 2024— Complete <i>See USDA News Release</i> ¹²
May 30, 2025	Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Drought and Wildfire	Target date for FSA county offices to sign and certify
Week of July 7, 2025	Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (for producers with indemnified losses)	Sign-up to begin
August 15, 2025	Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP)	Sign-up ends
Week of September 8, 2025	Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Flooding and Wildfire on Non-Federal Lands	The target for program announcement
October 2025	Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (for producers with uncovered/shallow losses)	Target for sign-up to begin

Additional Resources

- Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) Fact Sheet*¹³
- Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) Dashboard*¹⁴
- Texas Water Treaty (Block Grant) Announced*¹⁵

Question 4. What metrics or data is USDA using to assess whether disaster funds have reached impacted producers, particularly in under-served rural or forested areas?

Answer. USDA is committed to leveraging data currently on file to deploy critical disaster relief in a manner that aligns with Congressional intent while accurately and consistently calculating assistance for losses suffered by all eligible participants.

Question 5. Are there any remaining delays or bureaucratic barriers preventing full deployment of disaster block grant funds to impacted states, and if so, how is USDA working to address those challenges?

Answer. There are no remaining delays or bureaucratic barriers preventing deployment of block grant funds. USDA’s team is in consistent communication with each block grant state, holding at a minimum, weekly meetings to ensure each state’s specific questions and needs are addressed.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Question 6. The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) is one of the few cost-share programs available to private forest landowners after natural disasters. However, landowners frequently report that reimbursement delays and eligibility limitations make recovery nearly impossible. What improvements is USDA considering to streamline EFRP or make it more responsive?

Answer. The Farm Service Agency has begun providing more frequent and geographically tailored training to staff and stakeholders for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). Additionally, staff closely monitor funding expenditures to quickly identify bottlenecks and apply the necessary resources to address delays.

¹² <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/29/usda-provide-1-billion-livestock-producers-impacted-drought-or-wildfire-2023-and-2024>.

¹³ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/emergency-commodity-assistance-program-ecap>.

¹⁴ <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-commodity-assistance-program/dashboard>.

¹⁵ <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/03/19/usda-announces-280-million-grant-agreement-support-rio-grande-valley-agricultural-producers-amid>.

Question 7. Last year's draft of the farm bill in both the House and Senate included proposals to reform and strengthen EFRP. If those provisions aren't enacted legislatively, does USDA have existing authority to make any of those improvements unilaterally through administrative changes?

Answer. Changes such as covering livestock watering structures on grazed forestland which were damaged by a qualifying natural disaster and covering losses on private property incurred by fires started by the Federal Government have been implemented administratively.

Question 8. Given the increasing scale of natural disasters—wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes—how is USDA evaluating the long-term sustainability and funding needs of EFRP to ensure it can support timely recovery for forest landowners?

Answer. There are sufficient budgetary resources for EFRP. FSA works closely with Federal, state and local forestry partners to gather feedback on disaster trends to provide needed resources in a timely manner following disasters.

Forest Landowner Disaster Recovery

Question 9. Private forest landowners manage over half of our nation's forests, yet they lack the recovery tools and safety nets that row crop and livestock producers have access to through USDA. Do you agree that this is a gap in our disaster and risk management portfolio?

Answer. USDA stands ready to assist all producers without regard to their types of yields. Forestry products are an integral part of the U.S. economy and USDA fully recognizes the private forest landowners' role in their availability.

Question 10. Will you commit to working with Congress and the Trump Administration to advance the Disaster Reforestation Act, which would allow forest landowners to deduct the value of timber destroyed by natural disasters?

Answer. We will be glad to work with your office on this topic.

Question 11. How is USDA incorporating the needs of forest landowners into broader disaster and risk mitigation planning, especially given their role in forest management, preserving watersheds, and providing wildlife habitat?

Answer. NRCS conservationists work with private forest landowners and managers to plan and install forestry practices that can improve growth, reduce risk, and improve forest health while addressing other landowner goals, such as wildlife habitat or livestock grazing considerations.

Question 12. Would you support parity in tax and disaster recovery treatment for forest owners comparable to other agricultural producers, recognizing the long timelines and investment risks associated with timber production?

Answer. USDA will implement any changes Congress wishes to enact to better assist forest landowners.

International Trade and Regulatory Compliance: EUDR Concerns

Question 13. The United States has a strong record of being the "green standard" for sound forest management—we grow more trees than we harvest nationwide, and in regions like the southeastern U.S., we grow three trees for every one harvested. While we were glad—but not surprised—to see the United States classified as "low risk" under the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), we are disappointed that this designation does not exempt U.S. producers from the costly and burdensome compliance requirements, including geolocation and due diligence tracking. Is USDA working with USTR and other agencies to push back on the implementation of this misguided regulation and protect our forest landowners from unfair burdens?

Answer. USDA is working closely across the Administration to fight the unfair burdens of the EUDR. A "low risk" designation does not do enough to reduce the burdens that many industries will face under this arbitrary standard. I will continue fighting to ensure the European Union cannot put baseless regulations on American producers.

Question 14. One of the biggest challenges with EUDR is the traceability requirement. In many cases—such as wood pellets, engineered wood products, or recycled materials—it is functionally impossible to trace a finished product back to a specific tract of family-owned land to prove that no deforestation occurred. Does USDA agree that this compliance framework is impractical and that U.S. producers should not be penalized for sustainable forest management practices?

Answer. Yes, the EUDR compliance requirements are far too burdensome for American producers.

Question 15. China, despite having well-documented issues with illegal logging and forest loss, was also classified as "low risk" by the EU. This raises serious concerns about how these risk determinations were made. Is USDA engaging with the

EU or other global partners to challenge the legitimacy of these classifications and ensure a level playing field for U.S. forest products?

Answer. Yes, USDA has been consistent that the “low risk” designation does not accurately account for U.S. forestry practices in relation to other countries. We are engaging regularly with the EU and other partners to find a reasonable and practical path forward.

Question 16. Is the Trump Administration continuing to push back against the EUDR’s unintended consequences, and are there efforts underway to coordinate with other nations who share our concerns to apply pressure on the EU to revise or delay these compliance mandates?

Answer. USDA is actively seeking ways to ensure that U.S. producers do not have the unreasonable compliance burdens currently outlined by the EUDR. We are coordinating with other like-minded countries who share this concern.

Trump Administration Executive Orders on Timber and Domestic Supply Chain

Question 17. On March 1st, the Trump Administration issued two Executive Orders—one directing Federal agencies to boost domestic timber production and another to evaluate the volume and national security implications of timber imports. How is USDA responding to these directives, and what steps are being taken to support domestic timber supply?

Answer. The Forest Service is developing a national strategy that outlines our agency’s goals, objectives, and initial actions related to increase active forest management. Additionally, all Regional Foresters are developing 5 year strategies, tiered to the national strategy, to increase their timber volume offered, leading to an agency-wide increase of 25% over the next 4–5 years. Furthermore, District Rangers and Forest Supervisors will utilize direct timber sale opportunities with interested purchasers operating on and around forests. Finally, all agency timber sales will use base rates or minimum rates, where appropriate, based on Emergency Authorizations outlined by the Secretary in Secretarial Memo 1078–006.

Question 18. Private landowners manage the majority of our nation’s forests. Is USDA working with these landowners to expand timber production on private lands as part of the broader effort to secure domestic supply?

Answer. USDA partnerships with the states and local governments are a key aspect of managing the nation’s forests including assistance to private landowners. The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of Federal and state governments. The Budget request anchors to a return to federalism and encourages increasing state authority to fund the management of state and privately-owned forests. Changing the funding model to have our non-Federal partners contribute more significantly ensures that all of us have a financial stake in managing our forests.

Question 19. Many rural communities are seeing sawmills and wood-processing facilities close, which reduces market access and undermines domestic supply chain resilience. Is USDA examining how these mill closures impact landowners’ ability to harvest and market their timber?

Answer. USDA is proactively investing in projects that strengthen wood products manufacturing facilities, positioning them to overcome manufacturing challenges, and create and retain jobs. Three key grant programs of the Forest Service: Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance have helped build markets, support efficient processing, and strengthen our critical wood products infrastructure. From 2021–2024, the Forest Service has provided nearly \$190M to 482 projects across the country, matched or leveraged with \$618 million from applicants. Of these projects, 288 projects (\$140 million), supported sawmills and other wood processing facilities.

Question 20. Will the Administration continue to find ways to secure America’s critical natural resources—like timber and wood products—for both domestic use and export markets, including strategic industries like biomass energy, cross-laminated timber, and sustainable aviation fuel?

Answer. The Administration is committed to maintaining markets for timber and wood products. The agency’s Wood Innovation Grants Program is one of the ways the agency supports markets for these products. The program, launched in 2015, stimulates, expands, and supports U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands. National focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management.

National Organic Program

Question 21. A petition sent to USDA from Biodegradable Products Institute asks that AMS add a definition of “compost feedstock” to the Federal organic regulations, 7 CFR §205.2, and to make certain conforming and clarifying adjustments to the related regulations. Our nation’s leading producers of compostable packaging are facing serious barriers in California that could be fixed by USDA acting on a 2023 petition to deregulate how compost is managed in the National Organic Program. Will you commit to reviewing this petition and consider an interim final rule to give farmers and packaging companies the relief they deserve?

Answer. USDA is assessing the petition, and it has been the subject of National Organic Standards Board meetings. That discussion and analysis is continuing.

Question Submitted by Hon. Scott DesJarlais, a Representative in Congress from Tennessee

Question. I understand a petition has been at USDA for approximately 2 years seeking to update the definition of compost in the National Organic Program in support of biomanufacturers. Have you had an opportunity to review this petition, if so, can you advise on when to expect a decision? If not, is there a timeline for review and potential approval?

Answer. USDA is assessing the petition, and it has been the subject of National Organic Standards Board meetings. That discussion and the analysis is continuing.

Question Submitted by Hon. David Rouzer, a Representative in Congress from North Carolina

Question. Given our nation’s current fiscal situation and the need to fully maximize the impact of the resources allocated across the Federal Government, including USDA, I agree with the need to pursue greater efficiencies as reflected in the Administration’s budget. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is one of the key agencies where staff resources can be better supported with technology efficiencies, which the budget highlighted as ‘improving online services so that farmers are receiving top-notch service to meet their needs’.

A prime example of this efficiency is third-party providers who work with producers for activities such as crop planted acreage reporting to FSA. USDA can easily and quickly improve this experience for producers by embracing this process, as required in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills.

Will you provide details on how your office plans on working with FSA to ensure they are closely working with third parties to determine functionalities most helpful in leveraging existing technologies and data sets, and prioritize automation of activities which benefit both county office staff and producer convenience?

Answer. I fully support President Trump’s directive to eliminate wasteful spending and ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively. By working with the Department of Government Efficiency, USDA can utilize private sector experience to obtain cost effective and overdue IT modernization.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Don Bacon, a Representative in Congress from Nebraska

Question 1. The FY 2025 NOFO for Food for Progress was posted and then taken down. This is a mandatory farm bill program authorized by Congress.

When will the FY 2025 NOFO for Food for Progress be re-posted?

Answer. The FY25 Notice of Funding closed on July 31, 2025. USDA is currently reviewing applications in order to make awards.

Question 1a. Given the delays in posting the FY 2025 Food for Progress NOFO, is USDA anticipating an expedited award process? If yes, how might this differ from how previous years were awarded?

Answer. USDA will work expeditiously to process applications and make awards in accordance with the statutory requirements.

Question 1b. Why was the FY25 McGovern-Dole NOFO allowed to go forward?

Answer. The FY25 Notice of Funding closed on June 23. USDA is currently reviewing applications in order to make awards.

Question 2. USDA recently terminated 27 Food for Progress awards and 17 McGovern-Dole Food for Education awards. The termination letters state the programs were no longer serving the foreign assistance objectives of USDA.

What are the foreign assistance objectives of USDA going forward which all the food aid programs must align with?

Answer. USDA is prioritizing foreign assistance that makes America safer, stronger and more prosperous. Assistance that meets USDA’s core objectives and ensures a return on investment for American farmers, ranchers, foresters and agriculture

producers. These objectives are outlined in a June 30 Secretarial Memorandum: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/sm-1078-012.pdf>.

ATTACHMENT

United States Department of Agriculture Office of the Secretary Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary's Memorandum 1078-012

June 30, 2025

Prioritizing Foreign Assistance From The United States Department Of Agriculture, Which Makes The United States Of America Safer, Stronger, And More Prosperous.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish a return to American principles and realign the Department's focus towards its original objectives of maximizing and promoting American agriculture, ensuring a safe, nutritious and secure food supply, enhancing rural prosperity, and protecting our National Forests and Grasslands. To achieve this purpose, this memorandum orders the rescission of all foreign assistance previously granted through the Department which does not actively make the United States of America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. It also calls on the Department to recognize the goodwill of American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers in all foreign assistance programs.

The United States of America has long been the most generous and charitable country in the world. American prosperity has been shared for decades in the spirit of kindness to feed the hungry and economically develop a great many countries. However, for too long, this generosity has been taken advantage of by a foreign aid industry and bureaucracy that is not aligned with American interests. American agriculture feeds, fuels, and clothes the world.

Therefore, this Department and all supporting agencies and mission areas will focus on foreign assistance that prioritizes (1) making America safer, stronger, and more effective; (2) meeting our core objectives at USDA; and (3) ensuring a return on investment for the American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers who seek to support vulnerable communities around the world with the bounty of American agriculture.

2. Policy

To affect these priority areas, USDA will:

1. Review and terminate foreign assistance projects that do not contribute to making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous, specifically when it comes to American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers. Any projects focused exclusively on benefiting foreign agricultural systems, with no tie to the American people or developing market access for the American producer, will no longer continue.
2. Realign Department foreign assistance priorities towards projects that support the economic prosperity of American farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers. Specifically, foreign assistance must support, develop, or advance market opportunities for American agriculture and forest products while seeking to support vulnerable communities across the globe.
3. Bring American farmers and ranchers back to the decision-making table for foreign assistance. For too long, the foreign aid industry has operated in a vacuum, one that has not also prioritized the goals of the American agricultural community. USDA will solicit input from American farmers and ranchers on how best to serve vulnerable communities.
4. Coordinate with all other relevant Federal agencies to ensure aligned foreign assistance objectives in the interest of the American people. The Federal Government should have complimentary foreign assistance projects and objectives, not duplicitous or competing priorities which do not provide effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. USDA will work closely within the Executive Branch to further efficient foreign assistance programs that directly further the safety, strength, and prosperity of the United States of America. The Office of Budget and Programs Analysis (OBPA) and Office of General Counsel (OGC) shall assist USDA agencies and organizations properly to comply with the provisions of this.

3. *Incidental Transfers*

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, are authorized to approve such transfers of funds, personnel, employment authority, space, records, property, and incidentals as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Memorandum.

4. *Effective Date and Termination*

This memo is effective immediately.

BROOKE L. ROLLINS,
Secretary,
 U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Question 2a. Will there be any additional terminations? Can USDA provide assurances that it will not terminate awards before programming can begin moving forward like what has occurred with the FY 2024 terminated awards?

Answer. USDA will continue to ensure that all projects align with the foreign assistance objectives of the Department.

Question 2b. Is USDA considering a process to allow terminated awards to be reinstated? If yes, please provide more information about this process.

Answer. There is no formal appeals process for terminated projects which do not align with the Department's foreign assistance objectives.

Question 2c. What is USDA planning to do with the returned funds from the monetization sales?

Answer. USDA will reallocate any recouped funds towards projects that are aligned with the foreign assistance objectives of the Department.

Question 3. The recent "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) Commission Report—produced jointly by DHHS, USDA, and EPA—has raised serious concerns in farm country. The report cites numerous sources that do not exist and misrepresents others to justify its claims that pesticide products are responsible for America's chronic disease, despite a lack of evidence.

Why was the ag community effectively shut out of the entire report-drafting process?

Answer. My commitment is to ensure that our agriculture community is represented in this process.

Question 3a. The report concluded that more research is necessary. What immediate steps is USDA taking to strengthen and expand agriculture research efforts?

Answer. USDA remains committed to supporting high-priority research that is responsive to the needs of American farmers and ranchers through both the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Question 3b. Now that the report is out, how will you work via the interagency process to correct the misinformation and anti-farmer findings in MAHA's first report?

Answer. America's farmers and ranchers dedicate their lives to feeding their country and the world. They have created the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. We are working to make sure our kids and families consume the healthiest food we produce.

Question 3c. What will USDA's involvement be in shaping the strategy that the Commission will issue in August?

Answer. USDA remains committed to working with our agency colleagues while advocating for America's farmers and ranchers.

Question 3d. What specific actions is the MAHA Commission taking to ensure that farmers have a seat at the table and that their input will be actively considered?

Answer. The Trump Administration has a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity to unify our vision across key programs and initiatives, fostering a healthier, more vibrant America with the work of the Commission. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the vital role of farmers to produce the safest most abundant food supply in the world. USDA remains steadfast in supporting continued access to safe, effective solutions that enable our farmers and ranchers to feed, fuel, and clothe the U.S. and the world.

Question 4. The American Relief Act, passed in December 2024, provided approximately \$21 billion in funds for agricultural producers that suffered losses due to natural disasters. Those funds were statutorily required to be released by March 21, 2025. Currently the aid schedule released by USDA states that sign up for the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program will not begin until July 7th for previously in-

demnified losses and September 15th for uncovered losses. In the meantime, producers awaiting relief, in some cases, require these payments to shore up credit agreements with lenders, putting them in an especially precarious position.

What is the cause of this nearly 3 month delay?

Answer. The Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) was launched ahead of the 90 day deadline as mandated by Congress. This was the only portion of the supplemental disaster assistance that had a 90 day deadline. USDA is also committed to the timely delivery of the other components of the American Relief Act to provide relief much faster than that of the previous Administration. A timeline for development and delivery of each of the components that comprise the full suite of Supplemental Disaster Assistance for agricultural producers can be found here: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/20232024-supplemental-disaster-assistance>.¹

Question 4a. What immediate steps have been taken or are planned to correct this issue?

Answer. The Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) was launched ahead of the 90 day deadline as mandated by Congress. This was the only portion of the supplemental disaster assistance that had a 90 day deadline. USDA is also committed to the timely delivery of the other components of the American Relief Act to provide relief much faster than that of the previous Administration. A timeline for development and delivery of each of the components that comprise the full suite of Supplemental Disaster Assistance for agricultural producers can be found here: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/20232024-supplemental-disaster-assistance>.²

Question 5. With regard to the termination of the 2019 tomato suspension agreement, Mexico has threatened it will retaliate against American agricultural products.

Have you had any discussions with USTR or Commerce on the status of the negotiations, and how can you ensure that the rest of U.S. agriculture does not get caught in the crossfire?

Answer. The U.S. Department of Commerce announced the termination of the 2019 tomato suspension agreement on July 14, 2025. I will continue to be an advocate for American producers to have a level playing field domestically and around the world. The U.S. Government will closely monitor for any retaliatory action by Mexico and respond accordingly.

Question 6. In your testimony before the House Agriculture Committee on June 11, 2025, you stated that there have been no cuts in funding and no employees have been terminated at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Service. Numerous producer organizations who rely on the research which comes out of these institutions say that while this is technically correct, it is not the whole story.

Between January 20, 2025, and June 15, 2025, what is the average timeline between when a research procurement contract action has been received by USDA from the University of Nebraska's Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit, and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, and when the facility received final approval to execute the requested research procurement contract?

Answer. The average timeline from receipt to approval and execution of a contract at these locations during the requested period was 32 calendar days.

Question 6a. What is USDA's standard evaluation process on research procurement contracts when making approval/denial decisions?

Answer. An agency seeking approval for a research procurement contract must submit the request to their Mission Area's Chief Operating Officer. Upon Mission Area approval, the request is forwarded to the Office of Contracting and Procurement for their review and approval. Once approved, the action may then be solicited.

Question 6b. What immediate steps can USDA take to improve research procurement contract decision turnaround time?

Answer. ARS has implemented an efficient review process, enabling their Mission Area's Chief Operating Officer to approve requests within 1 to 2 business days. ARS works closely with the Department's Office of Contracting and Procurement to ensure that urgent and high-priority needs are expedited, with some approvals occurring the same day the need is identified.

¹ **Editor's note:** the website snapshot is incorporated as an attachment to Mr. Austin Scott's Question 3 response.

² **Editor's note:** the website snapshot is incorporated as an attachment to Mr. Austin Scott's Question 3 response.

Question 6c. How many unfilled USDA employee vacancies were there on January 20, 2025 at the University of Nebraska's Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit, and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, respectfully?

Answer. Listed below are vacancies on January 20, 2025 (not including seasonal fieldwork positions):

- 12 vacancies at the Agroecosystem Management Research Unit
- 2 vacancies at the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit
- 25 vacancies at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center

Question 6d. How many USDA employee vacancies were there on June 15, 2025 at the University of Nebraska's Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit, and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, respectfully?

Answer. Listed below are vacancies on June 15, 2025 (not including seasonal fieldwork positions):

- 13 vacancies at the Agroecosystem Management Research Unit
- 3 vacancies at the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit
- 27 vacancies at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center

Question 6e. What steps will USDA take to fill unfilled positions at these facilities?

Answer. USDA is committed to following all Presidential Memoranda governing the hiring of Federal civilian employees within the Executive Branch which states that "no Federal civilian position that is presently vacant may be filled, and no new position may be created" unless specifically outlined in the memoranda or mandated by applicable law. Any recruitment actions undertaken for any vacancies will meet these specifications. Once approval to commence hiring is received, ARS will implement the procedures detailed in the Merit Hiring Plan issued by the Office of Personnel Management on May 29, 2025.

Question 6f. How many USDA employees at the University of Nebraska's Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit, and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, had their employment terminated and reinstated between January 20, 2025, and June 15, 2025, respectfully?

Answer. There were five probationary employees at the Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, two probationary employees at the Wheat, Sorghum & Forage Research Unit, and eleven probationary employees at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center. All eighteen employees were offered reinstatement.

Question 6g. Of the USDA employees of the University of Nebraska's Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, the Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit, and the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, who had their employment terminated and reinstated between January 20, 2025, and June 15, 2025, how many have resigned or retired, respectfully?

Answer. Between January 20, 2025, and June 15, 2025, three employees at the Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, two employees at the Wheat, Sorghum & Forage Research Unit, and five employees at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center voluntarily left their position.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Tracey Mann, a Representative in Congress from Kansas

Question 1. Thank you for your work to secure our border with Mexico in regards to the New World Screwworm and the recent announcement of a \$21 million investment to produce additional sterile flies to push this devastating parasite farther south from our nation's borders. Can you provide us a timeline on when that facility in Metapa, Mexico will be fully operational? If New World Screwworm makes its way into the United States, what would be in your view the best response to eradicate this parasite?

Answer. Mexico is planning for the Metapa facility to be operational within an aggressive 12–18 month timeframe. Once completed, the facility will serve as a sterile insect production site capable of generating an additional 60–100 million sterile insects per week, significantly boosting the regional supply and enhancing overall capacity for sustained sterile fly release. Sterile insect technique (SIT) remains a powerful component of the eradication strategy but alone cannot effectively eradicate New World Screwworm. If NWS makes its way into the United States, eradication will require robust field surveillance, education and outreach to ensure prompt identification and treatment, and strict animal movement controls, in addition to SIT. USDA broke ground on a domestic sterile fly dispersal facility in Texas and have

begun developing plans for a potential domestic production facility to increase readiness and provide the United States with contingency capability. Furthermore, USDA is working rapidly to explore new technologies and science for the production of sterile insects and for NWS treatments.

Question 2. Biofuels markets provide critical domestic demand for growers, but they have been impacted by surging levels of imported products from China and Brazil that have diluted the American farmer's position. To address this, I introduced the Farmer First Fuel Incentives Act which would restrict foreign feedstocks from being eligible for Federal tax credits for biofuels markets. This policy was recently passed by the House as a part of our One Big Beautiful Bill, and we hope that the Senate will maintain this restriction to ensure that biofuels markets are structured the way Congress intends—with the farmer at the front of the line. How does USDA view policies to protect domestic feedstock producers, and how does the Administration feel about tax dollars potentially being spent to subsidize foreign products instead of American agriculture?

Answer. USDA supports advancing American energy security through our domestic homegrown biofuels industry.

Question Submitted by Hon. Brad Finstad, a Representative in Congress from Minnesota

Question. Recently the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association commissioned a study that detailed the alarming economic impact of avian metapneumovirus on Minnesota's ag economy. The study showed \$112 million in lost turkey output, \$17 million reduction in labor income, \$31 million in lost value added to the Minnesota economy, reduction in tax revenue of nearly \$8 million—all in 2024 alone.

These stark economic realities of aMPV have led MTGA and Minnesota's turkey industry to request USDA open existing indemnity programs, like LIP and ELAP, to help keep independent growers in business until a robust and successful aMPV vaccination program can be fully implemented.

Will you share a status update on that request?

Answer. USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics has granted emergency authorization for the use of both domestically produced experimental autogenous aMPV vaccines and imported aMPV vaccines that are unlicensed in the U.S.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Dan Newhouse, a Representative in Congress from Washington

Question 1. The Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) program is vital to producers in my district. Please provide an update on the issuance of the second tranche of payments for this program that was announced by USDA earlier this year.

Answer. USDA has issued the second round of MASC payments.

Question 2. Out-of-control and unsustainable labor cost increases driven by the terms and conditions of the H-2A program is posing a significant threat to the ability of many U.S. growers to continue to produce healthy, American-made food. I have significant concerns with the data collection method used by the Farm Labor Survey. The Survey results are used by the Department of Labor to establish a government-mandated wage for employers using the H-2A temporary foreign worker program. Deficiencies in the data collection have contributed to non-justifiable wage reporting that has greatly exacerbated unsustainable increases to labor costs for H-2A users and made the program inaccessible to some growers. Will you follow up on that pledge by instructing NASS to:

- a. Once again report a "Field & Livestock Combined" annual average hourly base wage, as was done by USDA under the first Trump Administration, but was halted by the Biden Administration; and
- b. Expand the survey's sample size and refine the survey's design to increase clarity, brevity, and comprehension; and
- c. Determine any degree to which the inclusion of wages paid to H-2A workers affects the average hourly base wage, considering regions where H-2A workers and those in corresponding employment make up a larger or smaller percentage of the agricultural workforce and;
- d. Explore the ability to make an empirical assessment based on the data collected as to whether the admission of H-2A workers either benefit and protect domestic worker jobs in agriculture or have an adverse effect.
- e. Collaborate with their colleagues at USDA and DOL to ensure that producers are appropriately educated and aware of the impact of their participation.

Answer. I will commit to collaborating with the Department of Labor and other relevant entities in the Executive branch to advocate for necessary reforms to the H-2A program to make sure the program is affordable and accessible for all growers who are unable to find a domestic workforce.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Alma S. Adams, a Representative in Congress from North Carolina

Question 1. Earlier this year, the USDA's 1890 National Scholars Program was suspended, pending further review. I am pleased that the USDA lifted the suspension. However, for this program to truly thrive, scholars and institutions need assurance that it won't face sudden suspensions again. I heard directly from representatives of 1890 Institutions, and they shared how deeply concerning this pause was for them and their students—many of whom were left uncertain about their financial stability and educational futures. That is why I introduced the Land-Grant Institution Parity Act, with Congressman Figures on the Committee, which protects Federal funding for our land-grant colleges and universities, including the country's 19 land-grant HBCUs, commonly referred to as 1890 Institutions.

Can I count on your commitment to work together in addressing the real challenges and opportunities for our 1890s and HBCUs?

Answer. USDA remains committed to supporting our land-grant institutions, including our 1890 land-grant universities, to ensure they can continue to train the next generation of agriculturalists. Additionally, I look forward to working with the White House and other Federal agencies to continue implementing Executive Order 14283, White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Question 2. The application deadline for the 1890s National Scholars Program was March 15, 2025. From my understanding, in early May 2025, approximately 700 applications had been received, but no scholarships had yet been awarded.

How is the USDA addressing these applications to ensure a timely selection process?

Answer. This year, USDA selected 29 student scholars based on funding and workforce needs.

Question 2a. Could you please describe the criteria and review processes being used to evaluate the applications?

Answer. Applications undergo an initial screening to confirm submission of required materials and eligibility and then USDA collaborates with 1890 land-grants to confirm admission eligibility before forwarding qualified applications for agency review and selection. USDA looks forward to identifying ways to improve this process in the future.

Question 2b. Additionally, what is the projected timeline for notifying applicants of scholarship decisions?

Answer. USDA notified all applicants of application status on August 1, 2025.

Question 3. In addition to serving on this Committee, I also serve on the House Education and Workforce Committee, which oversees the WIC program. I was encouraged to see that it was one of the few programs to receive an anomaly for the Continuing Resolution passed in March. I was also pleased to see the recognition WIC received in the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) commissioned report for its critical role in improving nutritional outcomes by providing access to healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables through the Cash Value Benefit, or CVB. Research shows that increased consumption of fruits and vegetables is linked to better health outcomes for families, including reduced risk of maternal and infant mortality, improved nutrient intake, and long-term prevention of diet-related chronic diseases.

Since the CVB increase in 2021, and later codified in the 2024 USDA Final Rule, young children on WIC are now eating an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of fruits and vegetables per day. Parents and caregivers say they can afford a healthier diet, increase their variety of fruits and vegetables, and serve their families more fruits and vegetables, all thanks to the CVB.

However, recent proposals in President Trump's Fiscal Year 2026 budget request and the House Republicans Agriculture Appropriations bill, call for cutting back the CVB to 2014 levels.

Given that increased CVB levels have helped families consume more fruits and vegetables, do you believe that cutting funding for the CVB would reduce families' access to and consumption of these healthy foods? Yes or No.

Answer. I appreciate the value of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to pregnant and *post-partum* mothers and their children. WIC has a proven track record of improving the health of nutrition-

ally at-risk women, infants and children. It ensures WIC participants receive nutritious supplemental food purchases that are adjusted according to participants' life stage nutritional needs, including support for purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, to promote health eating habits and improved health outcomes.

Question 4. Secretary Rollins, you have approved three state waiver requests to restrict SNAP purchases under pilot authority. These pilots require robust evaluation to assess their impacts.

Given the stated goal of the MAHA initiative, will states be required to evaluate individual-level health outcomes among SNAP participants?

Answer. SNAP restriction waivers require an evaluation plan and data reporting elements, which state agencies have some flexibility in designing. State agencies will use various methods to evaluate the pilot project and associated outcomes.

Question 4a. If not, what metrics will USDA use to determine success after the 2 year pilot period?

Answer. States are required to develop an evaluation plan that defines project success and outcomes, detailed data points and metrics to be collected, and a description of how they will be analyzed.

Question 4b. What role, if any, are SNAP participants or community organizations playing in the design and evaluation of these pilot programs?

Answer. States are required to collect, measure, and analyze input from a variety of stakeholders—including SNAP households, retailers, and community-based organizations—through a variety of feedback channels such as webinars, town halls, surveys, focus groups, and public comment periods as they develop and evaluate the pilot.

Question 4c. How is USDA ensuring that these voices are reflected in the development and review process?

Answer. FNS is meeting frequently with state agencies to discuss opportunities and challenges associated with implementing the waiver. State agencies are working collaboratively with retailers to develop communication plans to ensure clear guidance, consistent messaging, and effective outreach to customers. Retailers may request or recommend educational signage and materials for use in stores.

Question 5. Secretary Rollins, pilot projects under SNAP are permissible under the statute in order to test and evaluate different ways to improve the program. Several of the SNAP restrictions waiver requests from states outline that they will work with SNAP-Ed to define the evaluations.

Given that the reconciliation bill eliminated SNAP-Ed, will you be reevaluating those approvals?

Answer. SNAP restriction waivers are not dependent on the SNAP-Ed program, and states have the flexibility to tailor evaluation plans based on available resources.

Question 6. Secretary Rollins, you have approved six state waiver requests to restrict SNAP purchases under pilot authority. In establishing any pilot, robust evaluation measures are required to determine the effects of the project.

Given the stated goal of these pilots to Make America Healthy Again, will states be evaluating the health outcomes of individual SNAP participants?

Question 6a. If not, how will USDA evaluate the outcome of the pilots after 2 years?

Answer 6–6a. Like all SNAP demonstrations, states are required to conduct an evaluation to determine the effects of these pilots. There are many options in evaluating such a project, and the law does not specify the scope and nature of a project's required evaluation. FNS is encouraging states to work with SNAP-authorized retailers to secure data on SNAP purchases, and to supplement this with data on the food choices of participants to the extent possible.

While it is difficult to assess changes in individual long-term health outcomes over the short duration of these pilots, existing evidence is clear that dietary improvements can reduce chronic disease risk over time. If states are able to identify changes in food purchases and/or by SNAP participants that are correlated with the scope or timing of the pilots, that would represent promising evidence of potential positive impacts of changes to the definition of eligible foods. More study would be needed to determine any causal links or influences.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Nikki Budzinski, a Representative in Congress from Illinois

Question 1. Once volumes are set, it is imperative that EPA take a careful and judicious approach to Small Refinery Exemption (SRE) petitions and ensure that biofuel blending volumes are not negatively impacted by any action on pending SRE

petitions. If mishandled, SREs could short-circuit the RVO, destabilize farm economies, and wipe out the benefits of a strong rule. We all saw a preview of the relationship between blending volumes and agriculture markets in the last few weeks when soybean prices fell by 28¢ and bean oil trading was halted all due to a rumor about EPA's planned blending volumes **and** when EPA was forced to publicly dispel a rumor that it would be approving all 169 pending small refinery exemptions after RIN prices dropped precipitously.

Answer. Secretary Rollins is in consistent communication with Administrator Zeldin and the White House about the importance of biofuels to the farm and rural economy. Secretary Rollins is supportive of Administrator Zeldin's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard with the highest ever volume requirements for American grown biofuels. America's national security depends on our energy security, and biofuels are a crucial asset that bring more jobs and help farmers in rural America. The Secretary will continue advocating for biofuels and for policies that support a strong commodity market.

Question 2. Secretary Rollins, you serve on the Make America Health Again Commission. I know you support the goal of making Americans healthier—we all do. America's farmers and ranchers are a critical part of solution here, **not** the problem. Now that the report is out, what can you tell us about USDA's involvement in shaping the strategy that the Commission will issue in August?

Answer. USDA recognizes the vital role of farmers to produce the safest most abundant food supply in the world. The Trump Administration remains steadfast in supporting continued access to safe, effective solutions that enable our farmers and ranchers to feed, fuel, and clothe the U.S. and the world.

Question 2a. Can you ensure that farmers have a seat at the table?

Answer. I commit is to continue working with American farmers to ensure that our producers have a seat at the table.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Gabe Vasquez, a Representative in Congress from New Mexico

Question 1. Wildfire severity and frequency has been increasing over the past several decades, with more than double as many acres burned on average per year from the 1990s to today. The USFS plays a pivotal role in managing forests to prevent catastrophic wildfire and in fighting fires when they grow out of control or threaten communities and approximately 75% of USFS staff are trained in wildland fire-fighting. While catastrophic wildfire is increasing, USFS staff has been severely cut during this Administration, with 25% of staff either resigning, being laid off, or accepting early retirement.

Do you feel that USFS has the staffing necessary to adequately suppress catastrophic wildfire and protect communities throughout the west from the unfettered spread of wildfire?

Answer. In support of the President's vision and the Secretary's direction, the Forest Service worked with OPM to exempt wildland fire hiring from the national hiring pause. The agency has nearly met our target of having 11,300 firefighters on board for the summer peak.

Question 2. The President's FY26 skinny budget proposes changes to eliminate the U.S. Forest Service's Research and Development (R&D) deputy area. The R&D program works at the forefront of science to inform the management of our nation's 193 million acres of forests and grasslands. R&D work is also foundational to forest product innovations and essential market analyses. The R&D team (which, at the beginning of this year was made up of about 2,000 people nationwide including a center in Albuquerque) also develops predictive wildfire models, including one for hazardous fuels treatments which returns \$7 in benefits for every \$1 in Federal funds invested. The USFS R&D office in Albuquerque generates research around forest health, wood beetles, and informs land managers about forest conditions. Forest Service R&D leads the world in forest research and the private sector is not likely to fill its role.

Do you believe that up to date locally based scientific research is important to informed natural resource management?

Answer. USDA recognizes that sound decision-making incorporates a multitude of factors. The Department supports research that is aligned to the Agency's land management focus through the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. We will also continue to leverage the tremendous work of universities we have traditionally partnered with to deliver world-class research.

Question 2a. We are hearing that USFS Research and Development is being effectively eliminated. How are you ensuring that forest landowners and managers have adequate science to manage the nation's private and public forests?

Answer. The FY 2026 Budget terminates the Forest and Rangeland Research program to ensure fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars and appropriate alignment of resources with the Forest Service's responsibility to steward National Forest System lands. The eliminated programs in this account were out of step with the practical needs of forest management for timber production. The long-standing census of forest resources and conditions through the Forest Inventory and Analysis program would continue under the National Forest System account to ensure that it is aligned with the practical needs of active forest management for timber production. The Joint Fire Science program was also maintained and would be moved to the DOI as part of the proposal for a new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

Question 2b. We are currently in peak wildfire season in New Mexico. Do you feel USDA and USFS have adequate research, science, and staff to ensure that communities in the state are supported in forest management to prevent catastrophic wildfire?

Answer. The Budget fully supports the President's bold actions in Executive Order 14225, "Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production," to improve forest management and increase domestic timber production, and the Administration's goal of restoring federalism by empowering states to assume a greater role in managing forest lands within their borders. The requested funding level supports the highest priorities in forest management, including timber sales and hazardous fuels removal. Further, implementation of Executive Order 14308, "Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response," will reform the Federal approach to wildland fire management, creating operational efficiencies for the Federal wildfire mission and streamlining efforts around risk mitigation and coordination with non-Federal partners to combat the wildfire crisis.

Question 3. Prescribed fire is a vital component of forest management and plays an irreplaceable role in preventing severe wildfire. We have concerns that the USFS is rolling back their commitment to doing prescribed fire work on federally owned and managed lands.

What are the current USFS authorities for conducting prescribed fire on USFS lands, and is the agency committed to continuing to utilize prescribed burning as a tool for proactive forest management?

Answer. The Forest Service conducts prescribed fires as tool to manage National Forest System Lands with these authorities and direction: Organic Administration Act of 1897 (Citation: 16 U.S.C. § 475); Weeks Act of 1911 (16 U.S.C. §§ 552, 563); Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 (16 U.S.C. §§ 564 et seq.); National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1600–1614); Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.); Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.); Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. § 6501 et seq.); various Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts (often include specific line items for hazardous fuels reduction and fire management); and United States Forest Service Manual and Directives (Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100—Fire Management). The agency is committed to continuing to use this tool as a component of forest management.

Question 4. The President's budget proposes eliminating the Forest Service's State, Private, and Tribal Forestry branch, save for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. The State, Private, and Tribal Forestry branch is responsible for absolutely essential cross-boundary forest work that promotes watershed health and drinking water availability, ample timber production, and fire resilient landscapes across the nation. In other words, this branch is responsible for generating tremendous public good on private lands for all Americans to benefit from. It helps prevent the deadly spread of forest pests and diseases and leads fire management on behalf of the Federal Government. If this branch were to be eliminated, Americans can say goodbye to the cooperative forestry programs that promote forest management and keep forests as forests, instead of parking lots.

What reasons can you give for why these programs that provide outsized benefit to the American people should be eliminated?

Answer. The President has pledged to manage National Forests for their intended purpose of producing timber. The Budget reduces funding for the Forest and Rangeland Research program because it is out of step with the practical needs of forest management for timber production, but maintains funding for Forest Inventory and Analysis, a longstanding census of forest resources and conditions.

Question 5. The President's FY26 Budget proposes zeroing out the NRCS discretionary technical assistance budget. Conservation technical assistance, or CTA, pays for the field conservation professionals who provide tailored conservation solutions to producers who request them. These key field staff work directly with farmers and ranchers to assess their specific conservation needs, and their expert advice is one of the most cost-effective avenues for conservation gains.

What is your plan to ensure that NRCS will have adequate staff to be able to meet the steep producer demand for locally tailored conservation solutions?

Answer. Farmers will continue to receive conservation technical assistance funded from the following farm bill programs: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and the Agricultural Management Assistance Program. NRCS partners with state conservation agencies, local conservation districts, and third-party private sector entities (known as Technical Service Providers). The Conservation Technical Assistance program will be realigned to reflect the total salaries and expenses needed to provide technical assistance to deliver programs authorized by Congress. Multiple funding sources will contribute to the salaries and expenses needed to fund the NRCS workforce.

Questions Submitted by Hon. Josh Riley, a Representative in Congress from New York

Question 1. During the hearing, you stated that it was your understanding that no contracts between USDA and farmers in New York's 19th Congressional District (NY-19) remained suspended.

Please confirm that your understanding is correct (*i.e.*, that all contracts between USDA and farmers in NY-19 have resumed). If it is not correct, please explain that.

Question 1a. Please provide a list of any contracts between USDA and farmers in NY-19 that had been suspended or terminated since January 20, 2025, so that I can follow up with the affected farmers to ensure they are receiving all the support they need.

Answer 1-1a. There are no suspended contracts between USDA and the roughly 4,500 farmers in New York's 19th Congressional District.

Question 2. America's immigration system is a complete mess. We must secure America's borders after years of the Biden Administration's failure to do so. And, consistent with Due Process and the Constitution, we should remove people who commit violent crimes while unlawfully present in the United States. However, the farmers I represent (many of whom have supported you and the President in the past) are very concerned that your Administration's immigration enforcement actions will sweep too broadly and result in the deportation of hardworking, law-abiding farmworkers, many of whom have been working on Upstate New York's farms for many years. Removing these immigrants would devastate our agriculture economy and tear apart our rural communities. As you know, many farmworkers are here unlawfully not because they are "criminals" but rather because politicians from both parties have completely failed to fix our nation's broken immigration system. For example, if our immigration laws made any sense—which they don't—we would have visas for dairy workers to milk the cows year-round. But since politicians have failed to fix the laws, family farmers have been put to an impossible choice of either hiring undocumented labor or going out of business. I was very encouraged to read a *New York Times* article days after your hearing in which the President announced that he would stop immigration raids on farms and other agricultural sites, reportedly as a result of your counsel to him. I'd welcome the opportunity to work with you to update our immigration laws in a way that best supports Upstate New York's family farms. In the meantime, can you please confirm that the Administration will not deport any farmworker or farmworkers' immediate family member in NY-19 who (1) has not committed a crime (aside from unlawfully entering or remaining present) and (2) is endorsed by his or her family farm employer? The many family farms I represent need and deserve that assurance from you and the Administration.

Answer. The President has been unequivocal that there will be no amnesty, and I think that's very important. It is possible for our farmers to be successful through a combination of American labor, foreign workers that come *legally* to our country, and increased automation. Some reform within the current governing structure concerning the visa process will also be necessary.