

EW RISINGER

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Week 6

Farmer Support Plan

"American farmers fed by American policy. Not corporate lobbying."

1. The Problem

The average American farmer is 58 years old, farming land increasingly owned by foreign investors and corporate consolidators, competing against subsidized foreign agriculture, with no federal succession plan to transfer agricultural knowledge and land to the next generation before the current generation retires or dies.

2. The Governing Principle

American food is grown by American farmers on American-owned land under American policy — not corporate lobbying. The federal government protects agricultural succession, restricts foreign ownership of farmland, and invests in the beginning farmer pipeline because food security is national security.

3. The Specific Policy

Beginning Farmer Pipeline

- **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program fully funded:** grants to agricultural colleges, extension services, and farming organizations training beginning farmers in financial management, land acquisition, crop planning, and modern agricultural techniques. Target: 50,000 new beginning farmers enrolled in structured development programs by end of Year 2.
- **Federal land lease program for beginning farmers:** BLM and USDA-managed agricultural land leased at below-market rates to qualifying beginning farmers under 5-year renewable leases with a purchase option after year 3. Priority for veterans, first-generation farmers, and farmers from underrepresented communities. Coordinates with Week 19 prison agriculture program — a released prisoner who learned farming in a federal program has access to the same beginning farmer loan and land lease programs as any other qualifying beginning farmer.
- **Agricultural succession planning tax incentives:** farmers who transfer land to beginning farmers through documented succession plans receive capital gains tax deferral for the transfer. Farmers who donate conservation easements receive enhanced deductions. The tax barrier to family farm succession is reduced deliberately.
- **Young farmer loan program — USDA Farm Service Agency expansion:** below-market interest rate loans for beginning farmers purchasing their first farm operation or major equipment. Priority

processing — decisions within 60 days. Beginning farmers should not wait 8 months for a loan decision while the land they want to buy sells to a corporate investor who can close in cash.

Foreign Ownership Restrictions

- **Restrict foreign adversary ownership of U.S. agricultural land:** China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea-linked entities are prohibited from acquiring U.S. agricultural land under IEEPA authority. Existing holdings above a defined threshold must divest within 5 years. CFIUS jurisdiction extended to cover all agricultural land acquisitions above 100 acres by any foreign entity regardless of country.
- **USDA agricultural land ownership registry:** mandatory federal registry of all agricultural land ownership above 10 acres, updated annually, publicly searchable. Foreign ownership is made visible and accountable.

Market Fairness

- **GIPSA enforcement restored — active antitrust investigation of Big Four beef processors:** four companies control 82% of U.S. beef processing. That concentration is not a market outcome — it is the result of regulatory non-enforcement over decades. DOJ and USDA GIPSA jointly investigate whether current concentration violates the Packers and Stockyards Act. Coordinates with Week 20 Federal Office for Food Processing Security.
- **Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) restored and strengthened:** mandatory COOL on all beef, pork, chicken, and lamb sold in the United States. The WTO ruled against COOL in 2015 — Week 7 WTO withdrawal removes that constraint. American consumers have the right to know where their food was raised. The label must be accurate and enforcement is real.
- **Crop insurance reform — eliminate subsidies for absentee corporate landowners:** federal crop insurance subsidies are available to farmers who actively operate the land. Absentee corporate landowners who rent land to tenant farmers are not eligible for subsidized crop insurance. The subsidy exists to protect the farmer, not the investor.

4. Estimated Cost

Beginning farmer development programs: approximately \$2 billion per year. Federal land lease administration: \$500 million per year. GIPSA enforcement expansion: \$300 million per year. COOL implementation: \$200 million per year. Total: approximately \$3 billion per year. Offset by crop insurance reform savings estimated at \$2-4 billion per year from eliminating absentee corporate subsidies.

5. Year 1 Implementation and Measurable Result

Year 1 measurable result: 25,000 beginning farmers enrolled in federally supported development programs; USDA agricultural land ownership registry operational and publicly searchable; CFIUS agricultural jurisdiction extended by executive order within 90 days; GIPSA active investigation of beef processing concentration initiated within 60 days; COOL restoration rule published within 90 days.