



Policy Update

December 19, 2025

Trump Administration Announces \$12 Billion Farmer Bridge Payments for American Farmers

On December 8, President Trump announced plans to provide \$12 billion in payments to farmers who have suffered losses. \$11 billion will be distributed to row crop farmers by the end of February 2026. The remaining \$1 billion will be distributed among specialty crop farmers. The timeline for specialty crops has not been announced yet. The payments will create an economic bridge for farmers until benefits from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act reach the farm.

Eligible farmers should ensure their 2025 acreage reporting is factual and accurate by 5 p.m. EST on Friday, December 19, 2025.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Farmer Bridget Assistance program.

Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad Plans to Purchase State-Owned Rail Properties

Recently, at the State Railroad Board meeting, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCPE) made a presentation on their intentions to purchase the Wolsey Interchange and the Yale Rail Line, including all land (right-of-way), track and bridge infrastructure. The proposed purchase price for the combined purchase of the Wolsey Interchange and the Yale Rail Line is \$3,125,000. Currently, RCPE runs east-west across most of South Dakota and north-south around the Black Hills. The company also leases the Wolsey junction and Yale line.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the purchase.

Comment Period for CAFO Permit Reissuance Approaching

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (DANR's) Division of Agriculture and Environmental Services is currently recommending the Secretary reissue general surface water pollution control permits. The reissuance of these permits will protect surface water quality by regulating the design, construction, and operation of manure management systems at concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and by regulating operations that process or store manure or process wastewater. Coverage under the current general permit can be issued to producers using either state authority or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) authority delegated to the State of South Dakota by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The deadline to submit comments on these proposals is December 22, 2025.

Click [here](#) to read the draft permits.

Click [here](#) to submit comments.

Contact for Questions

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