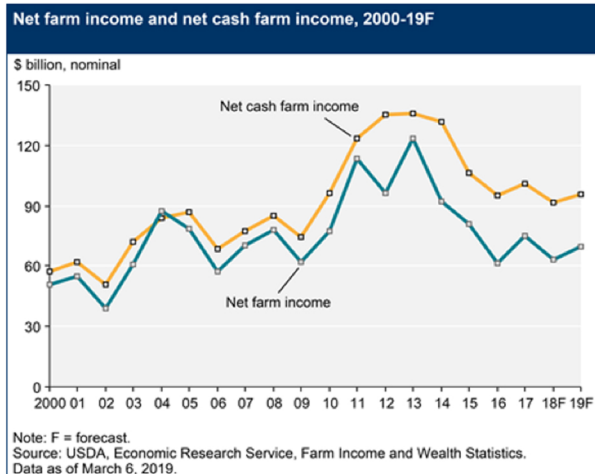


TRUMP POLICIES DRIVE STEEP FARM INCOME DECLINE

The first quarter of 2019 confirmed the severe damage across Iowa and other rural states caused by President Trump's broken promises. US Farm income declined by \$11.8 billion, the lowest it's been in years.



Trump's policies are so damaging for the US agricultural sector that six US Department of Agriculture (USDA) economists quit in late April after being penalized for publishing the impact of policy on the farm economy and for frustration with political interference of research. The Economic Research Service (ERS) reports show that since 2013, farm income has declined approximately 50 percent and continues to slump under Trump's watch.

Producers face enough risk to provide a stable supply of food, fiber and fuel to the nation. Damaging policies exacerbate the costs, especially when Mother Nature strikes. March flooding cost the state of Nebraska \$1.4 billion in damages and cost state of Iowa \$2 billion. As severe weather continues across the plains during the Spring planting season producers need policies that support stable marketplaces.

TRUMP TRADE WAR DEVASTATES PRODUCERS

President Trump's policies have been hurting farmers across the United States. The trade war he started in 2018 is taking a devastating swipe at the years spent cultivating relationships abroad to expand our export markets.

Over the last year, Trump promised farmers a \$12 billion aid package to make up for the export losses. No aid package can replace market access, and the package provided amounted to pennies on the dollar per farmer. On top of it all, Trump's aid packages benefit foreign ag interests instead prioritizing family farmers struggling to bounce back.

Iowa State University researchers estimate Iowa lost \$2 billion in economic activity, mostly in pork and corn, thanks to the 2018 tariffs. Since 2016 exports to China are down \$12 billion – a 52% loss and soybeans alone are down \$9 billion – a 75% loss.

Effective May 10, 2019, via Twitter, the US has placed a 25% tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, leading us inevitably to more losses, more instability, a \$16 billion aid package, and vanishing markets for American goods. Trump's 2019 trade tweets drove the S&P 500 down by almost 2 percent. Stocks fell for John Deere, Caterpillar and Boeing by 2.3 percent, 1.5 percent and 4 percent.

TRUMP TRADES RURAL ECONOMY FOR BIG OIL FAVORS

The Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) has provided a stable marketplace to producers for years. Trump campaigned on 100 percent support for ethanol, promising to expand on the success of biofuels. Yet, today his administration has waived 2.6 billion gallons from RFS blending requirements.

As farmers face the repercussion of Trump's trade wars, they also suffer the backlash of a fuel market dominated by oil and gas companies who continue to call in favors. Small refinery exemptions (SREs) are meant for companies that face undue hardship meeting biofuel blending requirements. However, not a single company, regardless of size, has been denied by the Trump administration. Exxon and Chevron – with tens of billions in profits – are among them.

Just five of Trump's waivers drove down corn demand by 900 million bushels, costing farmers up to 40 cents a bushel. This abuse is threatening good jobs and biomanufacturing. That's a massive trade-off to help oil companies, some of whom rake in \$20 billion in profits each year.

The RFS was implemented to give biofuels access to the market and, with emissions 43 percent lower than gas, the promise of a greener future. Instead of utilizing the RFS, Trump's waivers pile on the pain and further hurt income, value added agriculture, and jobs across the Midwest.

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