

NOFA · NJ

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An Unfortunate Reminder

Yet again, farmers throughout the country head into the growing season with the rug pulled out from under them as the [current administration shreds more funding and support for local food.](#)


In the end, it's not just producers that lose funding. Nonprofits are destabilized, state and federal resources become scarce, and hard-working humans lose their jobs along with their passion for the work in a field less stable (and less lucrative) than most, yet so vital to our daily lives.


Every eater, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, will pay more for food and will be less food-secure, while the conservation and stewardship of our natural resources suffer.

This is all a not-so-welcome reminder that community is the only thing we can count on. Invest in your community. Join a CSA, shop local, [become a Member](#) and contribute to the organizations doing the necessary work that this administration considers wasteful and frivolous. **Your support does indeed make a difference!**

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Food Policy Tracker
Presented by CIVIL EATS

Trump Budget Request Cuts Nearly \$5 Billion From USDA

The White House suggests cuts to agricultural marketing and focusing spending on the agency's reorganization plan, as well as food-specific cuts to numerous other agencies.

BY REBEKAH ALVEY • APRIL 3, 2025

April 3, 2026 - The White House has proposed a 19 percent cut in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget for the upcoming fiscal year, with an increase in spending for the agency's reorganization efforts.

President Donald Trump sent his fiscal year 2027 budget request to Congress on Friday. In theory, the request will serve as the basis for Congressional appropriations. But during last year's process, Congress broke with the White House in several areas, including agriculture conservation funding.

Friday's request calls USDA a "bloated" bureaucracy with programs that are "irrelevant to supporting an America First agricultural policy." In total, it requests \$20.8 billion in discretionary budget authority for 2027, a \$4.9 billion decrease from the 2026 congressionally enacted levels.

The biggest investment in the USDA included in the request is \$50 million for the agency's **reorganization** plan. A key part of the plan involves moving USDA employees out of Washington, D.C., to regional hubs across the country. While the administration argues this will better reach rural communities and farmers, much of the **feedback** to the plan has focused on concerns it will result in further staffing cuts.

Many of the programs suggested for cuts were also included in last year's budget request. The latest proposal suggests **cutting \$240 million** from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program, a foreign aid program. Under the State Department section of the budget request, it asks for \$1.2 billion in **cuts to Food for Peace**, another foreign food aid program.

Members of Congress from farm country have fought to **preserve** funding for these programs, which provide a market for excess commodities.

The budget request also includes \$50 million in cuts to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Formula Grants, \$92 million from the Rural Business Service, and \$659 million from Community Facilities Grant Earmarks.


The White House budget asks Congress to cut funding for the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) by \$61 million, which houses the National Organic Program and other initiatives to boost markets for commodities and specialty crops.

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04/22 - NOFA NJ Annual Meeting (Hybrid)

Join NOFA NJ via Zoom (or in-person, see below) as we stream live from Ironbound Farm in Asbury, NJ!

NOFA NJ Staff & Board will provide an overview of the organization's primary 2026 activities and events along with an introduction to new team members. Then, we'll be joined by Charles Rosen (Ironbound Farm) and Michael Schwartz (Organic Food Incubator) to highlight our collaborative value-added processing project and how Members can benefit. Finally, we'll enjoy a policy update with Cali Alexander (Policy Committee Chair), Melanie Ganzman (NOFA NJ Board President) and Jeanine Cava (NJ Food Democracy Collaborative), with time for general Q&A and member engagement to follow.

Just 15 tickets are available for a handful of dedicated NOFA NJ supporters; each ticket includes food and cider from Ironbound Farm along with plenty of time to mix and mingle with the NOFA NJ Board/Staff and partners from Ironbound and Organic Food Incubator.

[More Info](#)

04/29 - Monthly Organic Open House

On the last Wednesday of each month from 9:00-10:00 AM, we provide a platform for farmers and community members to connect, share knowledge, and discuss relevant topics in organic farming. No registration needed - join us on Zoom!

[More Info](#)

05/02 - Third Annual *MushroomFest!*

Whether you're an advanced mycologist or an entry-level mushroom enthusiast, our network of mushroom professionals are eager to share their knowledge in a day dedicated to FUN(gus)! It's like an educational bar-crawl through downtown Asbury Park, with various local businesses serving as classrooms

throughout the day. This year, sessions include Foraging and Taxonomy 101, Make Your Own Grow Kit, Culinary Experiences, Why Local, Therapeutic Practice & Policy, and 2x special guest lectures on Truffles in the Northeast from William Padilla-Brown! We'll close out the day with complimentary snacks and a screening of his documentary, ORGANIC NOBILITY!



[More Info](#)

05/06 - Monthly Technical Assistance Open Hour

Join NOFA NJ's Technical Assistance Staff on the first Wednesday of each month at 9AM via Zoom for a deep dive into seasonally-appropriate topics. As always, you can email specific support requests ahead of time to TA@nofanj.org.

[More Info](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS

4/19 - Don't Fear the River Brewery Trolley Tour

The Brewers Guild of New Jersey and Rabbit Hill Malt want to take you on a journey across the river for a South Jersey Brewery Tour! Each tour will give you a chance to explore our neighboring breweries before Monday's shenanigans begin. Each ticket includes transportation, beers, a New Jersey staple Pork Roll Egg & Cheese, a swag bag from our friends at Visit South Jersey.

[More Info](#)

4/23 - NJ Audubon Conservation Fair

Attend this conservation Planning Fair happening for North Jersey residents on April 23 at the Hackettstown Free library from 12-3pm. Participating technical service

[More Info](#)

5/3 - Cherry Grove Farm *Milk Fest*

Join this celebration of fresh NJ dairy and artisanal cheeses with product sampling, hands-on activities, fun for kids, and much more!

[More Info](#)

2026 Good Food Bucks Application

Any and all New Jersey Farmers, Farmers Markets, Farm Stands, Mobile Produce Markets, or CSA programs are invited to apply for City Green's Good Food Bucks program! Join a network of 60+ NJ farm and market locations who are working to make healthy, farm-fresh food more affordable for NJ residents who use SNAP

[More Info](#)

Rutgers NJAES Soil Testing Recommendations

General guidelines to help translate soil test reports into organic-compliant recommendations for certified farmers

[More Info](#)

Advancing Eco Ag Nitrogen Mgmt. Webinar

In this webinar for the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition, John Kempf discusses a paradigm shift in nitrogen and outlines how moving away from high-electrolyte "chemistry" fertilizers toward biological nutrition can build crop resilience and significantly reduce input costs.

[More Info](#)

Penn State Extension *Flock Talks* Webinar Series

This three-part installment of the Flock Talks series focuses on egg production and quality. This program begins with the fundamentals of raising and managing laying hens, including breed selection, housing, feed, nest box management, and best practices for egg collection, storage, and washing. Participants will then explore what egg quality is, why it matters, and how feed and water influence outcomes. The final session examines additional

[More Info](#)

to help improve egg quality and overall flock performance.

📌 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Chamarel Farms

Farm Manager

Orchard Hill Farms

PT Livestock Manager

Closter Farm & Livestock Co.

Market Staff

Pasture Prime Farm

Farm Manager

City Green

Farm Crew Member

Carversville Farm
Foundation

Seasonal Livestock Farmer

Cherry Grove Farm

Assistant Cheesemaker

Chickadee Creek Farm

Field Crew

Rutgers Gardens

Seasonal Field Crew Lead

CROPS NJ

Programming Facilitator

CROPS NJ

Operations Manager

📌 GRANTS & FUNDING

Grants & Funding updates will now be restricted to the Members-Only email each week - [become a Member today](#) to receive this and many other benefits!

MARKET CONNECTIONS

NOFA NJ Members are encouraged to share listings of product sought, product to sell, equipment for sale and more - email nofainfo@nofanj.org!

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership

The Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership is an educational project affiliated with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, a 501(c)3 Charitable Non-Profit Organization. Our efforts to educate and build a region-wide commitment to helping to keep the northeast's organic family farmers financially supported and viable

Sometimes, it takes a crisis to wake us up that something needs to be done. Stonyfield co-founder and former long-time CE-Yo Gary Hirshberg came up with an idea for a region-wide partnership between consumers, large and small dairy processors, retailers, restaurants, school lunch programs, college cafeterias, and of course, our region's hard-working organic family farmers. The idea is to enlist tens of thousands of northeast consumers, and retail and institutional customers, in a partnership that will provide stable, long-term demand for products made with the milk produced in our region's organic family farms. Protect and ensure their future by joining as a partner in this effort today.



Thank You For Supporting
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