



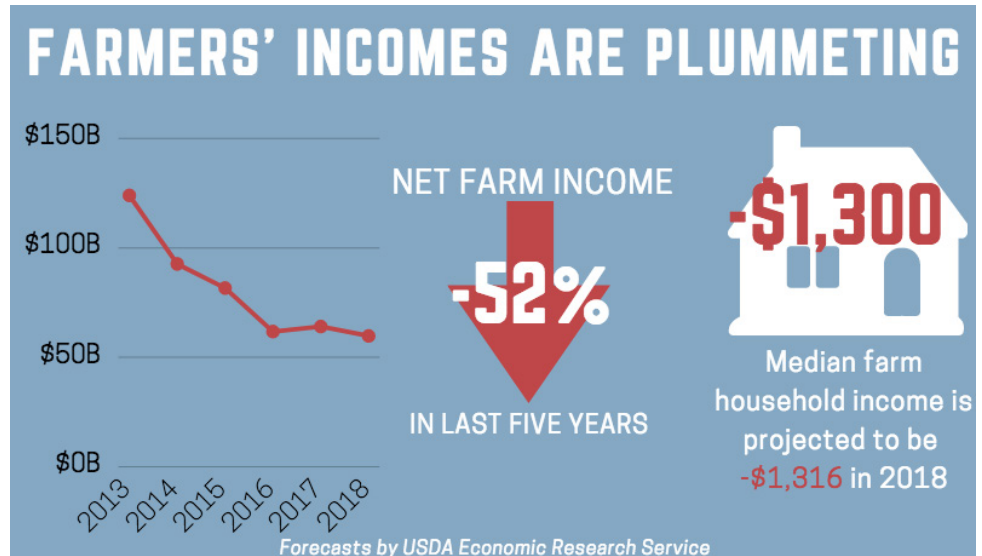
Farm Safety Net

Family farmers operate within a very unique marketplace, over which they have almost no control. Prices swing wildly from year to year, and weather events pose a constant threat to a farmer's yield. When a farmer is unable to stay afloat, the impact is felt through our entire food system. That is why Congress provides a mix of programs that constitute the "farm safety net." In the Farm Bill, these include risk management programs, crop insurance, and access to credit.

Safety Net, Now

Family farmers and ranchers are currently dealing with drastically lower farm prices than they had just five years ago. Net farm income is just half of what it was in 2013, and well over half of farms are projected to have had negative farm income in 2017. The safety net programs that were passed in the last Farm Bill are not providing sufficient

help to many struggling producers. Congress needs to put more money into fixing these programs and providing a sufficient farm safety net so that farmers can weather the severely downturned farm economy.



A Better Safety Net in the Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill must strengthen the safety net so that farmers and ranchers can manage risk, stay in business, and continue to feed our country. Congress can do this if they:

- ✓ **Increase reference prices** for the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program to account for cost of production.
- ✓ **Make technical corrections** to the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program.
- ✓ **Provide strong crop insurance** and risk management tools.
- ✓ **Create an incentives-based** inventory management program to oversee milk production.
- ✓ **Expand insurance options** for livestock production.