

New York State Comptroller  
THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI

# Federal Impact: New York State Farming and Agriculture



# Introduction

---

The agricultural sector is vitally important to New York State, as an economic driver and as the source of resilient local food supply chains. As reported by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Research, in 2022 New York's 30,650 farms<sup>1</sup> contributed close to \$3 billion to New York State's gross domestic product.<sup>2</sup> In addition, farming-related businesses directly supported 163,148 jobs in 2019.<sup>3</sup> In New York's rural counties, farming can be an especially significant contributor to the regional economy.

The federal government affects farming and agriculture through policy, regulation, subsidies, insurance and other assistance that affects the pricing of commodities, the availability of labor and the profitability of enterprises. Recent federal actions threaten to reduce certain support to farms, curtail the available agricultural workforce and impact the financial viability of family farms.



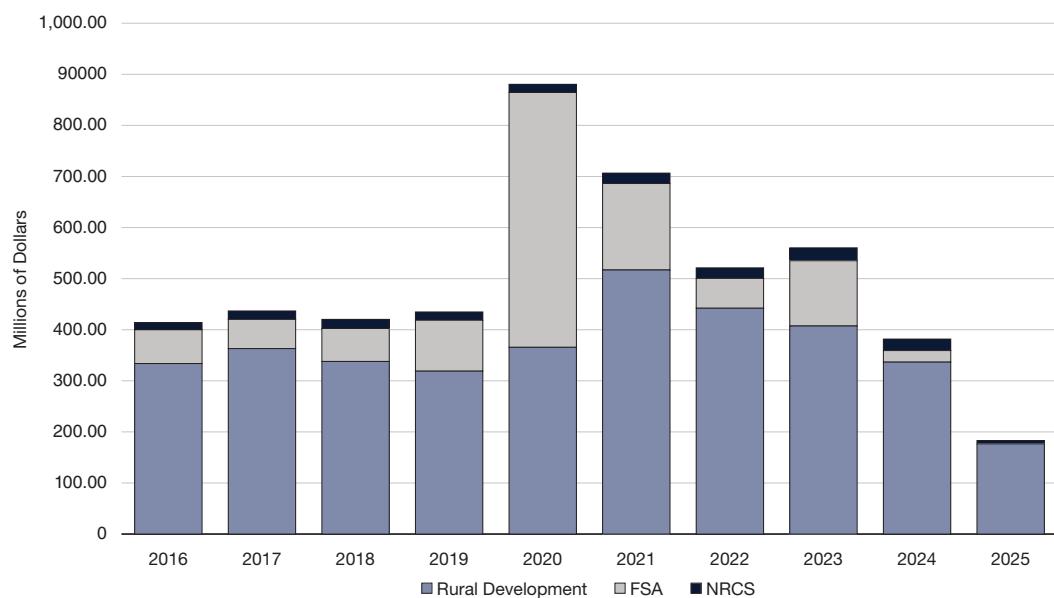
## USDA Support to New York State Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assists farmers in numerous ways, including by providing grants, subsidies, loans and technical support. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, in 2022 there were \$10.4 billion in federal government payments to 483,211 farms nationwide. In New York, 3,275 farms reported receiving \$66.3 million in direct federal payments (not including federal crop insurance payments).<sup>4</sup> In New York, these payments were received by just over 1 in 10 farms and represented less than 3 percent of income for New York farm operations;<sup>5</sup> however, federal assistance can be significant for some farms, as many operate on thin profit margins.

Compared to the nation, in 2022 New York farms received less in federal government payments on average (\$20,238) compared with farms nationally (\$21,599); however, average farm payments vary significantly by farm. In general, those with lower commodity sales that received assistance tended to have lower average payments. Nearly 70 percent of New York farms receiving this assistance had total receipts below \$10,000 and received average payments of \$3,175 (compared to 63.9 percent nationally with average payments of \$3,311).<sup>6</sup> Only 8 percent of New York farms receiving aid had total receipts of \$50,000 or more, and received an average of \$163,481 per farm.<sup>7</sup> Nationally, 10.7 percent of farms had receipts of \$50,000 or more, and received an average of \$128,491 per farm.

Moreover, there were \$1.4 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans to 8,264 farms nationwide and \$24.0 million in CCC loans to 157 New York farms in 2022.<sup>8</sup> In addition to these payments directed to specific farms, in 2024 New York received nearly \$382 million in payments that benefitted farms and agriculture more broadly from three principal USDA support programs: the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development. New York's funding received from the programs equals about 1 percent of the total funding of \$36.9 billion provided to farmers under these programs nationwide.

**Figure 1**  
**USDA Support to New York Farms Through Rural Development Grants and Loans, FSA Payments and NRCS Contracts, 2016 - 2025**



Note: No FSA data for 2025 is available. The greatly increased FSA payments in 2020 are due to assistance programs created to ameliorate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs included payments to farmers for food provided to community food banks.

Source: USDA

---

Rural Development assistance includes loans and grants for single and multifamily housing; tenant vouchers for low-income renters; financing for community facilities and water systems; loans and grants for a variety of energy programs including home and business efficiency and renewable energy installations; assistance in creation of agricultural co-ops; business development loans; and more.

“

**Recent federal actions threaten to reduce certain support to farms, curtail the available agricultural workforce and impact the financial viability of family farms.**

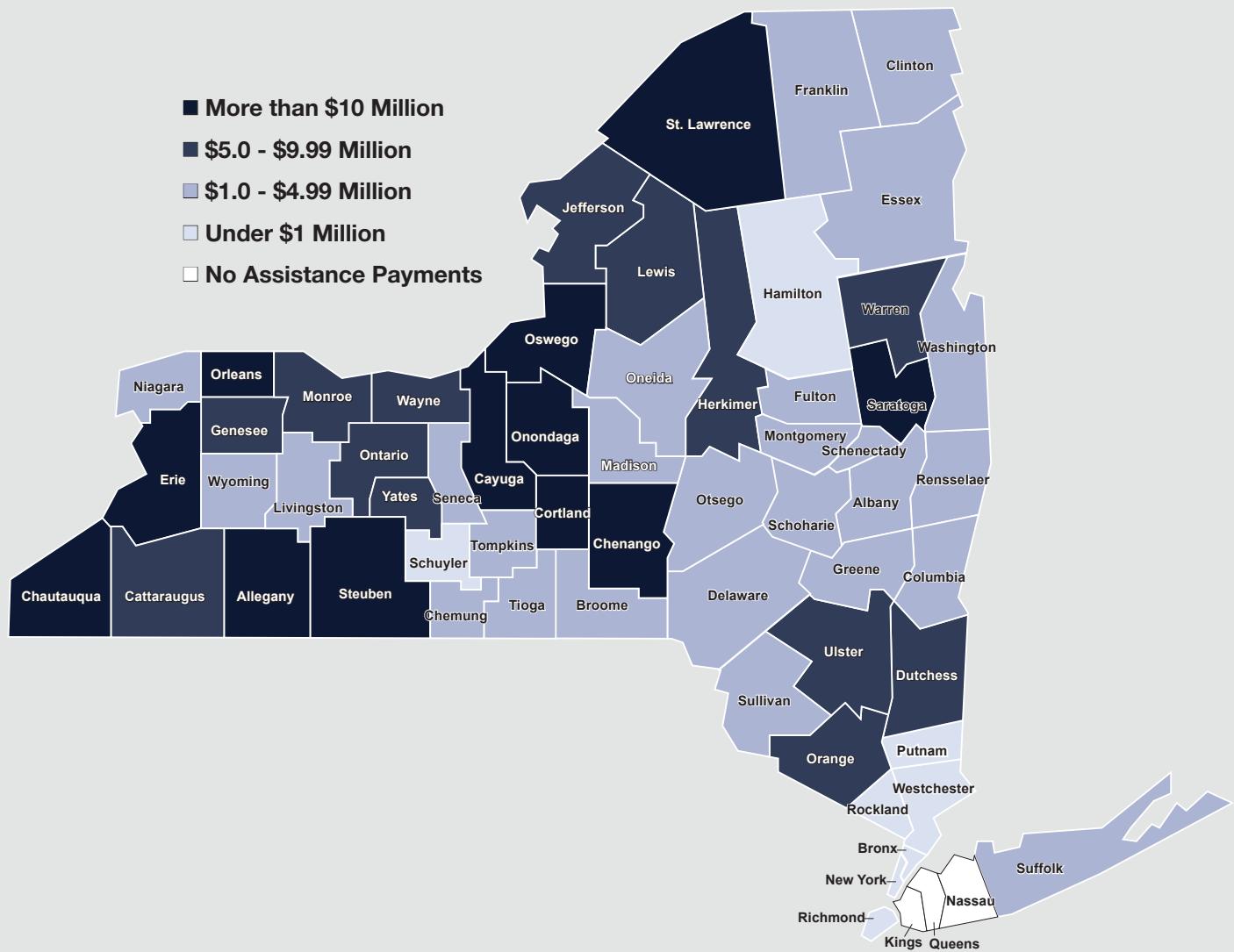
”

The FSA provides financial assistance to farmers through a variety of programs that provide loans, conservation support, disaster recovery assistance, income support, mediation services and grants to improve working conditions, worker safety and compliance with labor laws and regulations.<sup>9</sup> Examples of these programs include guaranteed farm loans that help farmers and ranchers receive favorable loans from commercial lenders; Dairy Margin Coverage, an insurance product that kicks in when milk prices fall and/or feed prices increase; and the Conservation Reserve Program, that helps farmers protect erosion-prone, or other environmentally sensitive land with cover crops, trees and riparian buffers.

NRCS provides both technical and financial assistance to farmers in support of voluntary conservation activities, like those that improve soil, water, plant and animal habitat and related resources on farmland and non-industrial private forest land.<sup>10</sup> In programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), farmers receive support to hire technical service providers to provide conservation planning, design and implementation services—identifying goals, resources and problems and then planning and implementing actions to address the farmers’ goals.<sup>11</sup>

As shown in Figure 2 and the map below, almost all counties receive assistance from at least one of these programs. Farms in 12 counties received 52 percent of these payments. Cayuga, the county with the greatest agricultural commodities sales in 2022, received the most assistance.

**Figure 2**  
**USDA Support New York Farms by County and Amount, 2024**



Note: Programs included are Rural Development Grants and Loans, FSA Payments and NRCS Contracts. Kings, Queens and Nassau farms did not receive any payments under these programs.

Source: USDA

# Recent Federal Actions

---

## Executive Actions

The importance of local food networks became apparent during the pandemic. Increasingly, farmers have worked to build new markets for their products through development of direct-to-customer supply networks and by supplying food to local food banks, schools and other institutions. In March, the President eliminated programs that provided grants to states to purchase locally produced food for food banks, including \$1 billion in funding for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program. Subsequently, \$500 million in grant funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program was canceled. In the aggregate, these cuts amounted to a funding loss of \$93 million for New York and eliminated a portion of local markets for farmers.<sup>12</sup> As a result, farmers who planted certain crops or invested in processing equipment to meet the needs of food banks and schools may have had to search for consumers.

## Federal Funding

The USDA, like all federal agencies, is funded through discretionary and mandatory funding streams. Discretionary funding is provided through annual appropriations. Discretionary programs include rural development loans and grants, soil and water conservation technical assistance and marketing assistance. Mandatory programs include crop insurance, most nutrition assistance programs and certain conservation programs. Mandatory funding streams are required in federal law and do not require annual appropriation acts.<sup>13</sup>

Funding for some mandatory programs, which would normally be funding through the Farm Bill, as well as discretionary funding through Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027 was passed within the Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-37), passed on November 11, 2025.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the federal reconciliation bill (P.L. 119-21), signed into law on July 4, 2025, included both funding and cuts for programs that support agriculture.

## Reconciliation Bill

In federal fiscal year 2024, the USDA's Program Level Budget totaled an estimated \$296.1 billion.<sup>15</sup> The majority, 54.9 percent or \$162.6 billion, was devoted to food, nutrition and consumer services; farm production and conservation funding totaled an estimated \$58.7 billion (19.8 percent); and rural development totaled \$50.9 billion (17.2 percent).<sup>16</sup> Farm production and conservation includes FSA payments, NRCS contracts, commodity programs and disaster assistance.<sup>17</sup>

Provisions in the federal reconciliation bill, signed into law as Public Law No. 119-21, made several changes to funding in these areas. According to the Congressional Budget Office,<sup>18</sup> the bill included net increases in 10-year outlays for commodities programs that



offer assistance for sugar, dairy and other agricultural commodities (\$53.1 billion); crop insurance (\$6.0 billion); rural investments (\$4.0 billion); and disaster assistance (\$2.8 billion).

On the other hand, P.L. 119-21 is projected to cut 10-year outlays for conservation by \$1.8 billion and for forestry programs by \$150 million. In addition, P.L. 119-21 rescinded funding for several Inflation Reduction Act-funded USDA programs including the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program and the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program.

These actions could have the impact of slightly increasing FSA and Rural Development assistance while reducing that from NRCS. The increases for crop insurance are unlikely to broadly benefit New York farmers. In 2022, only 975 farms in the state received crop or livestock insurance payments.<sup>19</sup> In addition, the commodities programs are linked to specific crops, many of which, including cotton, oil seeds, rice, sorghum and wheat, are not widely grown or grown at all in New York.<sup>20</sup> However, P.L. 119-21 may benefit New York's larger dairy farms as it increases the coverage limit under the Dairy Margin Coverage program to 6 million pounds and provides options for reducing premiums.<sup>21</sup>

One of the most significant set of changes made in P.L. 119-21 was to limit the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation's largest nutritional assistance program. Overall, the changes work to reduce value of benefits; limit eligibility through immigrant restrictions and expanded work requirements; and narrow state discretion in granting waivers while increasing state costs for administration and benefits. Decreases in SNAP eligibility and enrollments will affect farmers in New York as there will be less money being spent in grocery stores and farmers markets.

---

## USDA Appropriations for Federal Fiscal Year 2026

The continuing resolution (P.L 119-37) passed by Congress on November 11, 2025 included a full year of appropriations for USDA and some other agencies for federal fiscal year 2026. Many of the agency's programs received flat funding with some notable increases or cuts for important programs for New York's rural communities. There were increases in funding for safety inspection programs and agricultural research (\$3.9 million), Rural Development programs (\$601.7 million) and in the Federal Crop Insurance and Commodity Credit Funds (\$855.6 million).<sup>22</sup>

“

**New York dairy exports declined by as much as 12 percent in the first half of 2025, compared to the same period in 2024**

”

The increases in the Rural Development programs were primarily in housing-related programs, including Rural Housing Service (an additional \$40.5 million), the Rental Assistance Program (\$73 million) and the Rural Community Facilities Program (\$648.1 million). The most significant decreases in funding occurred in the Rural Energy for America Program (\$45 million), Rural Utilities Service (\$32.9 million), and in the Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Program (\$41.5 million).<sup>23</sup>

The Agricultural Production and Conservation programs saw significant decreases in funding with an overall decrease of \$279.5 million. The Farm Service Agency received the largest cut of \$84.3 million, followed by the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (\$76.6 million) and the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (\$72.9 million). The Natural Resource Conservation Service had the smallest cut at \$45.8 million.<sup>24</sup> The Federal Crop Insurance Fund and the Commodity Credit Corporation Fund were increased by \$765 million and \$90.6 million, respectively.<sup>25</sup>

Of these programs, New York's rural communities and farmers rely most on those addressing rural housing and agricultural production and conservation. For example, 3,275 New York farms (10 percent) received support from the production and conservation programs. Considered in the context of the significant inflation the economy has experienced since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional inflationary pressures from tariffs, the flat funding for many of the programs that most benefit farmers in New York may undermine USDA's support for farmers and rural communities in New York and across the country.

## Tariffs

Tariffs imposed by the federal government, and reciprocal tariffs implemented by other nations, affect the ability of farmers to sell their products, to obtain inputs needed for production, and ultimately, the profits of enterprises that are already operating on very thin margins. In 2022, 18,297 (59.7 percent) producers in New York reported net operating losses, even while the economy was rebounding rapidly.<sup>26</sup> As the USDA has noted, nationally, small family farms are more likely to have financial vulnerability.<sup>27</sup> One economic analysis notes that “farm financial stress is severe and persistent” and is being amplified by trade losses.<sup>28</sup>

In 2022, the market value of all agricultural products sold by New York farms was \$8.0 billion, with the greatest sales in milk from cows. Reciprocal tariffs and other related trade responses are limiting foreign markets for farmers. According to a report from Governor Hochul, New York dairy exports declined by as much as 12 percent in the first half of 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.<sup>29</sup> Dairy is just one product being affected. In the first eight months of 2025, China had purchased just 218 million bushels of soybeans from the U.S., whereas in the prior year China purchased a total of 985 million bushels.<sup>30</sup> According to the American Soybean Association, China purchased 54 percent of U.S. soybean exports, in market year 2023-24.<sup>31</sup>

**Figure 3**  
**Top Farm Commodities in New York by Sales, 2022**

<b>\$3,873,412</b> Milk from Cows	<b>\$954,463</b> Grains, Oilseeds, Dry Beans, Dry Peas	<b>\$721,391</b> Fruits, Tree Nuts, Berries	<b>\$538,089</b> Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, Sod	<b>\$500,049</b> Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes
<b>\$493,222</b> Cattle and Calves	<b>\$409,523</b> Other Crops and Hay	<b>\$356,099</b> Poultry and Eggs	<b>\$76,366</b> Horses, Ponies, Mules, Burros, Donkeys	<b>\$31,700</b> Other Animals and Animal Products

Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture

In New York, total farm production expenses were \$6.2 billion, with the greatest expenses including hired farm labor and feed. In 2022, New York farmers spent \$1.2 billion on feed and \$347.8 million on fertilizer, lime and soil conditioners.<sup>32</sup> Tariffs imposed on imported fertilizers, steel and farm equipment parts are increasing these costs.<sup>33</sup> In July, the National Corn Growers Association reported that fertilizer prices had increased from the first of the year between 4.7 percent and 37.6 percent, depending on the type of fertilizer.<sup>34</sup> While tariffs on some fertilizers have been recently lowered,<sup>35</sup> there is no guarantee that these will not be increased in the future.

In response to these impacts, the New York State Executive Budget for State Fiscal Year 2027 includes \$30 million for payments to farms of specialty crops, livestock, livestock products or aquaculture products that have been harmed by tariff policies.



---

## Immigration

Farms in New York and across the country rely heavily on immigrant labor due to a lack of local labor to meet workforce needs.<sup>36</sup> While it is difficult to know the exact size of the farm labor force, the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) estimates that the industry employs between 40,000 and 80,000 farm workers every year.<sup>37</sup> Pinpointing the number of immigrants in the agricultural workforce is especially difficult since many are seasonal and may not be easily surveyed,<sup>38</sup> or are workers that are undocumented.<sup>39</sup>

According to the USDA, in 2022 56,678 hired workers worked on New York State farms—although this estimate did not include contract workers, or those who work for third parties who contract with farmers to provide labor. This number is a decrease from 2012, when farms reported 60,944 hired laborers, but a slight increase from the 55,636 hired laborers working in 2017.

Some of these workers are hired under a temporary agricultural work visa, the H-2A visa, established in 1986 for temporary immigrant farm labor.<sup>40</sup> Data from NYSDOL show that New York farms have increased their reliance on workers entering the country on the H-2A visa, with the number of such workers increasing steadily from around 3,500 in 2012 to 9,919 in 2023.<sup>41</sup> The H-2A visa is tied to a particular farm that must establish that there is insufficient domestic labor available to address farm needs. The visa duration is typically for a growing season and though it may be extended incrementally, it cannot be extended for more than 3 years, making the program unsuitable for farms that require permanent year-round labor, such as meat or dairy farms.<sup>42</sup>

In addition to these workers, farms are highly reliant on undocumented labor. According to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball, approximately half of New York's farm labor force was undocumented in 2018.<sup>43</sup> These workers plant and harvest crops, milk animals, and play an important role in producing the food that makes its way to grocery shelves and farmers markets. Recent immigration enforcement activity undertaken by the current administration has caused concern for New York farmers, particularly those in the dairy industry.<sup>44</sup>

The widespread threat of a reduced immigrant labor pool to the agriculture sector and, in turn, to food supply has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The USDOL sets minimum hourly wage rates for H-2A workers. USDOL recently published an interim final rule in the Federal Register implementing changes to the calculation of these wages to address what it characterizes as risk resulting from a shortage of farmworkers due to policy and funding changes and the Trump Administration's immigration enforcement activity.<sup>45</sup> In their filing, the USDOL states, "The near total cessation of the inflow of illegal aliens combined with the lack of an available legal workforce, results in significant disruptions to production costs and threatening the stability of domestic food production and prices for U.S consumers." The filing concludes that there is "ample data" of imminent threats to the U.S. food supply.<sup>46</sup>

# Conclusion

---

The changes in federal agricultural support programs, the impact of tariffs on production inputs and markets for U.S. agricultural commodities, and the widespread effort to detain and deport immigrants, who make up a significant portion of the agricultural workforce, have created uncertainty in the agricultural community, and may ultimately hinder profitability and production on some farms, which would have implications for the supply and prices of food for New Yorkers, and more broadly, for rural economies.

If farmers are not confident that programs will continue, or funds continue to be rescinded after grants have been awarded, they may be reluctant to apply for future federal programs, potentially resulting in a reduction in investment in agriculture. Uncertainty in the relationship with U.S. agricultural trading partners makes it difficult for farmers to make informed crop planning decisions for future growing seasons, while the loss of farm employees at crucial points in the growing season, or in the case of dairy farms, at any point in the year, could devastate individual farmers.

# Appendix

---

**Figure 4**  
**USDA Assistance Payments to New York By County, 2024**

County	Total FSA Payments 2024	Rural Development 2024	Conservation Funding 2024	Total Assistance	Share of Farmland
Albany	\$25,490	\$1,010,160	\$0	\$1,035,650	15%
Allegany	\$305,146	\$15,689,428	\$1,132,434	\$17,127,008	18%
Bronx	\$0	\$17,016	\$0	\$17,016	NA
Broome	\$127,797	\$2,188,070	\$332,808	\$2,648,675	16%
Cattaraugus	\$710,485	\$6,580,841	\$782,874	\$8,074,200	19%
Cayuga	\$441,150	\$32,151,287	\$0	\$32,592,437	50%
Chautauqua	\$792,744	\$10,321,768	\$0	\$11,114,512	34%
Chemung	\$131,109	\$3,181,461	\$0	\$3,312,570	23%
Chenango	\$448,126	\$11,303,685	\$80,822	\$11,832,633	26%
Clinton	\$616,264	\$3,065,176	\$794,327	\$4,475,767	23%
Columbia	\$295,140	\$1,930,385	\$793,136	\$3,018,661	20%
Cortland	\$680,563	\$15,892,053	\$0	\$16,572,616	29%
Delaware	\$501,262	\$653,047	\$0	\$1,154,309	14%
Dutchess	\$333,171	\$4,936,775	\$0	\$5,269,946	20%
Erie	\$331,080	\$13,141,780	\$0	\$13,472,860	21%
Essex	\$88,731	\$4,463,616	\$233,803	\$4,786,150	4%
Franklin	\$319,377	\$2,894,261	\$539,209	\$3,752,847	13%
Fulton	\$100,173	\$1,089,280	\$260,000	\$1,449,453	7%
Genesee	\$541,835	\$8,160,084	\$0	\$8,701,919	56%
Greene	\$57,118	\$2,028,691	\$0	\$2,085,809	7%
Hamilton	\$0	\$22,704	\$0	\$22,704	0.2%
Herkimer	\$283,438	\$6,006,590	\$0	\$6,290,028	12%
Jefferson	\$786,105	\$8,588,776	\$344,511	\$9,719,392	31%
Kings	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Lewis	\$199,618	\$5,542,341	\$0	\$5,741,959	19%
Livingston	\$357,834	\$4,476,820	\$0	\$4,834,654	49%
Madison	\$403,584	\$1,350,410	\$1,113,338	\$2,867,332	41%
Monroe	\$993,289	\$7,944,369	\$170,101	\$9,107,759	22%
Montgomery	\$256,978	\$2,686,720	\$576,394	\$3,520,092	44%
Nassau	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.4%
New York	\$2,250	\$500,000	\$0	\$502,250	<0.1%
Niagara	\$148,337	\$2,877,555	\$0	\$3,025,892	36%

County	Total FSA Payments 2024	Rural Development 2024	Conservation Funding 2024	Total Assistance	Share of Farmland
Oneida	\$928,362	\$2,661,610	\$0	\$3,589,972	24%
Onondaga	\$593,411	\$15,505,346	\$0	\$16,098,757	33%
Ontario	\$321,137	\$5,203,134	\$0	\$5,524,271	42%
Orange	\$1,731,151	\$7,675,139	\$519,494	\$9,925,784	13%
Orleans	\$1,256,575	\$11,149,988	\$671,843	\$13,078,406	52%
Oswego	\$64,022	\$16,271,919	\$0	\$16,335,941	14%
Otsego	\$206,795	\$3,067,130	\$1,188,789	\$4,462,714	22%
Putnam	\$0	\$524,073	\$0	\$524,073	3%
Queens	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<0.1%
Rensselaer	\$189,260	\$2,271,566	\$195,751	\$2,656,577	17%
Richmond	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$750	<0.1%
Rockland	\$0	\$8,772	\$0	\$8,772	0.4%
Saratoga	\$986,812	\$20,459,381	\$111,097	\$21,557,290	14%
Schenectady	\$15,848	\$4,590,000	\$0	\$4,605,848	11%
Schoharie	\$143,524	\$742,760	\$847,205	\$1,733,489	27%
Schuyler	\$56,395	\$496,838	\$0	\$553,233	34%
Seneca	\$117,308	\$1,315,212	\$1,215,884	\$2,648,404	50%
St. Lawrence	\$604,984	\$10,701,195	\$685,730	\$11,991,909	17%
Steuben	\$593,868	\$12,561,193	\$49,628	\$13,204,689	41%
Suffolk	\$1,995,499	\$1,231,093	\$0	\$3,226,592	6%
Sullivan	\$133,672	\$4,451,020	\$0	\$4,584,692	9%
Tioga	\$289,598	\$1,852,316	\$0	\$2,141,914	36%
Tompkins	\$183,734	\$3,376,974	\$245,549	\$3,806,257	31%
Ulster	\$241,620	\$6,887,906	\$818,777	\$7,948,303	10%
Warren	\$450	\$5,502,476	\$0	\$5,502,926	1%
Washington	\$281,504	\$3,405,357	\$0	\$3,686,861	36%
Wayne	\$408,095	\$4,855,146	\$1,626,522	\$6,889,763	43%
Westchester	\$9,600	\$0	\$0	\$9,600	2%
Wyoming	\$727,770	\$3,812,540	\$0	\$4,540,310	54%
Yates	\$269,970	\$5,295,251.00	\$166,564	\$5,731,785	54%

Source: USDA

# Endnotes

---

- 1 USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, New York, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 32, AC-22-A-32. Table 1.
- 2 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, “[Regional GDP and Personal Income](#),” then click on “Interactive Data Tables”, click on “Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by State”, and select “SAGDP9 Real GDP by Industry in chained dollars” from the drop down menu, select “New York” in the “Area” table and “Farms,” under “Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting,” in the “Statistic” table, select 2022 in the “Time Period” table. Figures are in chained 2017 dollars.
- 3 Todd Schmit, “The Economic Contributions of Agriculture to the New York State Economy: 2019,” Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. EB 2021-04 (2021)
- 4 USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, New York, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 32, AC-22-A-32..
- 5 \$66.3 million in federal government payments as reported in USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, New York, Table 6, and \$2.3 billion in net cash farm income of operations, as reported in the USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, New York, Table 5.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, United States Summary and State Data, Volume 1. Geographic Area Series, Part, 51, AC-22-A-51. Table Six. For both Federal and State data, this figure includes direct to farmer payments from programs including the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Farmable Wetlands Program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, loan deficiency payments; disaster payments; and other direct payments including Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage payments. Does not include federal crop insurance payments, Commodity Credit Corporation proceeds, or from USDA programs that support agriculture and rural communities but do not make direct payments to farmers. See Appendix B, B-9, 2022 Census of Agriculture)
- 9 USDA Farm Service Agency, Find a Program: [Loans and Financial Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers](#).
- 10 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, [Getting Assistance, Financial Assistance Programs](#).
- 11 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, see descriptions of the [Environmental Quality Incentive Program , Conservation Plans, Design and Implementation Services and Conservation Evaluation and Management Services](#).
- 12 Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator for New York, “Gillibrand Slams Trump’s Massive Cuts to Food Bank Funding,” <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/gillibrand-slams-trumps-massive-cuts-to-food-bank-funding/>, April 2, 2025. See also, Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator for New York, “Senator Gillibrand Demands USDA Reverse \$1 Billion in Cancelled Funding for Local Food Purchases,” <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/senator-gillibrand-demands-usda-reverse-1-billion-in-cancelled-funding-for-local-food-purchases/>. The releases identify cuts in assistance that would otherwise come to New York of approximately \$93 million. However, in September the USDA released a request for applications for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026 from another program, the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program, which will distribute \$18 million in grants for activities to improve access to local foods, (see USDA, FY 2026 Farm to School Grant Program, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/grant/f2s/fy26>).
- 13 United States Department of Agriculture [FY 2025 Budget Summary](#), pages 1-2.
- 14 Text - H.R.5371 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress
- 15 United States Department of Agriculture [FY 2025 Budget Summary](#), page 110. Due to changes in the current administration’s approach to the federal budget process, the FFY 2026 USDA Budget Summary is limited to discretionary spending, so FFY 2024 estimates from the previous year’s budget summary are provided.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 U.S. Congressional Budget Office, “Estimated Budgetary Effects of Public Law 119-21, to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14, Relative to the Budget Enforcement Baseline for Consideration in the Senate.”
- 19 USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 32, 2024, Table 7.

---

20 USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 32, 2024, Table 34.

21 See United States Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Requesters, “Dairy Farmers: USDA Should Assess the Effectiveness of its Communications Regarding Key Program Benefits,” July 2025. The Dairy Margin Coverage Program provides a payment for participating farmers when the difference between national milk prices and feed prices falls below a set threshold. Farmers pay a modest premium to participate.

22 Federal Fiscal Year 2026 USDA funding levels were drawn from the [Joint Explanatory Statement](#) accompanying the November 12, 2025 passage of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Extensions Act, 2026, P.L. 119-37, Comparisons with FY 2025 funding levels were made using the [Senate Committee on Appropriations Report](#) for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, And Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2026, which provides FY 2025 appropriation levels for comparison.

23 Ibid

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid.

26 USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, New York, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 32. 2024. Table 5.

27 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Charts of Note, “[Most Small Family Farms are at High Financial Risk Based on Operating Profit Margin.](#)”

28 American Farm Bureau Federation, Market Intel, “[Farmers Urgently Need Economic Assistance](#),” November 24, 2025.

29 Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Tariff Disruptions Report: Early Analysis of the Impacts of Federal Tariff Actions on New York, New York State, November 7, 2025 [Tariff-Report.pdf](#)

30 Faith Parum, “[Agricultural Trade: China Steps Back from U.S. Soybeans](#),” Market Intel, American Farm Bureau Federation, October 2, 2025.

31 American Soybean Association, “[Soybeans Without a Buyer: The Export Gap Hurting U.S. Farms.](#)”

32 USDA, 2022 Census of Agriculture, New York, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 32. 2024.

33 For instance, one farmer reported cost increases of up to \$300 per day for grain and \$20,000 annually for fertilizer. See Governor Hochul, Tariff Disruptions, November 7, 2025, op. cit.

34 National Corn Growers Association, “[Fertilizer Costs High in the Currency of Corn](#),” July 7, 2025 (accessed November 17, 2025).

35 The White House, Executive Order, “[Modifying the Scope of the Reciprocal Tariff with Respect to Certain Agricultural Products](#),” November 14, 2025.

36 Flynn Adcock, David Anderson and Par Rosson, “[The Economic Impacts of Immigrant Labor on U.S. Dairy Farms](#),” Texas A&M Center for North American Studies, August 2015.

37 New York State Department of Labor, “[New York State Monitor Advocate | Department of Labor](#)” (accessed November 25, 2025).

38 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey counts the number of people employed in agriculture as their main job if they have lived in a surveyed address for at least two months, and respond to the survey. There are concerns about addresses being disproportionately absent from the sample frame in rural areas—sometimes because new housing units in these areas do not have a house number or street name in data the Census Bureau receives from the U.S. Postal Service. See: U.S. Congressional Research Service, Measuring Employment in the Agricultural Sector in the Context of the H-2A Visa Program, January 24, 2025 at <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48368>.

39 USDA Economic Research Service, “Farm Labor: Legal Status and Migration Practices of Hired Crop Farmworkers, Legal Status of Hired Crop Farmworkers,” fiscal 1991-2022 at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-labor#legalstatus>.

40 USDA Economic Research Service, Farm Labor: H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program, positions certified by State, fiscal years 2005-23 at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-labor#h2a>.

---

- 41 New York State Department of Labor, “[Labor Market Information, New York State’s Agricultural Industry, Data Update for the Farm Laborers Wage Board Hearing](#),” January 2022.
- 42 Samantha Ayoub, “[What is the H-2A Program and How it Impacts Agriculture](#),” Market Intel, Farm Bureau, November 15, 2024.
- 43 Marie Eisenstadt, “[ICE Crackdown Meets Reality: Half of NY’s Farm Labor is Here Illegally Official Says](#),” Syracuse Post-Standard, May 2, 2018, accessed August 14, 2025 at [https://www.syracuse.com/news/2018/05/half\\_of\\_new\\_yorks\\_farm\\_labor\\_force\\_is\\_here\\_illegally\\_what\\_happens\\_as\\_ice\\_cracks.html](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2018/05/half_of_new_yorks_farm_labor_force_is_here_illegally_what_happens_as_ice_cracks.html).
- 44 See for example, Jack Arpey, “[N.Y. Farmers Concerned Over Immigration Issues as Trump Navigates Agricultural Workforce](#),” Spectrum News, August 29, 2025, <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/08/29/ny-farmers-concerned-immigration-issues>.
- 45 Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, “[Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States 20 CFR Part 655, RIN 1205-AC24, Interim Final Rule, Request for Comments](#),” Federal Register, October 2, 2025.
- 46 Ibid.

ibe

## Contact

Office of the New York State Comptroller  
110 State Street  
Albany, New York 12236  
(518) 474-4044  
[www.osc.ny.gov](http://www.osc.ny.gov)

Prepared by the Office of Budget and Policy Analysis



FOLLOW US: [osc.ny.gov/subscribe](http://osc.ny.gov/subscribe)