



## **Legislative Review, Issue #1 – for the Week Ending March 7, 2025**

### ***Federal***

**Rollins Delivers Remarks** ([Morning Ag Clips, March 4, 2025](#)). March 4<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Rollins addressed local leaders at the National Association of Counties sharing updates on the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the work ahead. She shared...

- On the USDA itself, “We are returning the Department of Agriculture to its core mission of supporting farmers and ranchers. I am proud to work with the Department of Government Efficiency to streamline inefficiencies across the Department... At the same time, I understand that this review process has caused concern among some of your farmers who participate in longstanding USDA farm programs. In many instances, they had no way of knowing whether these programs were funded through the farm bill... We are working to review these programs as quickly as possible.”
- On the Farm Bill, “I am also committed to working with Congress to get a new farm bill across the finish line this year. We have a terrific team of members in the House and Senate leading those efforts, and I stand ready to assist them. Together, we can avoid punting a full five-year farm bill for a third time and instead provide farmers the certainty they need to plan for the future.”
- On tax reform, “As President Trump works with Congress to extend and perhaps even expand tax cuts, I will work alongside him to repeal the death tax to continue the proud legacy of family farms. I also welcome your suggestions to encourage businesses to move production out of foreign nations and back to small towns across America.”

**President Addresses Joint Session of Congress** ([Politico, March 5, 2025](#) and [Time, March 5, 2025](#)). On Tuesday night, President Trump addressed a joint session of Congress, his first meeting since moving back into the White House. Highlights include...

- Confirming that new reciprocal tariffs on goods imported from a wide range of countries will be introduced on April 2, 2025. Trump also acknowledged his protectionism may create “a little disturbance” within the U.S. economy but added: “We’re okay with that. It won’t be much.”
- On the food supply, Trump shared, “Our goal is to get toxins out of our environment, poisons out of our food supply, and keep our children healthy and strong.”
- On U.S. farmers, “Our new trade policy will also be great for the American farmer. I love the farmer, who will now be selling into our home market, the USA, because nobody is gonna be able to compete with you...The tariffs will go on agricultural product coming into America and our farmers starting on April 2nd—it may be a little bit of an adjustment period. We had that before when I made the deal with China. \$50B of purchases. And I said, ‘Just bear with me.’ And they did. They did.”

**Other tariff news** Additional tariff news from Washington...

- “President Trump on Thursday suspended for one month the 25% tariffs he placed on Mexican and Canadian products earlier this week (Wall Street Journal, March 7, [Big Chunk of North American Trade Remains Exposed to Tariffs - WSJ](#)). But there is a catch: The deal only applies to goods that had been traded duty-free under a 2020 North American trade agreement.”
- Secretary Rollins on tariffs ([Politico Weekly Agriculture Feed, March 3, 2025](#)). Speaking to producers and industry groups at the Commodity Classic in Colorado yesterday (Sunday, March 2), “Rollins promised to support farmers in the face of tariffs. Rollins has said she’ll bail out farmers who are targets for any retaliation as a result of Trump’s tariff threats.”

#### **Additional Agriculture News** ([Politico Weekly Agriculture Feed, March 3, 2025](#))

- Regarding funding freezes, “Rollins told farmers she would release funds under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, acknowledging farmers’ worries about the major federal spending freeze.”
- On the Bird Flu, the USDA is working to rehire staff that handle bird flu response. Last week, Rollins also shared plans on bird flu outbreak response. However, some egg producers and lobbying groups want the USDA to work harder on a poultry vaccine response.
- New program. “USDA will launch the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program, a new program releasing \$31B in economic and disaster aid allocated by Congress. “Rollins said they’re on track to roll out the \$10B in economic aid to farmers in coming weeks and are focusing on streamlining applications for producers to receive disaster relief dollars.”
- Reps. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) and Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.) have rejoined the House Ag Committee

#### **Federal Budget News** ([Politico Weekly Agriculture Feed, March 3, 2025](#))

- Now that both chambers have passed budget resolutions, efforts turn to exactly how much can be cut from agriculture spending. The House’s plan would require the Agriculture Committee to find \$230B in savings, which is expected to come largely from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Senate budget plan set a floor of \$1B in cuts from Agriculture
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## **State**

When the Governor signs something into law, we will note it in this section.

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## **Upcoming Events on the OFSA Team’s Schedule**

- Wednesday, March 19: *School Meals/Summer EBT Outreach, Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill, 10am-2pm*
- Wednesday, March 26 *School Meals Outreach/Summer EBT Outreach, Pennsville (TBA), 10am-2pm*

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## ***Resources from OFSA***

**Public Data Catalog:** offers searchable datasets relevant to food security for research, grant writing, and more.

**Data Chart Book:** provides county-level insights on meal costs, housing burdens, and other key data points

You can find these and additional resources on the [OFSA website here](#).

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## ***About the New Jersey Office of Food Security Advocate***

*The NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) is providing this content as an informational resource for those who are following proposed changes and other actions with the potential to impact food and nutrition programs and policies directly, or to indirectly impact everyday food security for individuals and families.*

*OFSA serves all New Jerseyans. OFSA will not recommend or endorse any advocacy actions, nor will OFSA support or oppose any legislation. Similarly, OFSA does not comment on legislation. It is up to each organization, coalition, neighborhood, community and industry/sector and their partners to determine what, if any, actions or positions to take.*

*OFSA openly acknowledges the sources presented are not an exhaustive list or a full representation of perspectives on the topic. It is vital to consider this compilation not in a vacuum, but together with your existing practices and preferences for following news and legislative updates.*

*A copy of this and future compilations will be made available on the OFSA website [here](#). Please allow a few days' time for the OFSA website to be updated.*