

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2026

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Earlier this summer, the American Farm Bureau released another staggering report highlighting the grave state of the farm economy. It projected that in 2026 alone just row crop commodities were slated to lose \$31 billion. Sadly, they forecast that number to increase to \$32 billion in 2027.

Shortly after that report was released, a group of former agricultural leaders representing both parties sent the four-corner Agriculture Committee leadership a [letter](#) calling for us to hold hearings on the farm crisis that is gripping rural America and the agricultural sector. Committee Democrats have been calling for such hearings since January, when we sent you a [letter](#) outlining sixteen different hearings topics the Committee should explore, many of which would examine the challenges causing the downturn in the farm economy.

Unfortunately, since we sent that letter, things have only gotten worse. The administration launched its seemingly never-ending and illegal war with Iran, which the former agricultural leaders correctly point out is contributing to the challenges farmers are facing with high input prices. With oil prices continuing to fluctuate wildly, the U.S. Joint Economic Committee Democrats released a new report last month that shows American corn, soybean, wheat, cotton and rice farmers have been forced to spend \$1.4 billion more on diesel fuel during this year’s planting season than they did last year, a whopping 63 percent increase.

The health of the farm economy and the challenges producers are facing continue to be urgent issues which is why we are following up to our January 2026 letter to you regarding the Committee’s oversight responsibilities. Of the seven hearings held by the Committee in 2026 – compared with 20 hearings in 2025 – none of them directly address or examine the state of the farm economy and challenges producers are experiencing. With only 15 legislative days until Congress adjourns for October, the Committee should be using its few legislative days left to conduct oversight examining in depth (1) the current farm crisis and (2) what policy changes or improvements are needed to correct this continued downward spiral the American agricultural economy appears to stuck in.

We believe these topics are of great interest to the American agricultural community, which would welcome the Committee exercising its oversight responsibilities in these areas. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you and your staff on bringing these hearings to fruition.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture



Shontel Brown
Member of Congress
Vice Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture