

THE EXTREME REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN LEAVES FARMERS HIGH AND DRY

A government shutdown would be devastating for farmers. Republicans are leaving farmers and ranchers behind in their bid to shut down the government. The millions of farmers who are counting on federal assistance in October deserve a fully funded government.

- **New farm loans will dry up – right in the middle of harvest season.** New loans to farmers and ranchers will halt, and marketing assistance loans will pause, both of which create hardship for farmers who are in the middle of the harvest season. USDA's Farm Production and Conservation teams will focus only on activities to protect life and property.
- **Direct disaster aid to farmers will be suspended and safety net programs farmers depend on halted.** Payments that farmers depend on, through initiatives like the Conservation Reserve Program, Dairy Margin Coverage and the Agriculture Risk and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) programs, will not be made. Nor will post-disaster payments, until Congress acts and provides funding for the local FSA offices to approve payments. FSA is working to closeout a number of safety net, Farm Bill and disaster programs during the final week of September and first days of October. These programs are scheduled to make over \$4 billion to producers and may be halted midstream or delayed by a shutdown.
- **Monitoring for diseases will be curtailed, risking higher food costs for consumers.** Domestic surveillance for animal and plant diseases will be curtailed, increasing the risk we would not catch an emerging problem in time to prevent huge losses for farmers and ranchers, and supply chain disruptions that could result in higher prices for consumers.
- **Farmers and Ranchers will be forced to operate in uncertainty as market supporting reporters suspend activities.** Market reporters will pause USDA's Market News reports that help farmers, ranchers, commodity traders, and buyers determine the market value of goods, creating uncertainty in the marketplace with detrimental ripple effects for farmers who need to sell their products.
- **Rural development efforts will freeze over – driving up costs for rural Americans.** Loans and grants to support essential utilities in rural communities will be halted, delaying and jeopardizing the financing of health care, emergency response, clean water and other projects that many of these communities are counting on.