

# LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



# ABOUT THE FEDERATION

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- *“The Voice of Louisiana Agriculture”*
- 103+ years old. Started because farmers weren’t getting access to things necessary for business: roads, electricity, insurance, etc.
- “Grassroots” structure where the individual members voice can be heard all the way at the top. Parish > State > National.
- Run by farmers, for farmers and rural Louisiana.





A green combine harvester is shown from a low angle, moving through a field of cotton. The cotton plants are in the foreground, and the harvester is in the middle ground. The background is a hazy, overcast sky. The bottom of the image features a wooden floor texture.

**Agriculture contributes over \$13 Billion  
to our state's economy**

**FARM  
BUREAU**  
LOUISIANA

®

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES

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- Less than 2% of our population is farmers
- 90+% of our membership is not involved in agriculture
- Direction of the organization is limited to active farmer members
- So why should we care?

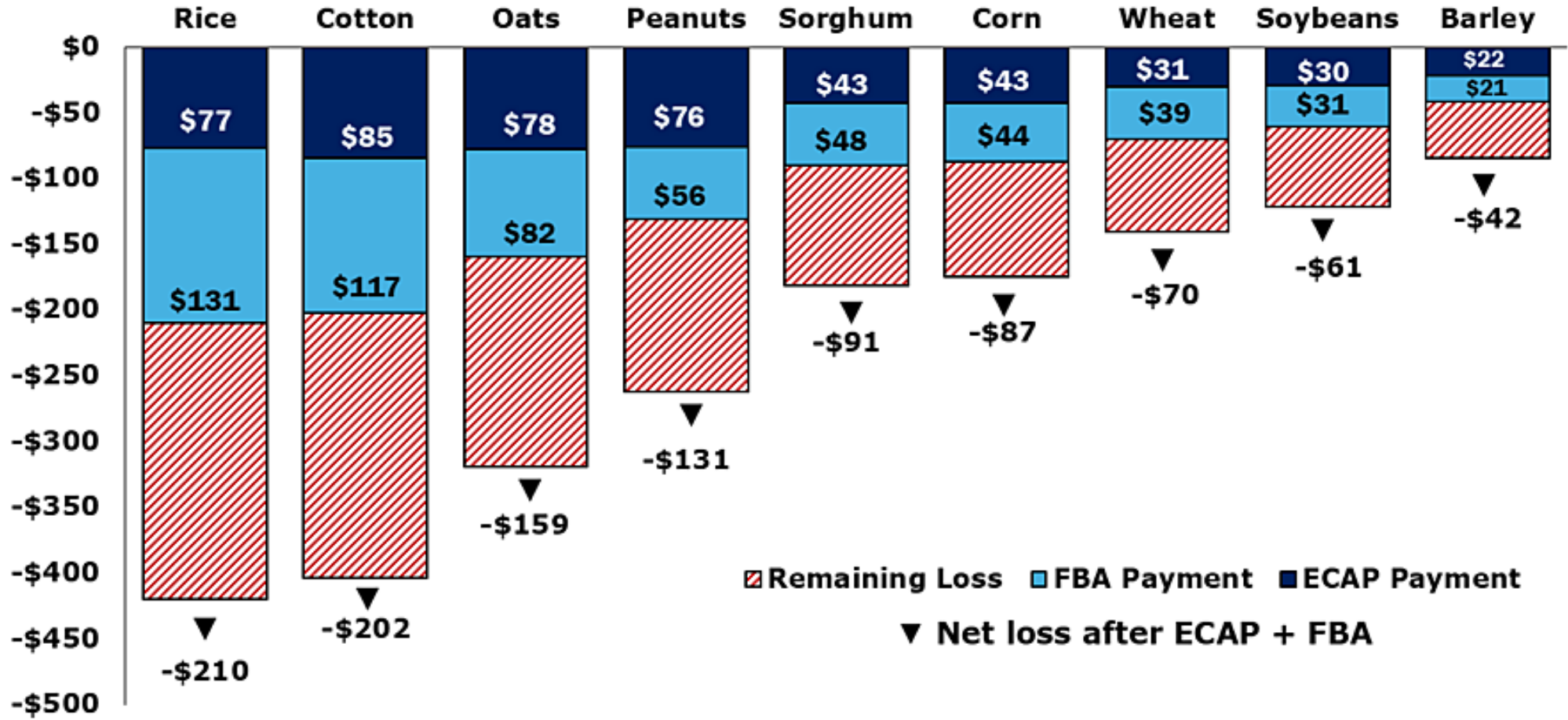
# AGRICULTURE'S CHALLENGES

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- \$44 Billion shortfall for major row crops in 2025
- Difficulty and increasing costs in labor (Domestic, H-2A, H-2B)
- International Trade
- Constant regulatory challenges to crop protection, environmental standards

# FARMER LOSSES REMAIN AFTER FEDERAL BRIDGE ASSISTANCE

2025 National Average per-acre ECAP and FBA Payments Compared with Returns Over Cost and Remaining Losses

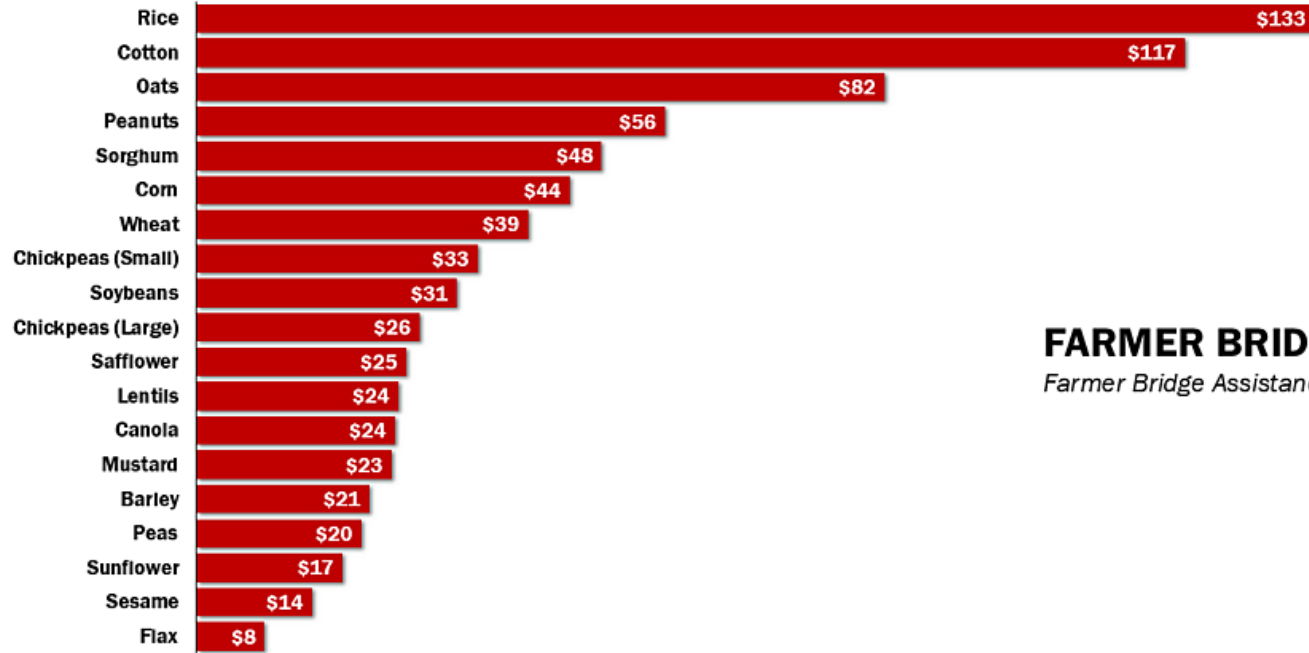


▨ Remaining Loss   
 ▨ FBA Payment   
 ▨ ECAP Payment  
 ▼ Net loss after ECAP + FBA



## FARMER BRIDGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

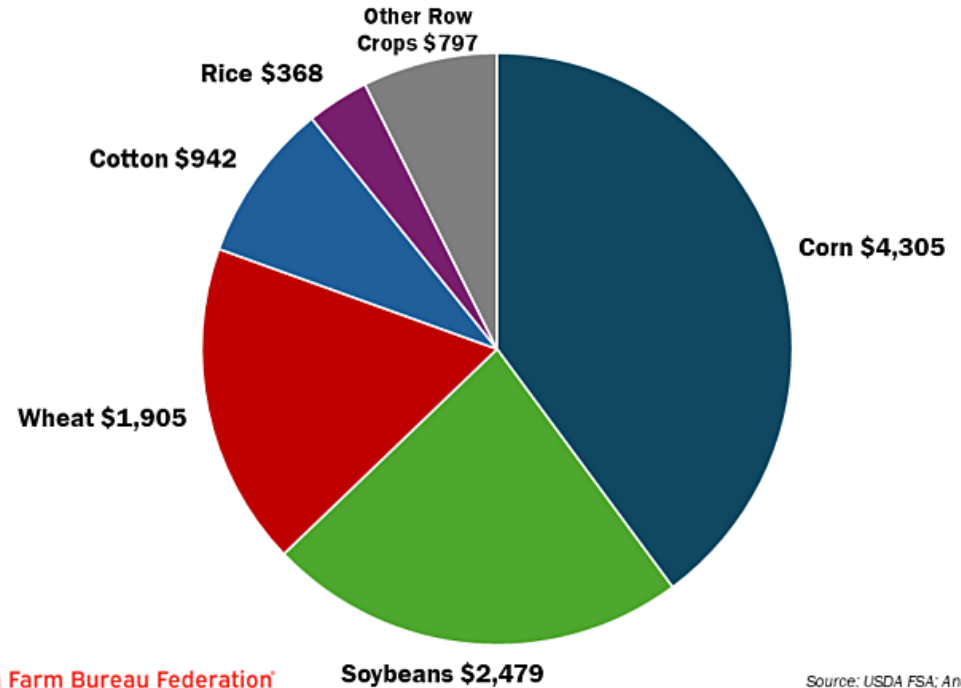
Farmer Bridge Assistance Program Payments, Dollars per Acre



 American Farm Bureau Federation

## FARMER BRIDGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENTS BY CROP

Farmer Bridge Assistance Program Payments by Crop (Million Dollars)



 American Farm Bureau Federation

Source: USDA FSA; Analysis by American Farm Bureau

**FARM  
BUREAU**  
LOUISIANA

# WE NEED YOU TO ENGAGE





**Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.**  
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 O: (225) 922-6200 | lafarmbureau.org

January 8, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
 Administrator  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

On behalf of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation and the rice producers we represent, I respectfully request your office's assistance in expediting review of Louisiana's Section 18 Quarantine Exemption request for the insecticide Courier® (buprofezin, EPA Reg. No. 71711-20) for use during the 2026–2028 rice growing seasons (reference no. 26LA01).

Louisiana rice producers are facing a rapidly escalating threat from the invasive Rice Delphacid (*Togodes orizicolus*), an insect pest that has recently become devastating in the southern rice-growing region. This pest poses a serious risk to both yield and grain quality and has driven some of our producers to abandon rice production for 2026. Field observations and research conducted by LSU AgCenter scientists indicate that existing registered insecticides do not provide consistent or adequate control of this pest, placing growers at significant economic risk. Without access to Courier®, our producers will have no viable option to effectively manage this pest should infestations continue to expand during the 2026 season.

Rice is a cornerstone of Louisiana agriculture and rural economies, with downstream impacts on milling, export markets, and food security. The timely availability of effective pest management tools is essential for our producers to make informed input and planting decisions which begin next month in Louisiana. An expedited review of this Section 18 request would provide much-needed certainty and help support the continued viability of rice production in our state. Louisiana rice producers need some assurance they will have effective tools to manage this threat before they can commit to planting rice, a decision that needs to be made well ahead of the February–April planting window.

We greatly appreciate EPA's long-standing cooperation with state agencies and stakeholders in addressing urgent agricultural needs, and we respectfully ask for your consideration of this request given the emerging and time-sensitive nature of this threat.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued support of American agriculture. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information or clarification.

Respectfully,

*Richard Fontenot*  
 Richard Fontenot  
 President

Richard Fontenot  
 President

Marty Wooldridge  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Burch Pierce  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

Amelia Kent  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President

Michael Melancon  
 Secretary/Treasurer



**LouisianaFarmBureau**  
 @LaFarmBureau



Louisiana farmers will soon be back in the field. They need regulatory certainty to make business and environmental decisions in a challenging economic climate. @EPA please release the OTT Dicamba label and give growers the tools they need to produce food, fiber, and fuel.

9:11 AM · Feb 5, 2026 · 94 Views



February 5, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
 Administrator  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

The undersigned organizations represent a cross section of the agricultural and farming industry, whose members work to feed, fuel, and clothe Americans in a safe, efficient and economically sustainable manner.

Our organizations support the general goals of the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement and the principles included in the MAHA Commission's *Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy* regarding the use of sound science when making decisions on agricultural inputs, vegetables, grains, and protein. However, access to safe and effective pesticide products is essential to achieve these goals. Without pesticides, conventional and organic growers would lose significant yield to pests, reducing the amount of produce and grains available to consumers and animals. Likewise, livestock producers could not provide quality forage and grain for feed, or protect against flies, lice, and grubs. And beyond agricultural uses, pesticides help to protect the public from fleas, ticks, termites, rodents and mosquitoes that spread disease and structural damage across indoor and outdoor settings.

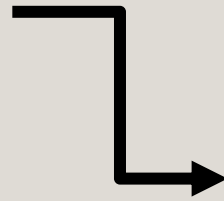
We recognize that the pesticide registration process has become increasingly challenging in the face of heightened public scrutiny and criticism that is not based in science. Often, these are voices that may not fully understand the rigorous, science-based review and risk-assessment framework used to evaluate products for safety when applied according to the label. EPA's credibility as a global leader in risk-based regulation depends on meeting its obligations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), including timely registration reviews and approvals that allow U.S. producers access to innovative tools on par with global competitors. Therefore, we ask you to uphold EPA's rigorous, science-based registration process, recognizing its critical role in achieving our shared goals to feed the nation and keep food affordable.

Following the September release of the MAHA Commission's *Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy*, EPA committed to "keep food prices affordable for American families while maintaining essential environmental protections" and "accelerate innovative and vetted crop-

## BUT HOW DO I KEEP UP WITH ANY OF THAT

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- The Daily Voice - sign up here
- Get a membership. With it, tell your parish you're in ag and want to be involved.
- Show up. Speak up. Ask your customer if they are involved and can help plug you in.



# JOIN FARM BUREAU TODAY



# QUESTIONS?

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Richard Fontenot

Louisiana Farm Bureau President

Rice, Crawfish, Soybean Farmer – Evangeline Parish

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