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## Looking to Spring with Uncertainty

Dear Farmer,

As we head into spring, we do so with a lot of uncertainty and precariousness. As we all know by now, many farmers across the country are waiting on payments from the USDA promised through signed conservation contracts, impacting farmers' abilities to plan for the season ahead, pay employees, order seeds and supplies and buy groceries for their families.

If you are a farmer in need, please call our Hotline at 1-800-FARM-AID (or [contact us online](#)). Though information is scarce right now about when and if these funds will flow again, our Hotline Team is here to listen to what you are going through and connect you with resources that may be helpful.

[Farm Aid now has a survey for farmers and organizations impacted by the funding freeze](#). We

will use this form for our advocacy work, a strategy informed by conversations with partners and legislative offices, all of whom have reiterated the need to collect stories and information about impact.

***From our partners at Farm Commons:***

Many farmers and ally organizations across the country are experiencing federal grant delays, frozen funds, and contract terminations as a result of the Trump administration's executive orders, and Farm Commons has been working to help farmers understand what action steps they can take. Visit their [Federal Funding Freeze](#) page where they will continue to add new materials including a guide titled "[My EQIP Funding Is Frozen, What Should I Do?](#)"

Farm Commons also encourages folks to share their experiences with frozen or cancelled funds through [this form](#). Finally, Farm Commons will hold their second live virtual session entitled "Coffee, Community and Conversation: Updates on the Federal Funding Freeze" on March 13th at 10AM CT. You can register for that session [here](#).

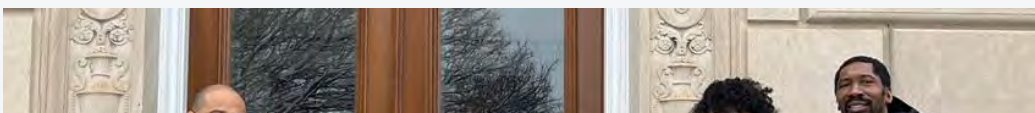
***Other helpful resources:***

- Dania Davy — of Land and Liberation LLC — has created [an informative website with a federal funding freeze lawsuit timeline and updates and many other resources](#). She also

offers weekly office hours for farmers to ask questions and gather (next Office Hours is March 7 at 4pm ET, register [here](#)). Especially helpful is this page — [what you need to know and do to defend your federal funding](#).

- [Dania Davy — "WTF?!? Intake Form for Farmers & Land Stewards"](#): If you are a farmer, landowner, business, or other directly impacted individual, this form will help connect you with the right-sized resources for the challenges you are experiencing.
- [National Farmers Union](#): A broad form collecting stories from farmers and from organizations. Responses will be used for their advocacy work.
- [Northeast Farm Impacts from the Federal Funding Freeze and Executive Orders](#): The seven Northeast Organic Farming Associations (NOFA-CT, NOFA-MA, NOFA-NH, NOFA-NJ, NOFA-NY, NOFA-RI and NOFA-VT), and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) are documenting the impacts of the recent federal funding freeze and executive orders on farmers and food businesses in the Northeast.

— *Caitlin Arnold Stephano, Hotline Program Manager*





## Hannah's Policy Corner

Farm Aid traveled to Washington, DC to take part in the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's annual winter meeting and lobby day. Farm Aid and four farmer advocates from New York and Indiana met with Senators and Congresspeople to urge the USDA to release federal funds being withheld from Inflation Reduction Act-funded conservation programs and to demand that Congress keep agriculture programs intact in the upcoming federal budget negotiations. [Read more about our trip here.](#)

Stay up to date on agriculture policy news! *Civil Eats* has created the [Policy Tracker Tool](#), a go-to source for actions taken by the President, federal agencies, and Congress that directly relate to or have significant implications for the food system.

— *Hannah Tremblay, Policy and Advocacy Manager*

# Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network

Farm Aid is working with USDA and several other organizations to launch the Distressed Borrowers and Financially Distressed Farmers Assistance Network (DBAN). DBAN aims to increase support and access to resources for farmers experiencing financial distress and help farmers access resources to achieve long-term financial stability and health.

Through training and network collaborations, DBAN will enhance the capacity and deepen the knowledge of direct service providers to support financially distressed farmers with tailored, one-on-one support, technical assistance and targeted outreach and referral. DBAN hopes to have direct service providers geographically located across the United States. DBAN direct service providers will help financially distressed farmers:

- understand their financial situation and options,
- access Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs, USDA Programs, and other beneficial services and resources available to improve farmer financial health and stability, and
- build long-term resilience and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Farmers that DBAN aims to reach include:

- established FSA borrowers who have been identified as distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed FSA loans,
- farmers whose agricultural operations are at financial risk, and
- financially distressed farmers, ranchers, and foresters.

[Read our post announcing DBAN here.](#)



## **New Partner Resources We Love**

1. **With tax time right around the corner**, the [Rural Tax Education](#) program is prepared to provide guidance. Hosted by Utah State University, this resource was developed by tax experts from various Cooperative Extension programs across the country. You'll find articles and free webinars on a wide range of tax related topics including a [Small Farm Tax Guide](#), [New Farmer Tax Information](#), [Disaster](#)

[Losses and Related Tax Rules](#) and more.

Articles are available in English and Spanish.

2. **Farm Raise** has released a new tool that allows farmers to stay up-to-date on new information from the Farm Service Agency. The [FSA Program Update Feed](#), a new offering from their FSA EDU Hub platform, displays the latest headlines related to FSA's new programs, upcoming deadlines, new lending rates and more. This is a great page to bookmark and revisit periodically, and at the top of the page, farmers will find a link to sign up for email alerts from FSA directly.



## **Open Grant Opportunities/Coming Soon**

**Are you a beginning farmer with a passion for regenerative farming practices, community**

**and environmental recovery?** The [Good Farmer Award](#), sponsored by the DAVINES Group and Rodale Institute, is offering \$10,000 toward equipment and initiatives to farmers who incorporate “environmentally responsible practices that boost regenerative organic agriculture, biodiversity, promote long-term resilience, garner community engagement, and advance sustainable and equitable systems”, along with an all-expenses-paid trip to the European Regenerative Organic Center (EROC) in Parma, Italy.

**Application deadline is March 22, 2025.**

*We often post grant and funding opportunities on [Threads](#), [Bluesky](#) and [X](#) – follow us to see more.*

## Check out our new Farmer Resource Guides

Our Hotline Team has been creating new [Resource Guides](#) for the many topics we hear about daily on the Hotline – from Farm Stress, Legal Assistance and Disaster Relief – and more! Please check them out and share. [The Guides are also available in Spanish.](#)

[New Farmer Resource Guides](#)





## Farm Aid's Hotline and Farmer Resource Network

Did you know that [Farm Aid's Farmer Hotline](#) has been running since 1985? You can call us at 1-800-FARM-AID, Monday through Friday, 9am-9pm ET (6am-6pm PT). One of our Hotline Team members will answer your call, listen and find you the best resources for your situation. You can also submit an [Online Request for Assistance](#) anytime. Our Spanish Hotline is available Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm ET, and the Spanish Online Request for Assistance can be found [here](#).

Our [Farmer Resource Network](#) is a free online database of national, regional and state resources. We have 23 different service categories to search by — from Farm Stress to Funding Opportunities to Legal Help. The Farmer Resource Network is

also [fully accessible in Spanish](#).

**Do you know a farmer friend that  
might like to receive these  
emails?**

**Farmer Resource Newsletter Sign-up**

**Check out our blog!**

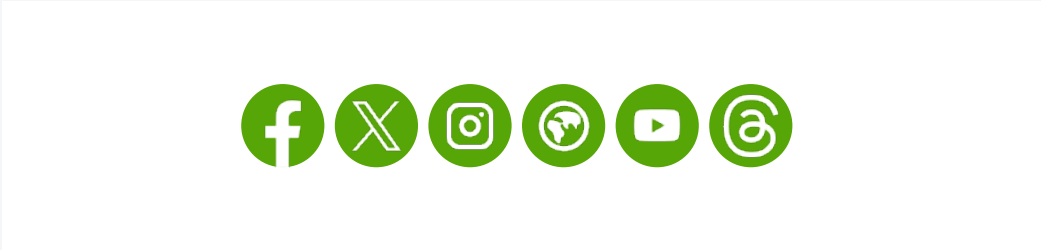
Want to learn more about how the federal funding freeze is impacting farmers? [Check out our latest blog post](#).

**Federal Funding Freeze Impacts**

**Did you know we have a podcast?**

[Against the Grain](#) is Farm Aid's new podcast. Hear from farmers and artists, advocates and food experts, activists and policymakers – all of whom are working towards building a more just and equitable farm and food system. [Check out our recent episode about responding to farmers affected by Hurricane Helene on the Hotline](#).

Farm Aid Podcast



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