THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN FARMER 2026

Executive Summary

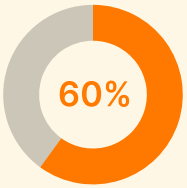
American agriculture is facing one of its most challenging periods in a generation. Economic pressures and activist campaigns against modern agriculture have created conditions where even the most resilient operations are feeling strain. These pressures extend well beyond the farm gate, driving price instability across the economy for the food, fuel, and fiber that depend on agricultural production.

In its 2026 State of the American Farmer report, the Modern Ag Alliance draws on the history of innovation, economic data, surveys, farmer testimonials, and policy analysis to provide a comprehensive picture of where American agriculture stands today and how protecting farmers' tools will help secure our future.

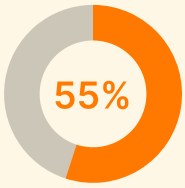
Farmers Face Mounting Economic Pressure

- **Profitability:** Only about half of farmers expected to be profitable in the past year.
- **Commodity prices:** Key crops have seen price declines as high as **58%** since 2022.
- **Production costs:** More than half of farmers report cost increases in several key inputs, as labor and tariff-related expenses continue to climb.
- **Bankruptcies:** Farmer bankruptcies have seen a **60%** year-over-year increase, surpassing 2024 totals by mid-2025.

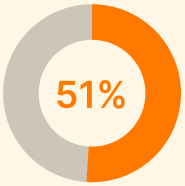
Farmers' Outlook on the Future Is Mixed—with Growing Concern



Say farming may "cease to exist as we know it" without a course correction.



Feel confident passing down their family farm to the next generation.



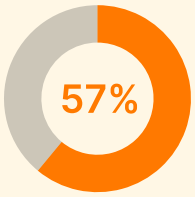
Feel confident recommending their career to their children.

Regulatory Uncertainty and Disconnected Policymakers Are Making a Hard Situation Harder

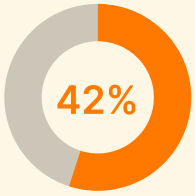
Decades of U.S. policy positioned agriculture for success through modernization and science-based regulation. But today:

- **Inconsistent state-level requirements,** such as those in California, conflict with federal labeling laws, threatening the availability of proven crop protection products.
- **Farmers want to be consulted on the policy and regulatory changes** that impact their livelihoods.

The Consequences of Losing Access to Modern Tools Are Significant



Expect higher input costs.



Anticipate increased regulatory or legal burdens.

Additionally, **60% of farmers classify stricter product labeling as among the top issues** with the most detrimental impact. Without modern pest-management tools, yield losses could **exceed 50%** for major crops like corn and soy, losses that farmers cannot absorb in today's challenging environment.

Farmers' conditions and consumer affordability are inextricably connected. When farmers face rising costs and shrinking margins, those pressures ripple through a large swath of the economy, impacting food, fuel, and clothing, leading to higher prices for American families.

Read the full report on Modern Ag Alliance's website here.

The growing farm crisis underscores the need for policymakers to pass a new Farm Bill that addresses affordability challenges for farmers and consumers, and provides regulatory certainty for farmers and innovators of crop protection tools.

MODERN AG ALLIANCE