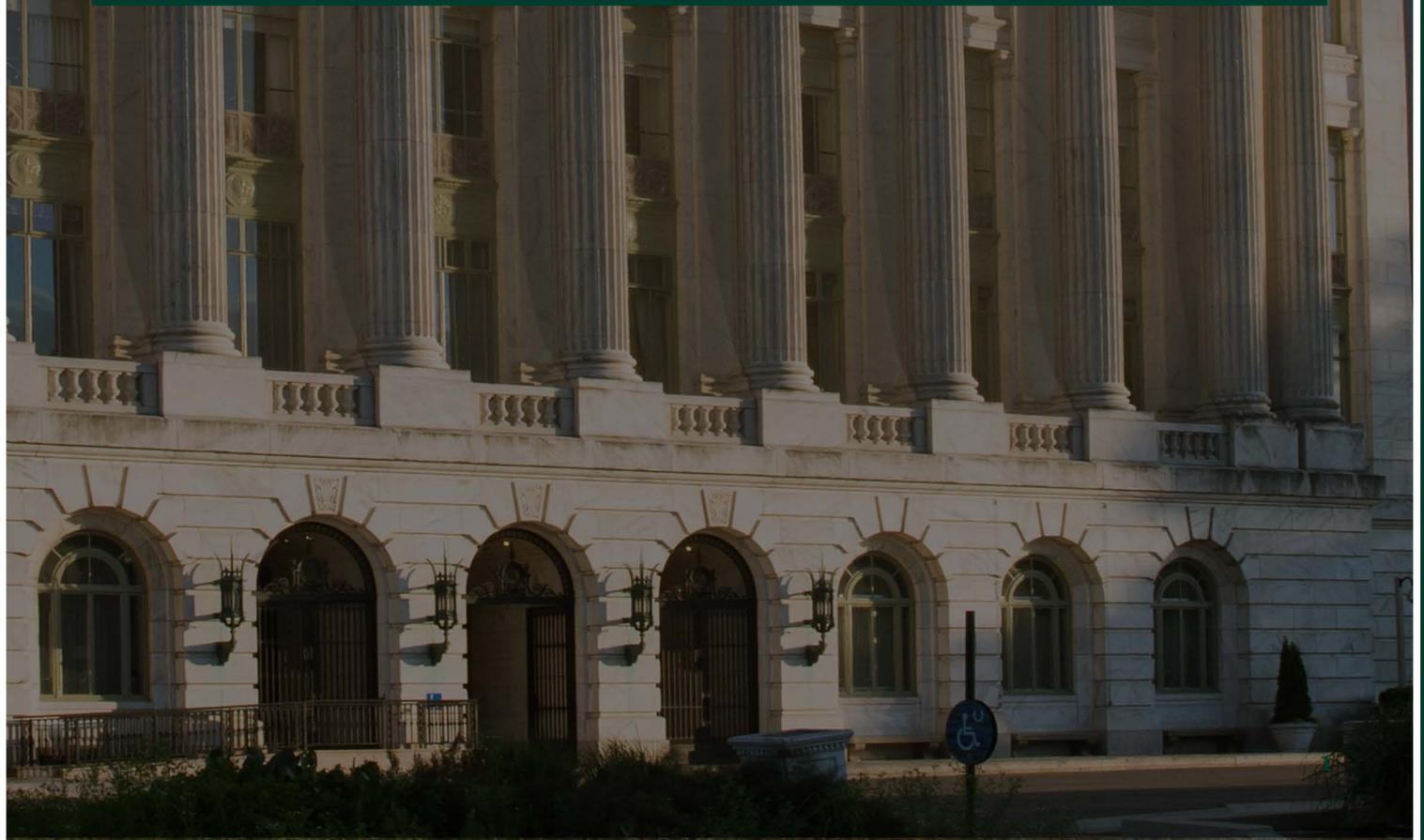




# A DEREGULATORY AGENDA FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE & CONSUMERS





### *My Fellow Patriots:*

American agriculture is the soil in which American freedom took root—freedom to work the land, to trade, to innovate, and to thrive. The earliest Americans understood what is still true today: Those who can feed and clothe themselves with the fruit of the land provide security and abundance to their family, their town, and their nation.

This cycle of prosperity and our ability to ensure a reliable, affordable food supply for our citizens depends on a strong, productive agricultural sector. For generations, America helped and protected the freedom of farmers, ranchers, processors, and rural businesses to grow and innovate, but in the past century bureaucratic bloat has increasingly constrained the entire industry's ability to compete and thrive, and costly regulations affecting all aspects of the supply chain have steadily increased grocery bills for Americans across the country.

From fertilizer prices to barn repairs, input costs show up at the grocery store. When we make it more affordable for farmers and processors to operate, we make food more plentiful and more affordable for American families.

America's hardworking farmers and ranchers saw less control than ever in recent years. This is primarily due to the steady, destructive march of overregulation by the Biden Administration, which imposed a historic \$1.7 trillion in costs on the American people.

Overregulation is taxation by other means, and the thick rulebooks created by Washington bureaucrats often result in thinner harvests and higher costs, which take a toll on both farmers and consumers. More broadly, it inhibits entrepreneurship, erodes consumer choice, and infringes on American liberties.

Building upon President Trump's seismic deregulatory victories from his first term, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is again pursuing a sweeping deregulatory agenda. In collaboration with other agencies, this agenda cuts red tape, frees up America's farmland for unprecedented innovation, and reduces costs at the checkout line.

Through reforms including environmental permitting, processing line speeds, housing regulations, and more, USDA is taking a department-wide approach to identifying and streamlining outdated regulations that choke the engine of American agriculture. Farmers and ranchers, freed to produce more, will thrive. And American households will benefit from greater affordability of staple goods as farmers pass on their reduced costs to consumers and are able to increase supply.



For example, changing a single line-speed rule at chicken processing plants is expected to reduce the average retail price for chicken products by 16%. Rescinding a 25-year-old Forest Service rule will free up nearly 59 million acres for timber production and allow responsible harvesting on 28 million acres currently at high or very high risk of wildfire, decreasing the cost of housing by increasing supply of this critical input. Changes at the Rural Housing Service will boost housing availability and affordability across the heartland.

This important work extends beyond USDA. Working with my colleagues at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor, the Department of the Interior, and other agencies, the entire Trump Administration is committed to ensuring that Americans—on the farm and anywhere determination and innovation abound—can build a prosperous future for themselves and their children, and afford to put food on the table.

We have made incredible progress. Over the past year, the Trump Administration has cut 129 regulations for every new one, amounting to \$211.8 billion in net cost savings. This has been a huge win for American agriculture and the entire nation, and we are committed to carrying it even further.

The ability of our farmers and ranchers to put in an honest day's work—without having to navigate endless red tape—is fundamental to their livelihood and to the American dream. The men and women who feed, fuel, and clothe America and the world deserve a regulatory system based in sound science and common sense. And Americans deserve abundant, affordable groceries. Our deregulatory agenda is already breaking down barriers to success, and today's expanded effort will ensure that prosperity reaches every farmer, rancher, and consumer at a level never before seen.

At USDA, we know our nation was built by those who work the land, not those who regulate it. Our job now is to continue unshackling the world's mightiest agricultural engine for the benefit of all American families and consumers.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in white ink, which appears to be "Bobby Peltier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Secretary of Agriculture



# CUTTING RED TAPE AND MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

## **Consolidating Regulations Reducing NEPA Compliance Burdens (Office of the Secretary):**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires departments and agencies to consider the environmental effects of major federal actions. To make its requirements less onerous, USDA is rescinding seven agency-specific regulations and issuing one set of department-wide NEPA regulations, which will result in a 66% reduction in NEPA regulations. This will allow USDA officials to concentrate environmental reviews on projects where such reviews are truly necessary and justified, ensure projects are capable of going forward more quickly, and allow for more efficient delivery of USDA services for America's ranchers, farmers, loggers, and rural communities. USDA began this process by publishing an interim final rule on July 3, 2025, and finalized rulemaking is imminent.

## **Rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule (Forest Service):**

USDA published a notice of intent for this rulemaking in 2025 and further rulemaking is imminent to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule that prevents road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest on nearly 45 million acres of the National Forest System. Rescinding this rule will reduce regulatory burdens on timber harvesting, allow for greater fire prevention, and enable responsible timber production on this acreage, increasing timber supply and reducing housing costs.

## **Updating the Dairy Import Licensing Program (Foreign Agricultural Service):**

USDA is streamlining regulations that provide for the issuance of annual licenses to import certain dairy articles under tariff-rate quotas (TRQs), making them more user-friendly. Currently, importers of dairy products subject to TRQs are generally required to obtain a license from the Foreign Agriculture Service for the low-tier tariff rate; however, no license is required to import products at the high-tier rate. This will allow for more imports and decrease the cost of these products for Americans.

## **Aligning Horse Protection Act Regulations with Statutory Authority (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service):**

In response to court rulings invalidating regulations issued by the Biden Administration, USDA is updating its regulations to comply with constitutional due process protections and statutory mandates. USDA will strengthen its engagement across the horse industry to ensure healthy horses and fair competition at horse shows, many of which support local rural economies.

## **Streamlining Biotechnology Regulations (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service):**

USDA is updating its biotechnology regulations to create exemptions for plants and microbes already subject to EPA's regulations, avoiding duplicative regulatory regimes and decreasing compliance costs. USDA is also considering a broader, more sweeping reform on its regulatory authority related to biotechnology. In either case, such deregulation will enable farmers to obtain cutting edge technology quicker and more affordably, with those savings being passed through to consumers.



# UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY AND CRITICAL MINERALS

## Updating and Clarifying Locatable Minerals Regulations (Forest Service):

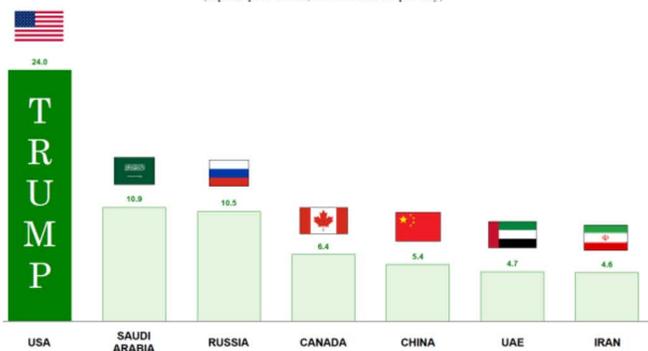
USDA has proposed a rule to revise regulations to unleash critical mineral production on federal lands. As the demand for minerals produced from federal lands is expected to increase over the next few years, USDA is addressing many regulatory challenges that could hinder the ability to increase production.

## Modernizing Oil and Gas Management Regulations (Forest Service):

USDA updated regulations governing oil and gas management across the National Forest System in a final rule published on January 28, 2026. The Forest Service, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, plays a role in the leasing and development of oil and natural gas located in the National Forest System. This action will present an opportunity to modernize and streamline analytical and procedural requirements.

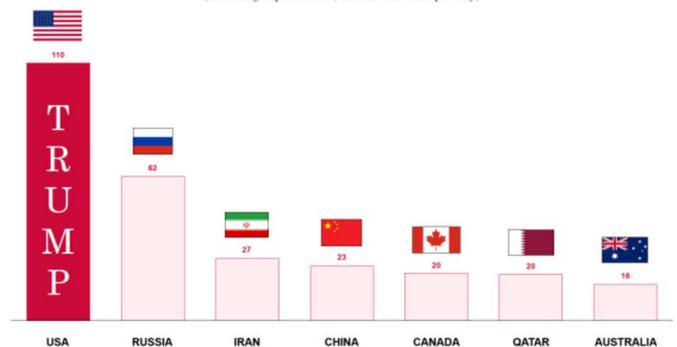
### USA NOW PRODUCES MORE OIL THAN SAUDI ARABIA AND RUSSIA **COMBINED!**

(liquids production, million barrels per day)



### USA NOW PRODUCES AS MUCH NATURAL GAS AS RUSSIA, IRAN AND CHINA **COMBINED!**

(natural gas production, billion cubic feet per day)



SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# DEREGULATION FOR GREATER AFFORDABILITY

## **Increasing Line Speeds for Poultry and Swine (Food Safety and Inspection Service):**

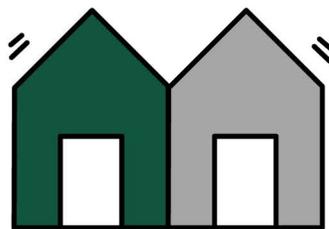
Upon finalization of the recently proposed rules, USDA will allow poultry and pork processing establishments to operate at more efficient speeds based on the establishments' ability to maintain process control and meet food safety standards. These rules are expected to generate significant cost savings for the pork and poultry industries, up to a 16% reduction in the average retail price for chicken products, and 5% reduction in the average retail price for pork products.

## **Updating Single Family Housing Guaranteed Delegated Underwriting Authority (Rural Housing Service):**

USDA is pursuing a deregulatory action that will ease the regulatory burden on banks who use the single-family housing guaranteed lending program. This will increase the availability of housing in rural America as more banks bring competition to the program and is an important step to bring down the cost of housing in rural America.

## **Improving Single Family Housing (Rural Housing Service):**

USDA is updating its regulations to allow for financing of homes with a single, income-producing accessory dwelling unit. This change will address the nation's shortage of rural affordable housing and increasing opportunities for ownership.



# PUTTING FARMERS FIRST

## **Simplify USDA and Department of the Interior Grazing Regulations (Forest Service):**

USDA is simplifying the administrative process for grazing on federal lands, which will promote consistency with federal livestock permitting policies across all agencies. USDA, with Department of the Interior (DOI), initiated aggressive changes to grazing on October 22, 2025, with the announcement of the USDA-DOI Grazing Action Plan. These actions will also increase access to grazing lands for new ranchers and increase the supply of relevant food products for consumers.



## **Implementing the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program (Farm Service Agency):**

USDA published a final rule implementing \$11 billion in one-time bridge payments to American farmers under the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program. Sign-ups run until April 17, 2026. This program is designed to deliver financial relief quickly and simply so that farmers are better able to respond to market disruptions and increased production costs that are still impacted by the lack of foreign market access and heavy regulation of the prior Administration.

## **Updating Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, and Dairy Margin Coverage (Farm Service Agency):**

USDA published a final rule revising the provisions of the Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, and Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) programs to align with the Working Families Tax Cuts Act. Notably, this update increases crop reference prices, allocates new base acres for program participation, and enhances DMC coverage. The sign up for DMC is now open and will run through February 26, 2026.

# REGULATORY CLARITY FOR FARM AND NATIONAL SECURITY

## **Revising AFIDA Reporting Requirements (Office of the Secretary):**

USDA has already begun updating its regulations regarding the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) to establish a streamlined process for electronic submissions and to strengthen oversight and enforcement measures of foreign investment and ownership of American agricultural land.

## **Protecting U.S. Prime Farmland from Foreign Adversaries (Rural Development):**

USDA is no longer funding taxpayer dollars for solar panels on productive farmland or allowing solar panels manufactured by foreign adversaries to be used in USDA funded projects. Subsidized solar farms have made it more difficult for farmers to access prime farmland by making it more expensive and less available.



# DEREGULATION ACROSS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

## **Amending the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) Definition (Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers):**

Under President Trump’s leadership, EPA published a proposed a rule that would clarify the definition of WOTUS and fully implement the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency. This rule focuses federal jurisdiction on relatively permanent, standing, or continuously flowing waterbodies, establishing clearer boundaries for agriculture and industry, and ensuring that the Clean Water Act does not unduly interfere with crucial agricultural activities beyond the intended scope of the statute.

## **Reforming the H-2A Adverse Effect Wage Rate (Department of Labor):**

The Department of Labor published an interim final rule updating the methodology used to calculate the adverse effect wage rate (AEWR) used for the U.S. Temporary Agricultural Workers (H-2A) program. The updated methodology includes a new data source, a differentiation between an entry level and an experience level wage rate, and a housing adjustment to account for the fact farmers provide housing to H-2A workers at no cost to the worker. Altogether, these changes are expected to provide over \$2 billion in annual savings for farmers using the H-2A program.

## **Reversing the Endangerment Finding (Environmental Protection Agency):**

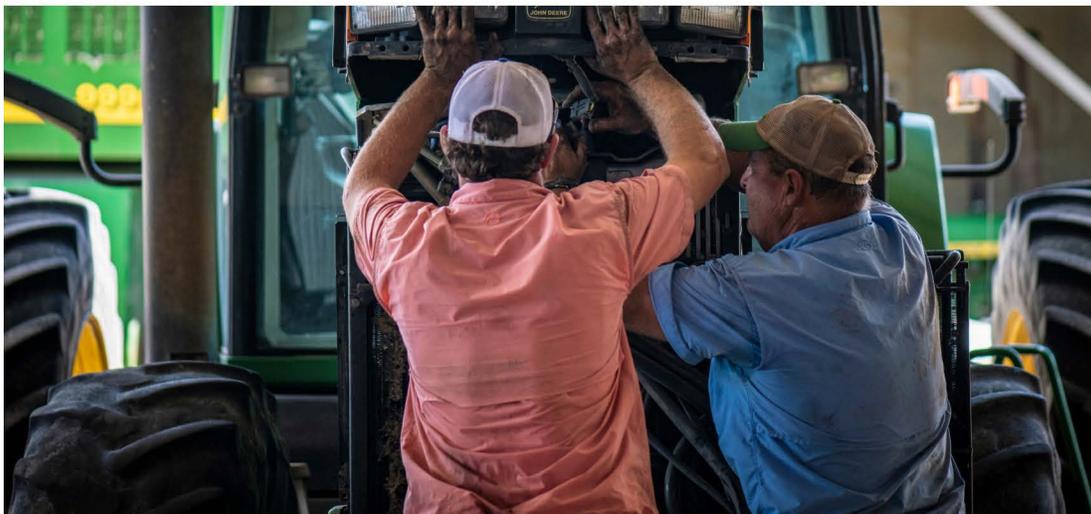
On February 12, 2026, EPA announced a final rule saving American taxpayers over \$1.3 trillion, eliminating both the Obama-era 2009 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Endangerment Finding and all subsequent federal GHG emission standards for all vehicles and engines of model years 2012 to 2027 and beyond. This action will result in affordable vehicles available for Americans, including farmers and ranchers, and decreases the cost of living on all products by lowering the cost of trucks.

### **Issuing Guidance for Manufacturers on Diesel Exhaust Fluid (Environmental Protection Agency):**

Since 2010, nearly all on-road diesel trucks and many types of non-road equipment have used diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) as part of an effort to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides to ensure compliance with Tier 4 Emissions Standards. Manufacturer design choices, faulty sensors, and system malfunctions triggering reduced power have caused needless frustrations, operational delays, and real economic hardship for farmers, truckers, and equipment operators. EPA is working to address these concerns and has already issued revised guidance for light-duty vehicles, heavy-duty diesel engines, and non-road compression-ignition engines using selective catalyst reduction technologies. On February 3, 2026, EPA announced a follow-up related rulemaking. By addressing these costly issues, the Administration is improving equipment performance and reducing input costs across food production, improving affordability for producers and consumers.

### **Providing Permanent Death Tax Relief (Department of the Treasury):**

President Trump’s Working Families Tax Cuts Act prevented the death tax from reverting to pre-2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act exemption levels and mitigated the looming drop from a \$14 million exemption level to a \$7 million exemption level in 2026, which would have impacted more than 2 million family-owned farms. It also permanently raised the exemption level to \$15 million from \$14 million and indexed it for inflation. These provisions will help preserve family farms and save small farms from suffering punitive tax burdens that threaten generational continuity.



AMERICA WAS BUILT BY THOSE  
WHO WORK THE LAND, NOT  
THOSE WHO REGULATE IT. USDA  
IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING  
THE WORK OF UNSHACKLING THE  
NATION'S AGRICULTURAL ENGINE  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF AMERICAN  
FAMILIES.

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