



**AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.
STRONGER TOGETHER.**

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership in support of American agriculture. During this challenging time of crisis for farmers in rural America, we are optimistic that Congress and your Administration will provide necessary relief to producers, including those who grow specialty crops.

Although our growers are experiencing similar economic challenges to those confronting row crops, American specialty crops are different. During your first Administration, you created a program that addressed those differences and made economic relief from USDA finally workable for the family farms that produce our nation's specialty crops. We need your program to be put in place once again to deliver assistance to specialty crop growers across the United States.

Specialty crops account for a significant percentage of crop value in the United States and are a key part of your Administration's strategy to Make America Healthy Again. The family farms that produce specialty crops are located in rural communities across a diverse range of states – including significant production in Florida, California, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, and Idaho. Our growers produce the safe, nutritious fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts that more Americans should be consuming, as well as cultivate the trees, flowers and plants that play a vital role in the nation's health and wellbeing.

Specialty crop growers continue to confront a host of unprecedented challenges. Rising input costs, overly burdensome regulations, limited access to labor, unfair trade practices by foreign countries, and natural disasters ranging from flood to drought have all impeded the global competitiveness of our growers. We greatly appreciate the steps your Administration is taking to fix each of these longstanding problems. However, it will take time for those efforts to bear fruit. In the meantime, our growers need a lifeline to stay afloat, and nothing short of the survival of our domestic industry is at stake.

The term "specialty crop" refers to a broad category of crops that includes hundreds of separate commodities, each with their own unique growing seasons, markets, and ways of doing business. It includes a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and landscape plants that are

grown in all 50 states. Because each specialty crop can be different than the other, it is extremely difficult and costly for USDA to collect accurate data for all of them or design a workable system for compensating our growers in times of need. Therefore, it is vital that any program designed to provide economic assistance to specialty crops should be uniquely tailored for our growers. It should also be designed to not overly burden the hardworking men and women at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with a blizzard of paperwork and red tape that would only delay getting assistance into the hands of growers who desperately need it. Since the family farms that grow specialty crops do not participate in commodity programs, most of our growers do not have established relationships with FSA, which administers traditional safety net programs for row crops along with most ad hoc economic assistance programs.

The good news is that during your first term, your Administration saw these challenges and created USDA's CFAP-2 program, which reformed economic relief for specialty crop growers. Its commonsense approach became the model for how to quickly, effectively, and responsibly deliver economic aid to specialty crop growers ever since. It was designed to compensate only those growers who could demonstrate a decline in revenue during a specified period of time and do so under penalty of perjury and subject to audit – just like every individual and business does each year when they file their tax returns with the IRS.

To ensure that we continue to have a safe and abundant supply of the fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and landscape plants grown here in the United States, we ask that you provide emergency economic assistance uniquely tailored to the needs of specialty crop growers at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Burns

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CEO, International Fresh Produce
Association

Dave Puglia

Co-Chair, Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
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Cc: The Honorable Brooke Rollins
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