



The New Producer Economic Security Act (S.1237 / H.R. 2536)



Young and beginning farmers and ranchers need secure access to land, capital, and markets to begin and grow their businesses, yet they face significant barriers.

In surveys by the National Young Farmers Coalition, finding affordable farmland remains the top challenge for young and beginning farmers, with 59% of those surveyed reporting that finding affordable land was “very or extremely challenging.”¹ The cost of farmland only continues to climb. **The average value of US farmland is now \$4,350 per acre, the highest ever recorded.**² Higher land prices provide an unfair advantage to wealthy buyers and investment firms who have the financial resources to quickly outbid independent family-scale farmers – and prospective new farmers, in particular. These farmers need innovative federal policy solutions that help address the challenges of land, capital, and market access.

With more than 40% of all US farmland expected to transfer hands in the next few decades³, and 38% of farmers 65 and older and soon to retire⁴, the need to ensure that young and beginning farmers have the opportunity to access farmland and capital has never been more important. Ensuring that the next generation of farmers are able to succeed is vital to the strength and security of our agriculture sector. **We need federal policy support that invests in community-led, locally-appropriate projects and recognizes that there is not a one-size-fits all solution to land, capital, and market access challenges.**

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The New Producer Economic Security Act directs the Farm Service Agency to establish a pilot program to resource locally-led, community-based projects that address the interrelated challenges of land, capital, and market access for the next generation of farmers and ranchers, building on the promise of the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program.

How It Works:

The pilot program would be run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and informed by a stakeholder committee to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of farmers and ranchers.

- The USDA is authorized to make funds available for direct assistance and services to help beginning farmers and ranchers afford and acquire land, cover closing costs and down payments, capitalize infrastructure and site improvements, acquire business technical assistance and farm viability training, and other activities.
- USDA prioritizes projects that provide direct financial assistance to producers, involve collaborative networks or partnerships, facilitate transition of farmland from existing to new producers, and incorporate other factors that will compound the program's impact.
- USDA would make program funds available to awardees through cooperative agreements, grants, capitalization loans, or other mechanisms. Awardees would be able to subcontract with another organization if needed.

¹Ackoff, S., Flom, E., Garcia Polanco, V., Howard, D., Manly, J., Mueller, C., Rippon-Butler, H., Wyatt, L. (2022). *Building a Future with Farmers 2022: Results and Recommendations from the National Young Farmer Survey*. National Young Farmers Coalition. https://youngfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/National-Survey-Web-Update_11.15.22-1.pdf

²USDA, Economic Research Service. (2025). *Land Use, Land Value & Tenure - Farmland Value*. United States Department of Agriculture. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/land-use-land-value-tenure/farmland-value>

³Freedgood, J., Hunter, M., Dempsey, J., Sorenson, A. (2020). *Farms Under Threat: The State of the States*. American Farmland Trust. https://farmlandinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/AFT_FUT_StateoftheStates_rev.pdf

⁴USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. (2022). *2022 Census of Agriculture Highlights: Farm Producers*. United States Department of Agriculture. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2024/Census22_HL_FarmProducers_FINAL.pdf