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## **Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act**

Increasingly frequent and catastrophic floods, fires, freezes, and other disasters threaten the long-term sustainability of farms across the country. To ensure producers can get back on their feet following natural disasters, the Farm Bill authorizes a number of safety net programs. *However, current adjusted gross income restrictions keep producers from participating in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency programs in a meaningful way.*

**Issue:** USDA prohibits payments to growers with combined farm and nonfarm adjusted gross income (AGI) above \$900,000, excluding the vast majority of specialty crop growers—such as those growing strawberries in California or apples in North Carolina—from critical disaster relief. Current AGI limitations fail to account for inflation and high production costs.

**Why it matters:** Specialty crops—fruits, vegetables, nuts, nursery crops, and more—support over 220,000 U.S. farms and provide essential nutrition. However, these producers have fewer risk management options than major field crop growers.

The *Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act* ensures that all full-time farmers have access to basic safety net programs to get back on their feet following natural disasters.

What the *Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act* would do:

- Waive the adjusted gross income limitation for farms that derive 75% of their income from farming, ranching, or related farming practices, ensuring producers can access key disaster relief programs, including:
  - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)
  - Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
  - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
  - Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
  - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

This legislation ensures equitable access to disaster relief, helping farmers recover and continue feeding consumers worldwide.

*Endorsed by: Almond Alliance, American Honey Producers Association, Blue Diamond, California Aquaculture Association, California Farm Bureau, California Strawberry Commission, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, International Fresh Produce Association, National Aquaculture Association, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Northwest Aquaculture Alliance, Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, and Western Growers*