



Press Release

Farmers: USDA's New Bridge Program Could Mean Big Help – But Act Fast!

Mitchell, SD – December 11, 2025

The USDA just rolled out the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program, a one-time \$12 billion relief package to help producers deal with trade disruptions and rising costs. Here's the catch: you need to update your 2025 acreage report with your local FSA office by Friday, December 19, 2025 to qualify. No extensions, no exceptions.

Payments are expected to start hitting accounts by February 28, 2026. For many, this could be a much-needed boost heading into spring.

What's in it for you?

- Who qualifies? Row-crop producers growing barley, corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, peanuts, rice, and more.
- How much? USDA will use a national formula based on your reported acres and market data. Commodity-specific rates will be announced later this month.
- Limits: \$155,000 per person or entity, and your AGI must be under \$900,000.
- No crop insurance requirement – unlike past disaster programs.
- Funding source: Tariff revenues collected by the government.

What you need to do now:

1. Call your FSA office today and make sure your acreage report is accurate and certified.
2. Double-check crop types, acres, and shares.
3. Confirm your AGI eligibility.
4. Keep a copy for your records.

Deadline: Friday, December 19, 2025. Miss it, and you're out.

Why ELO is talking about this:

“This program could help bridge cash flow for a lot of producers,” says Jonathan Guenther, CPA, Agribusiness Partner at ELO CPAs & Advisors. “The window is short – get those acres certified and be ready when payment rates drop later this month.”

Key Dates:

- **Dec. 19: Acreage report deadline**
- **Late Dec.: USDA announces payment rates**
- **Feb. 28: Payments expected**

If you have any questions, please call ELO CPAs & Advisors at (605) 996-7717 or visit elocpa.com.