

BROKEN PROMISES: *Devastating America's Farmers and Working Families*

When President Trump was running for office, he promised that if elected, “**grocery prices will come tumbling down.**”

Despite Trump’s rhetoric, prices are up, with **the price of beef up 16.4%, coffee up 19.8%**. And the Trump administration is actively creating an environment that takes advantage of farmers, ranchers, and consumers and favors the interests of big corporations over lowering costs for working Americans.

President Trump has not only plunged the country into a chaotic trade war that has raised prices at the grocery store and left farmers and ranchers on the brink of financial ruin with lost markets and broken trade relationships, but the administration’s policies actively encouraged monopiles in food and agriculture, raising prices on the things we all need.

Under President Biden, there was a “whole-of-government” approach to cracking down on corporate consolidation. The Trump administration has reversed course, revoking Biden’s Executive Order on competition, terminating the USDA partnership with state Attorneys General, appointing a pro-consolidation head of the FTC, ending efforts to increase competition in seeds to reduce costs for farmers, and pursuing no meaningful enforcement on consolidation and other anti-competition practices.

Here's why this matters: Rampant consolidation is leading to higher prices for consumers while eating into farmers’ already thin profit margins. When four or fewer companies control more than 40% of the market, there is a heightened risk the companies will abuse their market power and raise prices. Currently:

- Four meatpackers control **85%** of the beef market.
- Four companies control **60%** of chicken processing.
- Two companies control **60%** of carrot supply—the “OPEC of carrots.”
- Three companies control **95%** of farm tractor production and maintenance.

Continued rising food costs do not equate to greater farm income. In fact, consolidation has taken money out of farmers’ pockets as they have seen dwindling returns on every dollar of food sold. Today, farmers and ranchers **keep just 15.9 cents** of every dollar spent on food. It is not hard to see who profits from consolidation—big, multinational, often foreign corporations, not farmers; not workers; not consumers.

When farmers make less and consumers pay more, the winner is clear: the monopoly in the middle. Instead of fulfilling its promise to lower costs, the Trump administration has instead prioritized policies that put corporations before working people, making America less affordable for all of us.