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MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS

OVERVIEW SUMMARY

Major federal programs affecting North Dakota farm income during 2026 include:

- Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program;
- Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF);
- Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP);
- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC);
- Price Loss Coverage (PLC); and
- Conservation programs.

The application periods for FBA and ASCF and the ARC/PLC base-acre review have closed. The SDRP application deadline is September 30, 2026. The FBA and ASCF programs provided temporary assistance, SDRP provides disaster assistance, and changes to ARC and PLC are expected to affect future farm income through increased benefits and additional eligible base acres.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law on July 4, 2025, made several changes to federal commodity, crop insurance, and conservation programs. The major changes include increased ARC and PLC benefits, additional base acres, higher payment limits, and enhanced crop insurance assistance. Most ARC and PLC changes apply beginning with the 2025 crop year; however, payments for the 2025 crop year generally may not be issued until after October 1, 2026. The additional base acres apply beginning with the 2026 crop year. The FBA and ASCF programs provided temporary assistance to producers while they awaited potential payments under the enhanced farm safety-net programs. Major agricultural provisions of the OBBBA include:

- **Higher ARC/PLC reference prices.** Statutory reference prices for covered commodities increased by approximately 10 to 21 percent. For commodities important to North Dakota, the reference prices increased as follows:

  Wheat: $5.50 to $6.35 per bushel;

  Soybeans: $8.40 to $10 per bushel;

  Corn: $3.70 to $4.10 per bushel;

  Dry peas: $11 to $13.10 per hundredweight;

  Lentils: $19.97 to $23.75 per hundredweight; and

  Other oilseeds: $20.15 to $23.75 per hundredweight.

  Other oilseeds include canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, and sunflower seed. These increases raise the level of price or revenue protection provided through the ARC and PLC programs.

- **Additional ARC/PLC base acres.** The Act authorizes up to 30 million additional base acres nationwide beginning with the 2026 crop year, expanding the acreage potentially eligible for future ARC or PLC payments.
- **Higher ARC protection.** The ARC revenue guarantee increased from 86 to 90 percent of benchmark revenue, and the maximum ARC payment rate increased from 10 to 12 percent of benchmark revenue.
- **Higher payment limits.** The combined ARC/PLC payment limitation increased from $125,000 to $155,000 per person or legal entity and is subject to future inflation adjustments.
- **Crop insurance enhancements.** Beginning with the 2026 crop year, the Act increases federal premium support for certain crop insurance coverage and expands enhanced benefits for beginning farmers and ranchers from the first 5 years to the first 10 years of farming.
- **Conservation funding.** The Act increased mandatory funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program. It provides approximately $33.4 billion for these four programs nationally from fiscal years 2026 through 2031.

More information is available at*: One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.

FARMER BRIDGE ASSISTANCE

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided $11 billion through one-time bridge payments to American farmers. These payments provided a bridge until benefits of the OBBBA are available. These bridge payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act. Payments are based on acreage, not production, and are calculated using a flat payment rate for the eligible commodity multiplied by eligible acres. Applications were due between February 23 and April 17, 2026.

Payment rates for major North Dakota commodities include $39.35 per acre for wheat, $30.88 for soybeans, $23.57 for canola, $23.98 for lentils, $17.32 for sunflowers, $19.60 for dry peas, and $44.36 for corn.

Eligibility

Eligible commodities include barley, chickpeas, corn, cotton, lentils, oats, peanuts, peas, rice, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, canola, crambe, flax, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, and sunflower.

All intended uses for FBA eligible commodities are eligible, excluding grazing, experimental, green manure, left standing, or cover crops.

To qualify, producers were required to:

1. Be actively engaged in farming.
2. Have risk and interest in the eligible planted commodity.
3. Report eligible acres for the 2025 crop year by December 19, 2025.

As of September 7, 2026, approximately $709.1 million in FBA payments had been distributed to North Dakota producers through 16,501 approved applications.

More information is available at: *Farmer Bridge Assistance Program - USDA Website*.

ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROP FARMERS

The United States Department of Agriculture's FSA made $1.625 billion available nationally for one-time bridge payments to producers of specialty crops not covered by the FBA Program, including certain fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops. Payments were based on eligible acres reported for

the 2025 crop year. Eligible producers were required to be United States citizens or resident aliens and to have reported eligible acres by April 24, 2026. Applications were due between June 1 and August 7, 2026.

More information is available at: *ASCF - USDA Website*.

AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE AND PRICE LOSS COVERAGE

Aiming to protect farmers from significant loss due to fluctuations in crop prices and revenue shortfalls, the FSA administers the ARC and PLC programs. The ARC Program provides payments to agricultural producers when the actual revenue for a farm is less than a guarantee set based on historical data and market conditions. The PLC Program provides payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

The OBBBA authorized up to 30 million additional base acres to be added to farms nationwide. The base acre allocation is in preparation for enrollment in the ARC and PLC programs for 2026 and future crop years.

The USDA data indicates North Dakota farms enrolled approximately 20.6 million base acres in ARC and PLC for the 2025 crop year. This included approximately 9.4 million wheat base acres, 4 million soybean base acres, 3 million corn base acres, 1.3 million canola base acres, and 1.2 million barley base acres. North Dakota's share of the additional base acres for the 2026 crop year has not yet been published.

Between June 1 and August 31, 2026, eligible landowners had the opportunity to review their base-acre allocation summaries and make any necessary changes before enrollment in the ARC and PLC programs. The enrollment period is yet to be announced.

Eligibility

Eligible participants include agricultural producers who have an interest in a commodity grown on a farm with base acres.

Covered commodities include wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, long grain rice, medium/short grain rice, temperate japonica rice, seed cotton, dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas, soybeans, peanuts, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, crambe, and sesame seed.

More information is available at: *ARC/PLC - USDA Website* and *ARC/PLC Program Data*.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM

The American Relief Act, 2025, provides more than $16 billion in disaster relief assistance to agricultural producers who suffered eligible crop, tree, bush, or vine losses resulting from qualifying natural disasters occurring in 2023 or 2024. Stage 1 provides supplemental assistance for eligible losses that resulted in a federal crop insurance indemnity or a payment under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Stage 2 provides assistance for certain losses that did not result in an indemnity or payment, uninsured losses, and quality losses. The application deadline is September 30, 2026.

As of September 10, 2026, approximately $667.9 million in SDRP Stage 1 payments had been distributed to North Dakota producers, accounting for approximately 4.9 percent of the $13.6 billion distributed nationally. The total includes additional payments resulting from the USDA increasing the Stage 1 payment factor from 35 to 70 percent.

More information is available at: *Disaster Relief - USDA Website*.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Federal conservation programs provide financial assistance or annual payments to participating North Dakota agricultural producers and landowners. The EQIP shares the cost of installing eligible conservation practices, while CSP provides payments for maintaining and improving conservation activities on agricultural land. The ACEP provides financial assistance for agricultural land and wetland easements.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), administered by FSA, provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to producers who remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production under contracts generally lasting 10 to 15 years. Unlike EQIP, CSP, and ACEP, CRP was not included in the major conservation funding increases provided by OBBBA. As of June 2026, approximately 1.2 million North Dakota acres on 9,138 farms were enrolled in CRP through 18,338 contracts, with approximately $74.1 million in annual rental payments scheduled for October 2026.

In fiscal year 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service reported approximately $42.7 million in EQIP allocations for 355 contracts covering approximately 207,000 acres in North Dakota. The agency also reported approximately $34 million in CSP allocations for 173 contracts covering approximately 509,000 acres. In addition, approximately $1.4 million was obligated for seven wetland reserve easements covering approximately 971 acres under ACEP.

Applications for EQIP, CSP, and ACEP generally may be submitted throughout the year; however, applications must be submitted by announced ranking dates to be considered during a particular funding cycle.

More information is available at: *Conservation Programs*, *Conservation Reserve Program*, *CRP June Summary*, and *ND Annual Report*.