

AAM Senter On The Hill July 25, 2018

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AAM has been asked about the recently announced aid package for farmers. AAM is pleased that because of the serious situation on our nations farms and ranches that USDA is moving forward with help for our producers. The details are still few and far between because I would guess everything is still a work in progress as to how the help is going to be provided. AAM urged USDA to consider raising commodity loan rates to the cost of production for all storable commodities. This would allow producers a chance to store the commodity while receiving operating capital to give the markets time to adjust while we work to find buyers for our production.

The Commodity Credit Corporation, CCC could be used to buy meat, dairy, fruit, nuts and other agriculture crops to give to school lunch programs, senior centers and food pantries. This action would help stabilize those markets plus provide a needed support to some of the neediest individuals in the country. There is a way to help protect agriculture producers from being collateral damage from the escalating Trade War. This action cannot be approached as a one-time action, because the impact is going to be long term, so the program should be ongoing. Already in some states we have between 20% and 25% of producers already out of farming or denied financing and harvesting their last crop. What USDA does here is going to decide the fate of another 25% of our producers over the next two years. Do you want to preside over the demise of 50% of our family farmers or are we going to work together with Congress to provide a solution?

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