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# HARVESTING U.S. FARM SUBSIDIES



OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT REPORT



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# HARVESTING U.S. FARM SUBSIDIES

OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT REPORT

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“Open the Books is doing the work I envisioned when the Coburn-Obama bill became law. Their innovative app and other tools are putting sunlight through a magnifying glass.” March 11, 2014

**Dr. Tom Coburn, Honorary Chairman of OpenTheBooks.com**

## **OUR REPORT MADE POSSIBLE BY:**

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**(Public Law 109-282, 109th Congress)**

*“Is the spending in the public interest or the special interest?”*

– U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn

*“I know that restoring transparency is not only the surest way to achieve results,  
but also to earn back the trust in government...”*

– U.S. Sen. Barack Obama

# PROLOGUE

## Why are taxpayer-funded federal farm subsidies flowing to urban areas where there are no farms?

Our *OpenTheBooks Oversight Report: Harvesting U.S. Farm Subsidies* quantifies all fiscal year 2017 federal farm subsidy payments flowing to urban areas and wealthy zip codes. Between fiscal years 2015 and 2017, more than \$626 million in farm subsidy payments went to recipients in urban areas with populations exceeding 250,000 including Chicago (\$7.7 million); New York City (\$2.8 million); and Washington, D.C. (\$1.7 million).

During the Great Depression, when most Americans lived in rural areas and many families risked losing their farm, Congress passed the Agriculture Adjustment Act in 1933 as part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal legislation. Farm subsidies were created to keep the small family farm afloat and insure a stable national food supply.

Today, however, these subsidies have grown so lucrative that wealthy investors, large corporations, and farm-estate heirs use taxpayer money to maximize their return on investment. Last year, in fact, nearly 400 recipients collected more than \$1 million each.

In fiscal year 2017, the federal government doled out \$13.2 billion in farm subsidies to nearly 958,000 recipients. Nearly one quarter of all farm subsidy payments (\$3 billion) flowed to the top 5,952 recipients who raked in more than \$250,000 each.

Furthermore, recipients located in America’s wealthiest zip codes pulled down nearly \$5 million in farm subsidies. It’s hard to believe that folks in Beverly Hills and West Hollywood are farming, but these two zip codes received \$139,080 and \$94,090 over the last three years, respectively.

Even elected representatives are harvesting federal farm subsidies. This report showcases members of Congress collecting up to \$637,059 in fiscal year 2017 payments. Other “farmers” living in Washington, D.C., pulled down subsidies, too. Van Boyette, a notorious sugar industry lobbyist and lawyer, received nearly \$32,000 in subsidies through a controlled corporation. Thomas Vilsack, the former Agriculture Secretary in the Obama administration, received \$14,324 last year.

Taxpayers even forked over \$1.8 billion to pay farmers *not to farm their land*. Through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), farmers received rental payments in exchange for *not farming* their land – and these contracts can last 10 to 15 years.

Now, in the summer of 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have drafted respective versions of a new farm bill, and citizens have criticized the legislation for its loopholes that allow non-farmers to reap big benefits.

## Our report empowers citizens to ask hard, data-driven questions as the debate over farm subsidies continues:

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Why are hundreds of millions of dollars in farm subsidies flowing to urban areas where there are no farms?

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Do America’s upper class residents in the most expensive zip codes need taxpayer-funded farm subsidies?

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Are federal farm subsidies serving their purpose to protect U.S. agriculture and preserve America’s family farms?  
Should the U.S. eliminate farm subsidies?

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## Who We Are

American Transparency (website: [OpenTheBooks.com](http://OpenTheBooks.com)) is a public charity. We do not accept government money. Our oversight reports present hard data so citizens, media, think tanks, politicians, and watchdogs can “follow the money.” Our goal is to enhance public discourse with delineated facts. Search our farm subsidy data using our interactive map, [click here](#).



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## SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Our *OpenTheBooks Oversight Report: Harvesting U.S. Farm Subsidies* provides analysis on fiscal year 2017 federal farm subsidies. This investigation, paired with our interactive map, allows taxpayers to see farm subsidies flowing to all zip codes across America.

Our organization acquired the federal checkbook data used for this report from the U.S. federal government via the Freedom of Information Act. We did not thoroughly investigate all 957,109 recipients. Doing so would have been impossible with our resources at hand.

To begin the oversight process for this report, we filtered the data in a few different ways. First, we sorted the data for urban areas – cities with populations of 250,000 or more. Next, we sorted farm subsidy payments flowing to individual recipients collecting \$250,000 or more. Third, we sorted farm subsidies flowing to the 150 most expensive zip codes, according to Forbes. Finally, we searched the raw data file for individual names based on previous oversight findings.



# TOP 10 TAKEAWAYS

1. The federal government awarded **\$13.2 billion in farm subsidies to 957,109 recipients** in FY2017.
2. **389 recipients received \$1 million or more** in FY2017 farm subsidies. These top recipients ranged from Pinicon Farms in Iowa (\$9.9 million) to Pushen and Pullen Farm in Missouri (\$1 million). See the Appendix for the full list of \$1 million farm subsidy recipients.
3. **\$626 million in farm subsidies flowed to urban areas** with populations of 250,000 or more (FY2015-FY2017).

## Top 10 Urban Areas Receiving Farm Subsidies (FY2017)

CITY	STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION
LINCOLN	NEBRASKA	\$ 10,385,221	258,719
OMAHA	NEBRASKA	\$ 8,570,219	725,008
WICHITA	KANSAS	\$ 7,344,060	472,870
LITTLE ROCK	ARKANSAS	\$ 6,097,063	431,388
SPOKANE	WASHINGTON	\$ 5,971,408	486,225
HOUSTON	TEXAS	\$ 5,843,529	4,944,332
MEMPHIS	TENNESSEE	\$ 4,962,661	1,060,061
DALLAS	TEXAS	\$ 4,660,694	5,121,892
CORPUS CHRISTI	TEXAS	\$ 4,507,125	320,069
KANSAS CITY	MISSOURI	\$ 4,397,711	1,519,417

**SOURCE:** FEDERAL CHECKBOOK DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. REVENUE AND ASSETS DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM USING MOST RECENT IRS 990 DOCUMENTS OR ANNUAL REPORT.

4. Nearly **one quarter of all FY2017 farm subsidies (\$3 billion) went to just 5,952 recipients** who received \$250,000 or more each. The top recipients included Pinicon Farms in Iowa (\$9.9 million); Heard Family Farm in Georgia (\$8.9 million); and Ha-der Farms Partnership in Minnesota (\$8.7 million).
5. **America's five most populated cities received \$17 million, collectively, in farm subsidies** – Chicago (\$7.7 million); Miami (\$4.5 million); New York City (\$2.8 million); Los Angeles (\$1.6 million); and Philadelphia (\$309,000) – during a three-year period (FY2015-FY2017).
6. In FY2017, **\$4.8 million in farm subsidies flowed to the upper-middle class elites in America's 150 most expensive zip codes**. These zip codes included Beverly Hills, California, 90210 (\$15,488); New York City, New York, 10022 (\$83,169); and Hawaii County, Hawaii, 96750 (\$230,697). Affluent cities such as Aspen, Colorado (\$278,000); Palm Springs, California (\$310,420); and Park City, Utah (\$1.8 million) reaped large amounts of subsidies.
7. **Paid not to farm – \$1.8 billion in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments** flowed to farmers in FY2017. Farmers received these rental payments in exchange for not using their land. The contracts can last between 10 and 15 years.
8. The **state of Iowa received nearly nine percent (\$1.1 billion) of all farm subsidies** in FY2017. The top 10 states, including Iowa, received 59 percent (\$7.8 billion) of all farm subsidies.
9. In FY2017, **58 percent (\$7.7 billion) of farm subsidies flowed directly to individuals**. The remaining 42 percent was distributed to 15 other categories including general partnerships, corporations, Indian tribal ventures, churches, and more.
10. More than **78 percent of all farm subsidies flowed through three farm subsidy programs: agricultural risk coverage (\$3.8 billion); marketing assistance loan (\$3.5 billion); and price loss coverage (\$3.2 billion)**. Agricultural risk coverage and price loss coverage both protect farmers against adverse changes in market conditions. Marketing assistance loans assist farmers when market prices are low, allowing them to hold on to commodities instead of selling them immediately.

# FARM SUBSIDIES ACROSS AMERICA

Nearly 59 percent (\$7.8 billion) of all federal farm subsidies in FY2017 flowed to just 10 states. The state of Iowa claimed nearly nine percent (\$1.1 billion). Therefore, the other 40 states and Washington, D.C., collected just 42 percent (\$5.3 billion) of the FY2017 federal farm subsidies.

## Farm Subsidies Flowing into Urban Areas by State (FY2017)

CITY AND STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION	CITY AND STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION
<b>ALABAMA</b>					
Birmingham	\$ 519,234	749,495	Fort Collins	\$ 3,378,725	264,465
Huntsville	\$ 872,845	286,692	<b>CONNECTICUT</b>		
Mobile	\$ 842,602	326,183	Bridgeport	\$ 7,906	923,311
Montgomery	\$ 295,153	263,907	Hartford	\$ 26,102	924,859
<b>ALASKA</b>					
Anchorage	\$ 659,906	251,243	New Haven	\$ 11,935	562,839
<b>ARIZONA</b>			<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>		
Phoenix	\$ 1,959,411	3,629,114	Washington, DC	\$ 520,101	4,586,770
Tucson	\$ 1,545,086	843,168	<b>FLORIDA</b>		
<b>ARKANSAS</b>					
Fayetteville	\$ 803,628	295,083	Bonita Springs	\$ 267,899	310,298
Little Rock	\$ 6,120,336	431,388	Cape Coral	\$ 309,965	530,290
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>					
Antioch	\$ 50,213	277,634	Jacksonville	\$ 618,526	1,065,219
Bakersfield	\$ 3,867,376	523,994	Kissimmee	\$ 141,725	314,071
Concord	\$ 81,745	615,968	Lakeland	\$ 138,801	262,596
Fresno	\$ 1,361,006	654,628	Miami	\$ 1,582,435	5,502,379
Indio	\$ 39,364	345,580	Orlando	\$ 343,004	1,510,516
Lancaster	\$ 143,890	341,219	Palm Bay	\$ 47,708	452,791
Los Angeles	\$ 380,420	12,150,996	Palm Coast	\$ 38,269	349,064
Mission Viejo	\$ 116,184	583,681	Pensacola	\$ 489,638	340,067
Modesto	\$ 186,367	358,172	Port St. Lucie	\$ 12,181	376,047
Murrieta	\$ 89,747	441,546	Sarasota	\$ 616,100	643,260
Oxnard	\$ 161,674	367,260	Tampa	\$ 485,783	2,441,770
Riverside	\$ 393,451	1,932,666	<b>GEORGIA</b>		
Sacramento	\$ 1,087,597	1,723,634	Atlanta	\$ 1,090,913	4,515,419
San Diego	\$ 984,183	2,956,746	Augusta	\$ 256,232	386,787
San Francisco	\$ 332,243	3,281,212	Columbus	\$ 170,537	253,602
San Jose	\$ 454,772	1,664,496	Savannah	\$ 306,569	260,677
Santa Clarita	\$ 113,882	258,653	<b>HAWAII</b>		
Santa Rosa	\$ 303,629	308,231	Honolulu	\$ 456,134	802,459
Stockton	\$ 1,327,819	370,583	<b>IDAHO</b>		
Victorville	\$ 26,025	328,454	Boise	\$ 1,556,542	349,684
<b>COLORADO</b>			<b>ILLINOIS</b>		
Colorado Springs	\$ 3,000,387	559,409	Chicago	\$ 2,123,511	8,608,208
Denver	\$ 2,655,741	2,374,203	Peoria	\$ 1,345,079	266,921
			Rockford	\$ 1,311,393	296,863
			Round Lake Beach	\$ 21,198	290,373
			<b>INDIANA</b>		
			Fort Wayne	\$ 2,055,106	313,492

**Farm Subsidies Flowing into Urban Areas by State (FY2017) (continued)**

CITY AND STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION	CITY AND STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION
Indianapolis	\$ 2,153,384	1,487,483	<b>NEW YORK</b>		
South Bend	\$ 1,912,920	278,165	Albany	\$ 26,960	594,962
<b>IOWA</b>			Buffalo	\$ 61,172	935,906
Davenport	\$ 2,426,593	280,051	New York City	\$ 779,256	18,351,295
Des Moines	\$ 4,145,306	450,070	Poughkeepsie	\$ 45,498	423,566
<b>KANSAS</b>			Rochester	\$ 48,807	720,572
Wichita	\$ 7,377,438	472,870	Syracuse	\$ 437,474	412,317
<b>KENTUCKY</b>			<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		
Lexington	\$ 810,981	290,263	Asheville	\$ 76,716	280,648
Louisville	\$ 1,144,965	972,546	Charlotte	\$ 379,413	1,249,442
<b>LOUISIANA</b>			Durham	\$ 202,663	347,602
Baton Rouge	\$ 1,565,237	594,309	Fayetteville	\$ 449,858	310,282
Lafayette	\$ 2,191,068	252,720	Greensboro	\$ 198,148	311,810
New Orleans	\$ 629,027	899,703	Raleigh	\$ 747,340	884,891
Shreveport	\$ 1,351,740	298,317	Winston-Salem	\$ 195,403	391,024
<b>MARYLAND</b>			<b>OHIO</b>		
Baltimore	\$ 155,646	2,203,663	Akron	\$ 117,631	569,499
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>			Canton	\$ 133,807	279,245
Boston	\$ 37,873	4,181,019	Cincinnati	\$ 716,459	1,624,827
Springfield	\$ 1,132	621,300	Cleveland	\$ 68,693	1,780,673
Worcester	\$ 13,408	486,514	Columbus	\$ 1,129,334	1,368,035
<b>MICHIGAN</b>			Dayton	\$ 1,321,362	724,091
Ann Arbor	\$ 758,626	306,022	Toledo	\$ 207,775	507,643
Detroit	\$ 77,181	3,734,090	Youngstown	\$ 20,159	387,550
Flint	\$ 64,956	356,218	<b>OKLAHOMA</b>		
Grand Rapids	\$ 115,841	569,935	Oklahoma City	\$ 3,002,494	861,505
Lansing	\$ 954,702	313,532	Tulsa	\$ 2,556,229	655,479
<b>MINNESOTA</b>			<b>OREGON</b>		
Minneapolis	\$ 1,956,946	2,650,890	Portland	\$ 2,042,401	1,849,898
<b>MISSOURI</b>			<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>		
Jackson	\$ 1,419,554	351,478	Allentown	\$ 9,891	664,651
Kansas City	\$ 4,428,101	1,519,417	Harrisburg	\$ 59,457	444,474
Springfield	\$ 957,748	273,724	Lancaster	\$ 487,658	402,004
St. Louis	\$ 12,845	2,150,706	Philadelphia	\$ 109,062	5,441,567
<b>NEBRASKA</b>			Pittsburgh	\$ 106,813	1,733,853
Lincoln	\$ 10,631,608	258,719	Reading	\$ 46,350	266,254
Omaha	\$ 8,614,402	725,008	Scranton	\$ 1,344	381,502
<b>NEVADA</b>			<b>PUERTO RICO</b>		
Las Vegas	\$ 1,229,960	1,886,011	Aguadilla	\$ 5,807	306,196
Reno	\$ 415,783	392,141	San Juan	\$ 69,416	2,148,346
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>			<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>		
Trenton	\$ 21,485	296,668	Providence	\$ 10,026	1,190,956
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>			<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>		
Albuquerque	\$ 2,208,467	741,318	Charleston	\$ 178,374	548,404

**Farm Subsidies Flowing into Urban Areas by State (FY2017) (continued)**

CITY AND STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION	CITY AND STATE	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED	POPULATION
Columbia	\$ 555,482	549,777	<b>UTAH</b>		
Greenville	\$ 200,457	400,492	Ogden	\$ 663,899	546,026
<b>TENNESSEE</b>			Provo	\$ 83,434	482,819
Chattanooga	\$ 163,485	381,112	Salt Lake City	\$ 696,107	1,021,243
Knoxville	\$ 615,482	558,696	<b>VIRGINIA</b>		
Memphis	\$ 5,007,863	1,060,061	Richmond	\$ 295,895	953,556
Nashville	\$ 1,264,386	969,587	Virginia Beach	\$ 1,573,149	1,439,666
<b>TEXAS</b>			<b>WASHINGTON</b>		
Austin	\$ 4,080,542	1,362,416	Seattle	\$ 1,640,126	3,059,393
Corpus Christi	\$ 4,520,712	320,069	Spokane	\$ 6,023,725	486,225
Dallas	\$ 4,800,341	5,121,892	<b>WISCONSIN</b>		
Denton	\$ 775,708	366,174	Madison	\$ 1,113,827	401,661
El Paso	\$ 476,617	803,086	Milwaukee	\$ 300,765	1,376,476
Houston	\$ 5,860,071	4,944,332			
McAllen	\$ 1,338,614	728,825			
San Antonio	\$ 3,714,767	1,758,210			

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

**POPULATION SOURCE:** "QUALIFYING URBAN AREAS FOR THE 2010 CENSUS", UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. RETRIEVED 1 JUNE 2018.



# FARM SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

In FY2017, federal farm subsidies flowed through more than 60 programs. These programs designate how the recipient will use the payments.

## Top 10 Farm Subsidy Programs (FY2017)

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
AGRICULTURAL RISK COVERAGE - COUNTY	\$3,789,662,533
MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN (NON-RECOURSE)	\$3,345,390,022
PRICE LOSS COVERAGE	\$3,228,806,636
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM PAYMENT – ANNUAL RENTAL	\$1,780,138,036
LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM	\$429,302,472
NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$162,744,386
LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS	\$128,514,137
AUTO CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM COST SHARE	\$108,251,940
CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM – COMMON INCENTIVE	\$80,453,106
MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN (RECOURSE)	\$46,142,360

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

## Agriculture Risk Coverage – County (ARC-CO)

The [ARC-CO](#) program provides revenue loss coverage at the county level. ARC-CO payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO guarantee for the commodity. This coverage protects farmers from adverse changes in market conditions.

## Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL)

[MALs](#) are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest or shearing. MALs assist farmers when market prices are low, allowing them to hold on to commodities instead of selling them immediately.

## Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

[PLC](#) program payments are issued when the effective price (higher of the market year average price or the national average loan rate) of a covered commodity is less than the reference price for that commodity. This coverage protects farmers from adverse changes in market conditions.

## Conservation Reserve Program Payment (CRP)

The [CRP](#) is a land conservation program. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts last 10 to 15 years.

## Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

The [LFP](#) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on specific land. The grazing losses must be due to a drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county.

## Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

[NAP](#) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

## Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP)

[LDPs](#) are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest or shearing. LDPs are direct payments made in lieu of a marketing assistance loan (MAL).

## Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The [ECP](#) helps farmers and ranchers to repair damaged farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place water conservation methods during severe droughts.

## Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) – Stafford Act

The [EFRP](#) helps restore non-industrial private forests after natural disasters. The EFRP authorizes payments to owners of private forests to restore disaster damaged forests. The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act [designation](#) requires a federal disaster declaration from either the president or a state official.

## PART 1

# CITY SLICKERS

## FARM SUBSIDIES FLOWING TO URBAN AREAS & WEALTHY ZIP CODES

### PART A: URBAN AREAS – POPULATION 250,000+



According to the 2010 Census, there are 249 American cities with populations of 250,000 or more. During the last three fiscal years, \$626 million in farm subsidies flowed to these urban areas (FY2015-FY2017). More than \$172 million in federal farm subsidies flowed into these cities in FY2017 alone. These urban areas included the five most populous cities – New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and Philadelphia – and Washington, D.C.

**CASE STUDY**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**FY2017:** \$504,199 | **FY2015–FY2017:** \$1.7 MILLION

Between FY2015 and FY2017, 354 recipients located in the nation’s capital received \$1.7 million in farm subsidies. On average, each payment was \$4,802. The Annual Crop Rental Payment Program was the most common program for D.C. farm subsidies: 132 payments totaling \$263,938. The second most common program was the Agricultural Risk Coverage: 131 payments totaling \$73,543.

**Top 10 Farm Subsidy Recipients in Washington D.C. (FY2017)**

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
LAUREL ANN LAWRENCE ESTATE	\$ 47,311
CRESCENT FARMS LLC	\$ 31,855
WILLOW BRANCH FARM, INC.	\$ 29,911
WILLIAM EVAN KOVACIC	\$ 25,914
ANN F. HEUER	\$ 24,202
JOAN ELLEN COUNTRYMAN REV. TRUST	\$ 23,855
WILLIAM T. HAWKS	\$ 21,338
COLES RANCH COMPANY LLC	\$ 19,061
JOHN E. REEDER	\$ 16,351
JAMES S. CARTER JR.	\$ 14,302

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.



**Consider a few examples of D.C.’s top farm subsidy recipients:**

**Van Boyette**, a notorious sugar industry [lobbyist](#) and [lawyer](#), still receives subsidies to an address in Washington, D.C. However, Boyette receives these subsidies under Crescent Farms LLC for his farm in Iowa, rather than as an individual. Boyette received \$31,855 in FY2017 farm subsidies. His consulting firm, Smith and Boyette, received \$120,000 in 2017 and \$30,000 thus far in 2018 in lobbying payments from client billings.

**William Hawks** [served](#) as the Under Secretary of Agriculture in the Bush Administration and has continually received subsidies for his Mississippi farms. In FY2017, Hawks received \$21,338 in farm subsidies at his D.C. address.

**Thomas Vilsack** the [former](#) Agriculture Secretary for the Obama Administration received \$14,324 in FY2017 farm subsidies through the Crop Rental Program. After leading the USDA and [voicing opinions](#) on the farm bill in 2018, Vilsack continues to profit off of federal farm subsidies.

**Barbara Lunde**, a [former aerospace engineer](#) who was featured in the Smithsonian Institute Archives, received farm subsidies totaling \$22,509 in FY2017. Lunde has a [long history of education, training, and experience](#).

## CASE STUDY

## New York City, New York

**FY2017:**  
\$779,383

**FY2015–FY2017:**  
\$2.8 MILLION

There's not much farm ground in New York City! Last year, however, \$779,419 flowed to New Yorkers in federal farm subsidies. These 372 payments ranged from \$1 to \$44,550 and, on average, amounted to \$2,095 each.

In total, 154 payments flowed to the Agricultural Risk Coverage County program for \$129,661. The second most common program was the Annual Crop Rental Payment.

### Top 10 Farm Subsidy Recipients in New York City (FY2017)

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
POUNAMU LLC	\$ 74,250
MARIYA WALSH	\$ 48,154
DINA SHAPIRO FRIED	\$ 43,936
MATTHEWS HEREFORD FARM	\$ 37,426
ROHDE SISTERS FARM LLP	\$ 36,591
PAMELA SHAPIRO	\$ 35,698
CHARLES H. BROCK TRUST	\$ 27,642
LISA JAYNE SIPPEL	\$ 20,368
LUCAS BERNARD	\$ 19,819
JC GILBERT FARMS LLC	\$ 18,968

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

### Consider a few examples of the Big Apple's top farm subsidy recipients:

**The Shapiro family** in New York City received hundreds of thousands in farm subsidies. Dina Shapiro Fried is one of four Shapiros with a stake in the family farm located in upstate Slate Hill, New York. The Shapiros own the farm through an LLC.

In 2014, we [featured](#) Dina Shapiro and Pamela Shapiro in our report on federal farm subsidies. Over the last four years, the Shapiros continued to collect subsidies. In FY2017, Dina and Pamela Shapiro collected \$79,634 through the Crop Annual Rental Program. Additionally, two other family members – David and Howard Shapiro – received subsidies amounting to \$587,700 through the Conservation Reserve Program.

**Pounamu LLC** – managed by Lidija, Oliver, and Nina Cukor – received \$74,250 at their ultra-expensive apartment in New York. The lavish apartment is located on the lower east side of Manhattan, where the [median sale price](#) for real estate is \$1.26 million. The Cukors own a farm in Hawaii. However, the family received this money through the Emergency Conservation Program which designates payments to repair damaged land and help water conservation.

**Rohde Sisters Farm LLP** received \$36,591 in Crop Rental Program payments, therefore agreeing to forego farming its land. According to research, the Rohde Sisters Farm is located in North Dakota. The entire farming operation is crop based – this means revenue is derived directly from crop sales and payments from the federal government.



### FLASHBACK: 2008-2011 New York City Farm Subsidies Heat Map

Pictured to the left is a heat map of New York City, showing the farm subsidy distribution between 2008-2011. Our last investigation of farm subsidies found many “city slickers” in New York receiving large quantities of farm subsidies. Our newest investigation shows this same pattern of wasteful spending has continued.

**CASE STUDY**  
**Los Angeles, California**

**FY2017:** \$308,419 | **FY2015–FY2017:** \$1.6 MILLION

Recipients in Los Angeles, California, received \$308,419 in federal farm subsidies in FY2017. These 314 payments ranged from \$1 to \$20,419. The most common program these farm subsidies flowed through was the Crop Rental Program: 86 payments totaling \$220,479.

**Top 10 Farm Subsidy Recipients in Los Angeles (FY2017)**

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
PFEUFFER INVESTMENT PROPERTIES LLC	\$ 30,636
LAURIE MACCASKILL	\$ 29,097
RESTATED SURVIVORS TRUST JOSEPH & BETTY CHAN	\$ 22,218
CLARENCE BLAIR	\$ 20,499
NORMAN DEGROOT	\$ 18,959
CONSTANCE G. CROCKER	\$ 18,951
REGINA LUXENBERG	\$ 12,665
JASON KLASSI	\$ 12,610
DANNY PACE	\$ 12,541
BRUCE JAGGER	\$ 11,900

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.



**Consider a few examples of Los Angeles’ top farm subsidy recipients:**

**Pfeuffer Investment Properties** received \$30,636 at an address in Los Angeles where homes are listed for around \$1 million. The largest payment was \$23,864 in Annual Crop Rental Payments. However, the farm property is located in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**David and Martha Wittnebel Family LLC** received \$31,793 in FY2017. This LLC is located in both South Dakota and Minnesota. Still, the farm subsidy payments flowed to the Wittnebel’s address in Los Angeles.

**Clarence Blair** received a farm subsidy payment for \$20,999 in FY2017. This payment flowed to an apartment complex in Los Angeles. Our research was not able to find any further details.

## CASE STUDY Chicago, Illinois

**FY2017:**  
**\$2.1 MILLION**

**FY2015–FY2017:**  
**\$7.7 MILLION**

In FY2017, 1,248 recipients located in Chicago, Illinois, received \$2.1 million in federal farm subsidies. On average, each subsidy amounted to \$6,161. The majority of Chicago’s farm subsidies flowed through the Annual Crop Rental Payment: 626 payments totaling \$1.6 million. The Agricultural Risk Coverage County program was the second most common: 480 payments totaling \$307,721.

### Top 10 Farm Subsidy Recipients in Chicago (FY2017)

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
CAROLYN MATHESON	\$ 50,000
THOMAS MATHESON	\$ 50,000
THOMAS J CRANEY REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 49,537
BIG RUN FARMS LLC	\$ 49,459
PETAR GATARIC	\$ 48,100
GRIMES FAMILY FARM PARTNERSHIP	\$ 47,146
JOHN PATRICK FAHEY	\$ 45,619
MARGARETA GATARIC	\$ 45,540
BRANT W. BITTMANN REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 41,537
MARTHA KELLER	\$ 40,376

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

### Consider a few examples of Chicago’s farm subsidy payments:

**Big Run Farms LLC** – owned by Gregory Gee, Joseph Mikan, and Joseph McCartin – received \$49,459 in FY2017 farm subsidies. Most of these payments were Crop Rental Payments. The subsidies for the Iowa farm were sent to McCartin’s [dental practice](#) in Chicago. The trio of partners also own the majority interest in Big Run Golf Course in Lockport, Illinois.

The top two recipients in Chicago – **Carolyn and Thomas Matheson** – are listed at the same address near Edison Park and received \$50,000 a piece in subsidies. The Mathesons have farms in Stephenson County and Ford County, Illinois.

**Rocky Run Hunt Club Inc.**, located in Tiskilwa, Illinois, is a 500-acre “farm” for raising quail, according to the owner’s [profile](#) on the North American Gamebird Association’s website. The subsidy payments flow through its Chicago-based owner Sean Derrig. Rocky Run Hunt Club received \$36,332 in federal farm subsidies in FY2017, most of which flowed from the Annual Crop Rental Payment program.

**The Grimes Family Partnership** has farms in Missouri and Kansas and [owns two Dairy Queens](#). On top of the revenue they receive from their successful Dairy Queen locations, the Grimes Family Partnership also received \$47,146 in farm subsidies in FY2017. These subsidies flowed to an address in Chicago.

### FLASHBACK:

#### Minister Louis Farrakhan *Chicago, Hyde Park, Illinois 60615*

**CASE STUDY EXAMPLE:** Three Year Economic Savings Program, Inc., a non-profit organization, received payments totaling \$317,00 (1996-2011). The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) shows the organization as located at the residence of The Nation of Islam leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan. As the top recipient of farm subsidies in the Hyde Park neighborhood, it ranked twelfth amongst all Chicago recipients. Three Year Economic Savings Program, Inc. also received a \$26,367 “commodity loan” issued by the USDA, Commodity Credit Corporation Fund: to improve & stabilize farm income, assist with a better balance between supply and demand of the commodities. This loan was signed for on November 17, 2008, during the final days of the George W. Bush administration.

**CASE STUDY**  
**Miami, Florida**

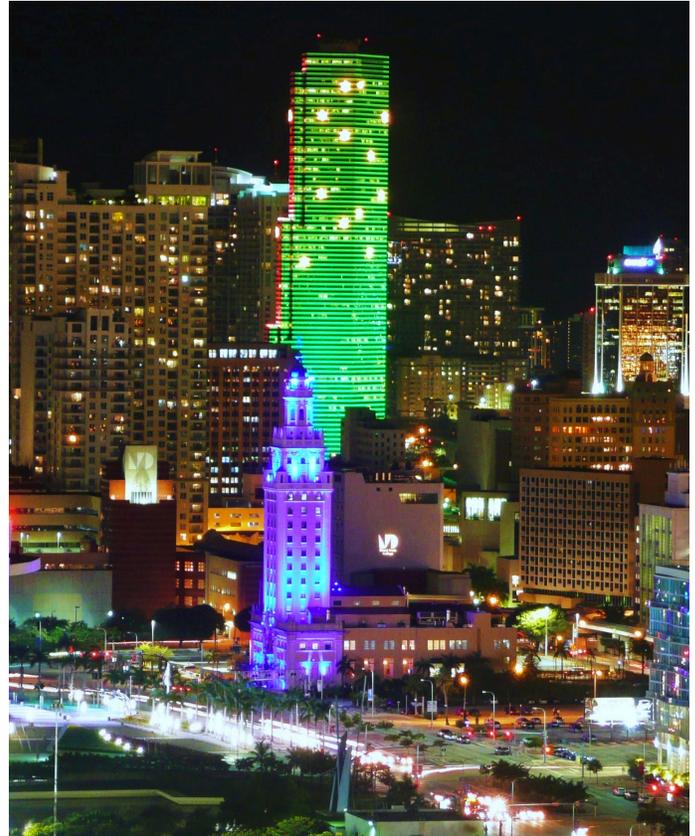
**FY2017:** **\$1.6 MILLION** | **FY2015–FY2017:** **\$4.5 MILLION**

Recipients located in sunny Miami, Florida, soaked up \$1.6 million in federal farm subsidies in FY2017. On average, each of these 213 payments flowing into Miami-based entities amounted to \$20,985. Most of the subsidies were awarded through the Price Loss Coverage program for \$325,819 in 65 payments. Further, the Agricultural Risk Coverage County program paid out \$224,095 in 87 payments.

**Top 10 Farm Subsidy Recipients in Miami (FY2017)**

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
OPTIMUM AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIP	\$465,911
JUAN URIBURU	\$116,375
LA CEIBA NURSERY, INC.	\$113,715
ORTEGA NURSERY FARMS, INC.	\$101,338
GREEN ISLAND NURSERY, LLC	\$99,773
NICHOLAS VEGA	\$91,554
GEORGIE'S PARADISE CO.	\$77,132
PASCUAL E. CUENCIO	\$64,853
S & D NURSERY, INC.	\$64,061
CABALLERO'S PLANTS NURSERY, INC.	\$63,407

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.



**Consider a few examples of farm subsidies flowing to Miami, Florida:**

**Optimum Agriculture** – an [agriculture group](#) with a commitment to “reliability and honesty” – has \$320 million of assets and operates in the U.S. (Florida) and Argentina, according to its website. In FY2017, Optimum Agriculture was the top recipient in Miami, receiving \$465,911 in farm subsidies.

**Juan Uriburu** received an individual farm subsidy for \$116,375 in FY2017 through the livestock forage program. However, further information about Uriburu and his livestock affiliations was not readily available. The address where the farm subsidy was delivered is a \$2-million house in Miami.

**Ortega Nursery Farms Inc.** received a \$101,338 farm subsidy payment in FY2017 for tree assistance. The [nursery](#) provides plants, trees, and landscaping materials to large and small businesses in the Miami area. The address of the nursery is publicly known, but the farm subsidy went to a single-family home, not to the nursery.

## CASE STUDY

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**FY2017:**  
\$108,648

**FY2015–FY2017:**  
\$309,220

Recipients located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received \$309,220 in federal farm subsidies in FY2017. These 97 payments, on average, amounted to \$3,187 each. The most commonly used program for Philadelphia farm subsidies was the Annual Crop Rental Program: 44 payments totaling \$43,390. The second most common program was the Agricultural Risk Coverage County program: 23 payments totaling \$37,743.

### Top 10 Farm Subsidy Recipients in Philadelphia (FY2017)

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
HUNT JOHNSON FARMS, INC.	\$ 24,694
MARGARET ANN LEHMAN TRUST	\$ 14,869
KIRK E. SMOTHERS	\$ 11,665
TWILA M. NINEMIRE REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 9,627
ARAVIND K. JOSHI	\$ 6,357
W.L. LEONARD	\$ 6,205
LHJ FARM LLC	\$ 5,591
WALTER GERHARD	\$ 4,837
FRANCES BJORNEBY KRAEMER	\$ 3,321
STEPHEN GRESKO	\$ 3,168

**SOURCE:** 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.



### Consider a few examples of Philadelphia's top farm subsidy recipients:

**Kirk Smothers** received \$11,665 in farm subsidies in FY2017. Smothers is the “[Head of School](#)” at Delaware Valley Friends School in the Philadelphia area, and the farm subsidy flowed to a residential home in Philadelphia.

**Hunt Johnson Farms** received \$24,694 in FY2017 federal farm subsidies. The subsidy payment was delivered to a residential non-farming home in Philadelphia.

**Walter Gerhard** received \$4,837 in federal farm subsidies in FY2017. This company is engaged in coal mining services, and disclosed more than \$100,000 in annual revenues with the principal as owner.

## PART B: TOP 150 LUXURY ZIP CODES

In FY2017, federal farm subsidies flowed into 123 of the 150 most expensive zip codes in America – ordered by median housing values by [Forbes](#). In total, recipients in these pricey zip codes received \$4.8 million.

### CASE STUDY

#### 90210 – Beverly Hills, California

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$15,488</b>	<b>\$139,080</b>

Beverly Hills, California, was ranked the eighth most expensive zip code in America in 2017 by Forbes. With a population of 34,000, the median [home price](#) in Beverly Hills exceeds \$1 million. Still, four recipients in Beverly Hills received farm subsidies in FY2017, totaling \$15,488.

Ronald Cannan was the top recipient, collecting 11 separate subsidies totaling \$6,184, mostly for the Conservation Reserve Program. Previously, Canaan received subsidies in Washington and Oregon.

Emil Lotyanu was the second largest farm subsidies recipient in Beverly Hills, receiving \$3,550 to Sunshine Capital LLC. Lotyanu, a Russian investor, received farm subsidies at his \$15.7 million [residence](#).



### CASE STUDY

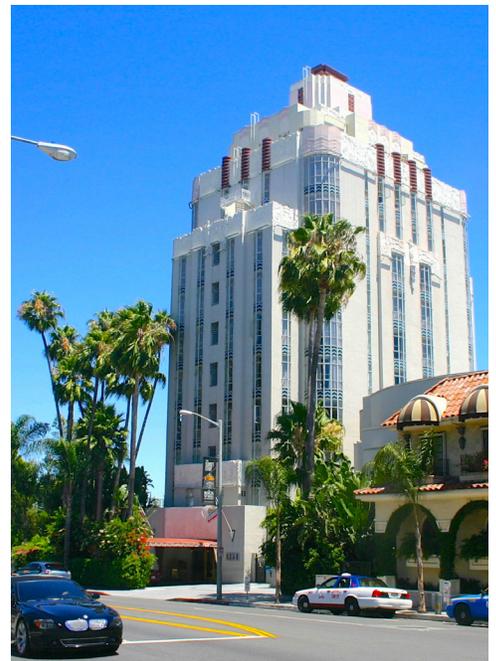
#### 90069 – West Hollywood, California

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$43,852</b>	<b>\$94,090</b>

Hollywood, California, was ranked as the 63<sup>rd</sup> most expensive American zip code. West Hollywood is home to 20,483 people with a \$740,000 median [home value](#). In FY2017, four recipients located in West Hollywood collected \$43,852 in farm subsidies.

Rodney Rolfs received 18 payments in FY2017, totaling \$16,119. He received three subsidies from Loan Deficiencies (\$2,140), Price Loss Coverage (\$3,532), and Agricultural Risk Coverage (\$10,447) programs. All 18 subsidies were sent to an apartment address.

Ronald Allcott, another West Hollywood recipient, collected \$1,902 in FY2017 farm subsidies. Allcott received two subsidies for price loss coverage and agricultural risk coverage. Allcott is the founder of a small private company called Ronald Allcott Co.



## CASE STUDY

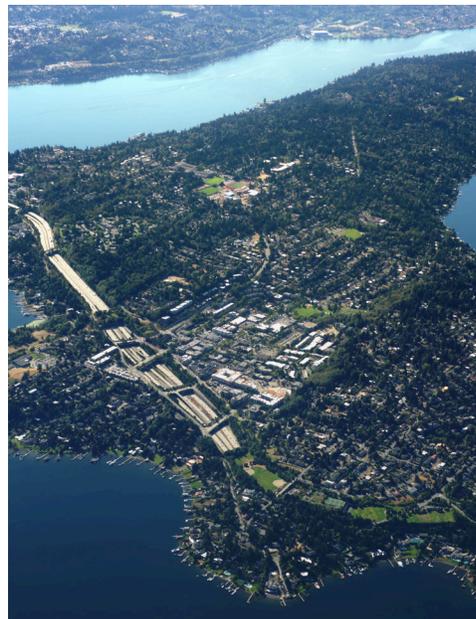
**98040 – Mercer Island, Washington**

**FY2017:**  
**\$142,868**

**FY2015–FY2017:**  
**\$573,840**

The 98040 zip code, Mercer Island, is ranked number 141 on the list of America's most expensive zip codes and is the most populated island within a lake in the nation. The median [income](#) on Mercer Island is \$141,323 with an average home value exceeding \$1 million. Still, \$142,868 in federal farm subsidies flowed to recipients on this dense and wealthy island in FY2017.

Through Hartland LLC, John and Carol Hart received the most farm subsidies on Mercer Island: \$11,715 in total. These subsidies flowed through the Agricultural Risk Coverage and Conservation Reserve programs and were delivered to a \$1.1 million condo.



## CASE STUDY

**33483 – Delray Beach, Florida**

**FY2017:**  
**\$47,695**

**FY2015–FY2017:**  
**\$141,710**

The Pineapple Grove art district – better known as Delray Beach, Florida – is the 26<sup>th</sup> most expensive zip code in America. The area boasts a diverse selection of public and private art galleries as well as the Cornell Art Museum of Contemporary Art. Nine recipients in Delray Beach received \$47,695 in farm subsidies in FY2017.

Locher Farms LLC, owned by John Michael Locher, received nearly half of Delray Beach's farm subsidies. Locher received \$22,694 in federal farm subsidies, delivered to his Delray Beach apartment. Locher received these subsidies through the Crop Reservation Program for his Iowa farm. In 2010, Locher Farms received [federal payments](#) in Iowa.

Cecil Stanley received \$16,307 in federal farm subsidies to her Delray Beach law office, Macmillan and Stanley, in FY2017. Stanley received a livestock forage subsidy, designated for grazing losses.

Seminole Island LLC – a private business with two employees located in Delray Beach – collected \$1,657 in federal farm subsidies. Seminole Island LLC's crop reservation program payments were delivered to a house on the water.



## CASE STUDY

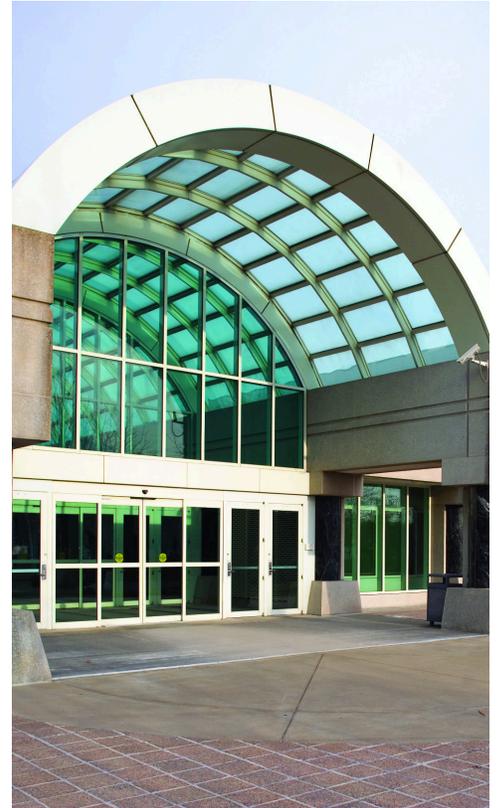
**22102 – McLean, Virginia**

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$12,864</b>	<b>\$107,740</b>

McLean, Virginia, was ranked number 127 on the list of America’s wealthiest zip codes. Just 10 miles from the nation’s capital, McLean’s population is 21,985 and the median [income](#) is \$192,568. In total, seven recipients in McLean collected \$12,864 in federal farm subsidies in FY2017.

Quilhot Management Company LLC was the largest recipient, collecting five subsidies totaling \$3,753 for agricultural risk coverage and crop reservation. Previously, Quilhot received subsidies in Indiana. Quilhot Management Company is owned by Dru Conner, the wife of [former](#) Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the Bush Administration, Charles F. Conner.

Jay and Jamie Vroom received four farm subsidy payments totaling \$3,862 through the Crop Reservation Program and Agricultural Risk Coverage. Jamie Vroom is the President and CEO of CropLife America. According to its website, CropLife America is the “national trade association that represents the manufacturers, formulators and distributors of pesticides.”



## PART C: CITY SLICKERS RECEIVING FARM SUBSIDIES HIGHLIGHTS & CASE STUDIES ACROSS AMERICA

Federal farm subsidies currently flow into well-heeled areas where “gentlemen farmers” reaped the benefits. For example, between fiscal years 2015 and 2017, farm subsidies to individuals, businesses, and other entities reached these very wealthy enclaves:



- Aspen, Colorado:** \$278,800 to 25 recipients
- Palm Springs, California:** \$310,420 to 56 recipients
- Beverly Hills, California:** \$527,000 to 51 recipients
- Fisher Island, Florida:** \$702,000 to 9 recipients
- Malibu, California:** \$712,860 to 24 recipients
- Palm Beach, Florida:** \$857,000 to 124 recipients
- Park City, Utah:** \$1,800,000 to 251 recipients

### CASE STUDY

#### **Edward Theodore Farms** *Las Vegas, Nevada*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$160,228</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$271,815</b>
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Edward Theodore Farm was one of the top recipients of federal farm subsidies in Las Vegas, Nevada. The [address](#) attached to this farm subsidy is an animal care clinic, specializing in animal allergies and dermatology. The head veterinarian, Ann Trimmer, is the sister of Clark Trimmer, the direct recipient of the farm subsidies.

### CASE STUDY

#### **Glennoe Farms LLC** *Park City, Utah*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$32,708</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$32,708</b>
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Glennoe Farms LLC is the second highest recipient of farm subsidies in Park City, Utah, receiving \$32,708 in FY2017. Although Glennoe Farms received subsidies in Utah, the farm is actually located in Arkansas and [owned](#) by Jay McEntire. McEntire is not only the owner of the farm but also the [chairman](#) of the Utah Gas Corp. Glennoe Farms is also in partnership with the University of Arkansas’s Department of Energy’s Berkley Laboratory. This partnership uses a complex combination of technological aspects to its farm operations ranging from drones to high-tech soil [analysis](#). The address associated with the farm is a home in Park City listed for [sale](#) at \$2.3 million.

## CASE STUDY

**Jack and Lessa Wolfe** *San Diego, California*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$91,724</b>	<b>\$265,512</b>

Two of the top farm subsidy recipients in San Diego, California, were Jack and Lessa Wolfe. Jack Wolfe [owns](#) a critical care facility near San Diego and operates as the lead physician. In FY2017, the Wolfes' \$91,724 in farm subsidy payments went to a house [valued](#) at \$1.6 million.

## CASE STUDY

**Philip Harris** *Boston, Massachusetts*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$26,029</b>	<b>\$79,777</b>

Dr. Philip Harris, the top farm subsidy recipient in Boston, Massachusetts, received 11 payments totaling \$26,029 through the Crop Reservation Program. The subsidies flowed to a one-bedroom unit in an apartment complex two miles away from Harris's ophthalmology [clinic](#).

## CASE STUDY

**Brining Land LLC** *Aspen, Colorado*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$13,897</b>	<b>\$21,484</b>

The Brining Land LLC was the second largest recipient in Aspen, Colorado, with a farm subsidy of \$13,897. The subsidy went to Robert Brining specifically, an accountant. The [address](#) for the farm subsidies is an accounting practice that Brining runs.

## CASE STUDY

**Three C Trusts No. 2** *Palm Springs, California*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$11,374</b>	<b>\$34,203</b>

Three C Trust No. 2 was the top recipient in Palm Springs, California. An EWG [report](#) shows that Three C Trust No. 2 is located in Carson County, Texas. Three C Trust No. 2 has many different [mineral rights](#), all in the state of Texas, along with the farm subsidies they are receiving for the Crop Reservation Program.

## PART 2

# CREAM OF THE CROP

## RECIPIENTS OF \$250,000+ IN SUBSIDIES

In FY2017, 23 percent (\$3 billion) of farm subsidies flowed to entities that received \$250,000 or more. Further, 389 entities received \$1 million or more in farm subsidies each.



### Farm Subsidies Exceeding \$250,000 Banded by Size

SUBSIDY BRACKET	NUMBER OF SUBSIDIES	TOTAL VALUE
\$1,000,000+	389	\$666,041,274
\$750,000 - \$999,999	358	\$303,292,105
\$500,000 - \$749,999	1,057	\$634,942,828
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4,148	\$1,422,056,805

SOURCE: 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

#### CASE STUDY

### Pinicon Farms *McIntire, Iowa*

FY2017:

**\$9.9 MILLION**

FY2015–FY2017:

**\$10.7 MILLION**

Pinicon Farms in McIntire, Iowa, was the top farm subsidies recipient in FY2017, receiving \$9.9 million in total. Since 1894, four generations of family members have grown operations. The [owners](#) of the farm, Jim and Alex Koenig, have been operating since 1958 and have [expanded](#) the farm from 190 acres into today's super-large agri-business.

#### CASE STUDY

### Heard Family Farms *Brinson, Georgia*

FY2017:

**\$8.9 MILLION**

FY2015–FY2017:

**\$18.9 MILLION**

The second largest quantity of farm subsidies flowed to the Heard Family Farm in Brinson, Georgia (FY2017). The Heard Family Farm is one of several farms in Brinson that receives large amounts of farm subsidies. [Glenn Heard](#) received \$8.9 million in FY2017 farm subsidies. Glenn Heard, the president of the farm, took over in 1995 after his father retired. He expanded the farm from 350 acres to 15,000 acres. Heard is an advocate of using the latest technology for his farming operations – he has installed solar panels, used a variety technologies to estimate growing conditions, and utilized advanced irrigation methods.

## CASE STUDY

**Hader Farms Partnerships** *Zumbrota, Minnesota*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$8.7 MILLION</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$18.3 MILLION</b>
----------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Hader Farms Partnerships – a farming business located in Zumbrota, Minnesota – was the third largest farm subsidies recipient in FY2017, receiving \$8.7 million. According to local newspaper reporting, in 2010, one of the Hader combines hit and killed a 320-pound black bear while harvesting corn. In 2013, Hader Farms was allegedly noncompliant with the Minnesota overtime wage laws and agreed to a settlement to pay employees \$17,633 in owed wages.

## CASE STUDY

**Wright Agri, LTD** *Covington, Indiana*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$3.7 MILLION</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$6.7 MILLION</b>
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

Wright Agri. is a business operating in Covington, Indiana, specializing in the production and manufacturing of farm equipment, such as tractors, horticulture machinery, and workshop machinery. Wright Agri. was among the top 20 farm subsidy recipients in FY2017, receiving \$3.7 million. Wright Agri. is a 75-year-old, family-run manufacturing business that prides itself on its reputation in the Midwest.

## CASE STUDY

**Lindamood Planting Company** *Tiptonville, Tennessee*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$2.3 MILLION</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$4.3 MILLION</b>
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

Lindamood Planting Company is a cotton farming company located in Tiptonville, Tennessee, owned by John Lindamood. Lindamood Planting Company received \$2.3 million in FY2017 farm subsidies. The FY2017 subsidies were up sharply from \$307,613 in FY2016. The Planting Company received most of its subsidies for cotton and corn. The Lindamood family has donated regularly and generously to PACS and political campaigns since the late 1990s. The two most notable recipients of Lindamood donations are former U.S. Representative Steve Fincher (TN-8) and National Cotton Council of America Committee for the Advancement of Cotton.

## CASE STUDY

**Groco Family Farms** *Jamestown, Ohio*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$1.6 MILLION</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$2.9 MILLION</b>
----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

Groco Family Farms is located in Jamestown, Ohio, and owned and managed by Mark and Connie Guess. Groco Farms collected \$1.6 million in FY2017 farm subsidies. The farm – which mostly grows corn and berries – has its own drone and self-steering tractors. Mark Guess has been recognized as a master farmer in Ohio.

## CASE STUDY

**PGC Farms** *Brinson, Georgia*

FY2017:

**\$2.8 MILLION**

FY2015–FY2017:

**\$10.6 MILLION**

PGC Farms is a large farm based in Brinson, Georgia, primarily focused on cotton, corn, and peanuts. PGC Farms received \$2.8 million in FY2017 in farm subsidies. PGC is one of the three largest farm subsidy recipients in Georgia. PGC Farms has an estimated \$10 million in annual revenues. The farm has been family operated since 1979 and is currently owned and managed by Greg Calhoun. Calhoun also owns, manages, and serves as president and owner for several other large companies including the First National Bank in Decatur County and Decatur Bancshares, GC Sprayer Service Inc. and GC Housing, GC Peanut Co. LLC and Circle C Farms.

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## CASE STUDY

**Racota Valley Ranch** *Hazel, South Dakota*

FY2017:

**\$758,715**

FY2015–FY2017:

**\$1.12 MILLION**

Racota Valley Ranch in Hazel, South Dakota, received \$758,715 in farm subsidies in FY2017. Kristi Noem, the sole South Dakota member of congress previously owned stake in this ranch until her family bought her out. Although she no longer owns a share of the ranch, Rep. Noem has helped to shape farming bills during her tenure. Until 2016, Rep. Noem served on the agriculture committee. When asked about her family's large subsidy payments, Rep. Noem responded, "What our family has done is participate in the farm programs. And so the farm programs, I think, essentially almost every farmer in South Dakota has participated in those." However, data shows that just 26 percent of South Dakotan farmers benefit from subsidies.

PART 3

# NOTABLE FARM SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS



Since the inception of farm subsidies, many high-powered officials and celebrities have received payments. We found politicians including Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley and other notable members of Congress reaping the benefits of federal farm subsidies.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), [examined](#) the whole of Congress, from 1995 to 2016 and found 33 members collecting around \$15.3 million in farm subsidies. Upon analyzing FY2017, our oversight report found 12 members of the U.S. House and Senate receiving farm subsidies on the year.

Historically, government-funded [celebrity farmers](#) including NBA star Scottie Pippen, media mogul Ted Turner, Tony Award winner Bruce Springsteen, rocker Jon Bon Jovi, and Minister [Louis Farrakhan](#).

As our Honorary Chairman Dr. Tom Coburn exposed in a November 2011 U.S. Senate [report](#), “In July 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that U.S. Dept. of Agriculture paid \$1.1 billion over six years to 172,801 **deceased farmers**.” The Economist reported in 2015, “Between 2008 and 2012, \$10.6 million was paid to farmers who had been dead for over a year.”

While some of these excesses may have been curbed, the following case studies show that farm subsidies are still a transfer mechanism from those that pay taxes to those that know how to legally game the system.

## Members of Congress Receiving Farm Subsidies

MEMBER OF CONGRESS	STATE/DISTRICT REPRESENTED	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED (FY2017)	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES RECEIVED (FY2015-FY2017)
DOUG LAMALFA	CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 1	\$637,059	\$1,270,000
DAVID VALADAO	CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 21	\$50,613	\$65,620
JON TESTER	MONTANA	\$29,955	\$41,973
JOHN GARAMENDI	CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 3	\$18,408	\$18,410
SAM GRAVES	MISSOURI DISTRICT 6	\$16,207	\$19,630
CHUCK GRASSLEY	IOWA	\$9,329	\$58,210
DEB FISCHER	NEBRASKA	\$7,770	\$16,190
VICKY HARTZLER	MISSOURI DISTRICT 4	\$4,806	\$20,420
BOB GIBBS	OHIO DISTRICT 7	\$1,133	\$7,660
JAMES COMER	KENTUCKY DISTRICT 1	\$464	\$464
AUSTIN SCOTT	GEORGIA DISTRICT 8	\$418	\$7,294
RODNEY DAVIS	ILLIONIS DISTRICT 13	\$88	\$224

SOURCE: 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.



CASE STUDY  
**Glen Taylor**  
*Spencer, Iowa*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$116,502</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$140,580</b>
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Glen Taylor is a [billionaire businessman](#) who owns the Minnesota Timberwolves NBA, the Minnesota Lynx WNBA, and the *Star Tribune* newspaper. Taylor is also a former member of the Minnesota State Senate. Taylor boasts a net worth of \$2.8 billion, and as of 2017, was ranked #350 on the Forbes 400 list.

Taylor owns Rembrandt farms, an egg and dairy farm in Iowa. In the past, Taylor has taken criticism for receiving large amounts of farm subsidies despite his apparent wealth. In FY2017, Taylor collected \$116,502 – with the subsidies mailed to a post office box in Iowa for the “Glen A. Taylor Revocable Trust.” These payments were from the Agricultural Risk Coverage Program. According to [EWG](#), Taylor received a total of \$1.3 million in farm subsidies to his Mankato, Minnesota, mansion between 1996 and 2000 – that’s about \$542,265 annually.



CASE STUDY  
**Doug LaMalfa**  
*Richvale, California*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$637,059</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$1.3 MILLION</b>
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U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa (CA-1) received the most farm subsidies of any member of Congress. The California rice farmer has received more than \$5 million in subsidies over the last two decades – that’s at least \$87,000 annually. Rep. LaMalfa has received his subsidies through his family’s company, DSL LaMalfa Family Partnership.

In FY2017, the DSL LaMalfa Family Partnership received \$637,059 in federal farm subsidies. Rep. LaMalfa is a member of the House Agricultural Committee and worked with other members of the committee to draft the 2018 Farm Bill. Furthermore, Rep. LaMalfa has a [net worth](#) of \$3.5 million.



CASE STUDY  
**Charles Grassley**  
*Arlington, Virginia*

<b>FY2017:</b> <b>\$9,329</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b> <b>\$58,210</b>
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Charles “Chuck” Grassley, has served as a U.S. Senator from Iowa since 1981. During his tenure, Sen. Grassley has served on the Committee on Agriculture and has assisted in drafting farm bills. Sen. Grassley received a \$9,329 farm subsidy in FY2017 and the payments are mailed to his Arlington, Virginia, condominium. Recently, Sen. Grassley aggressively advocated for reforms that restrict passive farm managers from collecting farm subsidies. Grassley’s leadership [showed](#) a willingness to restrict large amounts of farm subsidies that currently flow to big farm investors and Wall Street firms.



**CASE STUDY**  
**David Valadao**  
*Hanford, California*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$50,613</b>	<b>\$65,620</b>

U.S. Representative David Valadao (CA-21) has served in Congress since 2013. He owns “Valado Dairy” with his brothers, and this entity received \$50,613 in FY2017 subsidies. These payments have flowed through the Price Loss Coverage program. The dairy farm is located in Rep. Valadao’s hometown of Hanford, California. According to news reports, the farm shut down earlier this year after failing to repay nearly \$8.3 million in loans. On the subject, Rep. Valadao [said](#), “Like so many family dairy farms across the country, burdensome government regulations made it impossible for the operation to remain open.” In regards to the 2018 Farm Bill, Rep. Valadao [said](#), “Passage of a long-term farm bill allows farmers and ranchers to plan ahead and make decisions to improve their business. With necessary changes, the 2018 Farm Bill allows farmers to expand their farms and create jobs for Central Valley families.”



**CASE STUDY**  
**Vicky Hartzler**  
*Harrisonville, Missouri*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$4,806</b>	<b>\$20,420</b>

First elected to Congress in 2011, U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler (MO-4) serves on the House Agriculture Committee. Hartzler and her husband operate a farm in Harrisonville, Missouri, that specializes in raising cattle and growing corn, wheat, and soybeans. Throughout FY2017, their farm, “Hartzler Farms Inc.,” received \$4,806 in subsidies for the Annual Rental Crop and Price Loss Coverage programs. Regarding the 2018 Farm Bill, Rep. Hartzler said, “The Farm Bill makes significant investments in rural broadband, promotes trade, invests in research and development, and expands conservation acreage.”



**CASE STUDY**  
**Robert Gibbs**  
*Lakeville, Ohio*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$1,133</b>	<b>\$7,660</b>

U.S. Representative Robert “Bob” Gibbs has served in Congress since 2011, representing Ohio’s 18<sup>th</sup> district from 2011 to 2013 and Ohio’s seventh district from 2013 to present. After graduating from agricultural school, Rep. Gibbs co-founded the Hidden Hollow Farm in Lakeville, Ohio. Hidden Hollow Farm immediately received a federal farm subsidy. Before serving in Congress, Gibbs was the president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Rep. Gibbs serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the subcommittee for general farm commodities and risk management. In FY2017, Rep. Gibbs received one farm subsidy for Agricultural Risk Coverage for \$1,133 to an address in Lakeville, Ohio. Rep. Gibbs has voiced his approval for the 2018 Farm Bill. He is [quoted](#) saying, “After three years of hearings, research, and working with stakeholders, I’m proud to support this farm bill, which strengthens our nation’s food security and makes meaningful reforms to our social safety net.”



CASE STUDY  
**Sam Graves, Jr.**  
*Tarkio, Missouri*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$16,207</b>	<b>\$19,360</b>

U.S. Representative Sam Graves (MO-6) has been a member of Congress since 2001. Rep. Graves was born in the town of Tarkio, Missouri, as a sixth-generation farmer. He attended Missouri-Columbia where he studied agronomy. Prior to his political career, Rep. Graves served as a state representative. As a farmer, Rep. Graves has continually received annual farm subsidies.

In FY2017, Rep. Graves received three subsidies totaling \$16,207 from the Agricultural Risk Coverage program. Rep. Graves said, “Agriculture is the backbone of our economy in North Missouri.” In regards to the 2018 Farm Bill, Rep. Graves is a strong supporter, [saying](#), “Our farmers’ way of life and the world’s supply of food depend on it.”



CASE STUDY  
**John Garamendi**  
*Mokelumne Hill, California*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$18,408</b>	<b>\$18,410</b>

U.S. Representative John Garamendi (CA-3) received \$18,408 in FY2017 farm subsidies. These payments flowed to the Garamendi Exemption Trust. In FY2017, these farm subsidy payments flowed to Mokelumne Hill, California, where Rep. Garamendi grew up on a family ranch. Representative Garamendi and his wife [continue](#) their ranching habits, raising Angus cattle and growing pears in their Delta orchard.



CASE STUDY  
**Debra Fischer**  
*Valentine, Nebraska*

<b>FY2017:</b>	<b>FY2015–FY2017:</b>
<b>\$7,770</b>	<b>\$16,190</b>

U.S. Senator Debra Fischer from Nebraska has served in the Senate since 2013. Prior to her politics career, Sen. Fischer was a part of the Nebraska Legislature from 2005 to 2013. Sen. Fischer and her husband raised their family on a [cattle farm](#), and today, Sen. Fischer holds a 25 percent share in “[Sunny Slopes Ranch](#)” and “[Sunny Slope Ranch Inc.](#)” According to EWG, during a period from 1995 to 2016, these two farms received \$423,387 in federal farm subsidies. In FY2017, Sunny Slopes Ranch received a \$7,770 subsidy for Agricultural Risk Coverage. Sen. Fischer serves on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Regarding the 2018 Farm Bill, Sen. Fischer [said](#), “I take my role as a leading voice for Nebraska agriculture very seriously, and I will continue to work hard and deliver for our farmers, ranchers, and rural community.”

# APPENDIX

## MEET AMERICA'S '\$1 MILLION FARM SUBSIDY CLUB'

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
PINICON FARM	\$ 9,907,458	JES FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 3,083,507
HEARD FAMILY FARM	\$ 8,931,393	BERRYBROOK ENTERPRISES	\$ 3,064,288
HADER FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 8,737,082	BURGMAIER FARMS	\$ 3,040,488
JENKS FAMILY FARMS	\$ 7,631,350	BRYANT AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE	\$ 2,992,201
SEVEN SPRINGS FARMS	\$ 6,684,379	M & M FARMS	\$ 2,977,111
MICHAEL STAMER FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 6,650,916	TIBBS FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,958,409
SCOTT FARMS GP	\$ 6,399,719	BENDICKSON FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,941,078
MTR FARMS	\$ 6,366,652	OBBERG FAMILY FARMS	\$ 2,817,674
MOLITOR BROS FARM	\$ 5,835,400	PGC FARMS	\$ 2,813,620
BICKETT FARMS LLC	\$ 5,672,585	TRIPLE OAKS FARMS	\$ 2,717,916
CROSSROAD FARMS	\$ 5,465,825	THREE B FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,656,559
JOHNSON FARMS	\$ 4,410,730	SYLTE BROS	\$ 2,654,492
BRIAN SHRAMEK FARMS	\$ 4,361,336	DELINE FARMS SOUTH	\$ 2,630,000
HENDREN FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 4,304,154	REIMERS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,618,704
TMG FARMS	\$ 3,828,731	JEFF STAMER FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,603,801
WRIGHT AGRI GROUP GP	\$ 3,704,202	COUNTY LINE FARMS	\$ 2,596,221
EVAN AND BRETT PETER SON FARMS	\$ 3,650,228	CARRAHER AG CO.	\$ 2,596,135
DL ROBEY FARMS	\$ 3,600,011	SOUTHEASTERN LEASED FARMS, INC.	\$ 2,588,238
DAVIS FARMS	\$ 3,548,682	WEST PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,585,187
ABELN FARMS LLC	\$ 3,499,584	H.E. JORDAN & FAMILY FARM PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,581,891
3M PLANTING COMPANY	\$ 3,375,008	STAR ROCK SERVICES	\$ 2,486,938
WOOD FAMILY PARTNERSHIP	\$ 3,319,076	DROZD FARMS	\$ 2,468,868
STROMBERGER & SONS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 3,187,162	LONG VUE FARMS	\$ 2,457,864
CRAPP FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 3,174,980	SCHEINOST FARMS	\$ 2,415,601

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
DANDYLAND FARMS	\$ 2,410,919	LRS FARMS	\$ 2,003,314
DCN FARMS JOINT VENTURE	\$ 2,387,953	PROMISE LAND FARMS	\$ 1,996,177
SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBE	\$ 2,373,600	MAIN FARMS LLC	\$ 1,976,037
R & R FARMS	\$ 2,340,453	B & T PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,974,542
CROSSROAD FARMS	\$ 2,328,165	J & S FARMS	\$ 1,966,745
DEITER FARMS	\$ 2,323,911	W. C. FARMS	\$ 1,965,352
AGECY I LLC	\$ 2,314,939	DUNN FARMS	\$ 1,940,155
HARPER BROTHERS FARMS	\$ 2,309,078	HOLSCHER GRAIN FARMS	\$ 1,938,546
SUMMIT FARMS 14	\$ 2,296,619	FRISCHE FARMS	\$ 1,925,283
PORTER FARMS	\$ 2,293,086	DELINE FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,921,249
KTM FARM	\$ 2,289,551	GUMBO FARMS	\$ 1,918,032
MOORE BROTHERS	\$ 2,272,533	KEVIN & BROOKE EARNHEART	\$ 1,900,953
LINDAMOOD PLANTING COMPANY	\$ 2,256,380	KEVIN TAFFE	\$ 1,892,524
BOYD FARMS	\$ 2,214,891	C & D FARMS	\$ 1,884,004
TRIPLE B FARMS	\$ 2,189,950	H & H FARMS	\$ 1,866,474
ROBINSON PEANUT FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,132,248	MOE FARMS LLC	\$ 1,836,079
GERTSON FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,113,515	JODY COLEMAN	\$ 1,821,011
DNRC TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT - EXEMPT	\$ 2,109,095	LEISHA COLEMAN	\$ 1,820,795
CD ACRES LLC	\$ 2,107,594	HASTA FARMS	\$ 1,819,157
J & J FARMS	\$ 2,107,396	DOUBLE H FARMS	\$ 1,805,446
YORK FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 2,101,024	DOUG BULLERMAN & DEAN, DALE, DEL, DAVID, SON PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,804,689
NAPI	\$ 2,083,684	3RT FARMS	\$ 1,798,994
S & C CORNELIUS FARMS	\$ 2,071,096	SHIELDKNIGHT LAND AND CATTLE LLC	\$ 1,788,308
LIKENS FARMS	\$ 2,067,477	GILBERT FARMS	\$ 1,780,083
OAK PRAIRIE FARMS	\$ 2,067,296	FREIBORG FARM	\$ 1,772,347
PANEK FARMS	\$ 2,023,541	DESHOTELS BROTHERS FARMS	\$ 1,757,882
MARQUARDT FARMS	\$ 2,011,802	TRIPLE A FAMILY FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,744,279

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
WILLIAM C. STEFAN	\$ 1,742,420	COLUSA INDIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 1,600,372
D & T FARMS	\$ 1,729,787	RICHLAND PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,578,480
WIGGENS CREEK FARMS	\$ 1,726,671	OBERG FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,566,377
JERRY JR. & JEFF HEARD FARMS	\$ 1,714,522	GROCO FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,564,367
NUEST PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,711,397	KIRKHOLM FAMILY FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,562,416
COUCH FARMS	\$ 1,702,631	W I MILLER & SONS	\$ 1,553,868
CAVINESS FARMS	\$ 1,699,537	O'HEARN FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,533,868
MIMS FARMS	\$ 1,695,277	AMY J. DOYLE	\$ 1,532,592
FOXLEY BROTHERS	\$ 1,686,570	BRIAN PATRICK DOYLE	\$ 1,532,592
VON EYE, DANIEL LEE SR.	\$ 1,684,960	WYBORNY FARMS	\$ 1,526,481
MOORE FARMS	\$ 1,677,102	WILLIAMS FARMS	\$ 1,519,097
MATTHEW HOLDERLY	\$ 1,676,656	JOHN M MOBLEY & SONS	\$ 1,515,367
TATE FARMS	\$ 1,675,711	R C & A HART FARMS	\$ 1,500,690
JORDAN PLANTERS PARTNERS	\$ 1,673,817	PBP FARMS	\$ 1,500,644
Y5 PARTNERS	\$ 1,671,927	DOLLAR FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,499,674
TRIPLE S FARMS	\$ 1,656,394	WJS NELSON FARMS	\$ 1,498,430
YARBRO FARMS	\$ 1,656,003	FLYING FARMERS	\$ 1,495,440
EBERT FARMS	\$ 1,648,154	G M FARMS	\$ 1,491,615
JOHN BRIDGES FARM GP	\$ 1,645,607	A & A FARMS	\$ 1,490,413
SPH FARM	\$ 1,640,998	G & P FARM PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,478,119
STROBEL FARMS	\$ 1,636,931	BOBBY ROARK & SONS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,466,639
S & H FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,633,257	WITTMAN FARMS LTD	\$ 1,459,011
B & B FARMS	\$ 1,630,532	FANN FARMS	\$ 1,455,161
BRINK FARMS	\$ 1,630,464	ESPEY FARMS	\$ 1,455,022
C & C FARMS	\$ 1,628,618	ELTING FARMS	\$ 1,454,289
BLACKADDER FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,627,566	ADEN DIVERSIFIED AG. PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,451,366
RICHARD ALLEN GAALSWYK	\$ 1,601,702	STAR UNLIMITED, INC.	\$ 1,449,803

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
RALPH BROS	\$ 1,446,429	SAYER FARMS FAMILY PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,362,269
SMITH FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,444,027	BERRY BROTHERS FARMS	\$ 1,359,794
MAPLE PORK FARMS	\$ 1,439,590	HOEKSMAS FARMS	\$ 1,354,085
THOMAS F. & DONALD T. SUMNER PARTNERS	\$ 1,437,773	HOME CYPRESS FARMS	\$ 1,352,270
ISOM BROTHERS	\$ 1,437,620	NIEWOHNER FARMING ENTERPRISE	\$ 1,351,883
SHOWTIME FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,430,684	DOUBLE S FARMS	\$ 1,350,677
DAKOTA ACRES	\$ 1,425,192	ZERO GRADE FARMS	\$ 1,343,592
4 THE BOYS	\$ 1,424,169	DUNN BROTHERS	\$ 1,339,242
D & D FARMS	\$ 1,422,855	CURETON FARM PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,338,867
SILENT SHADE PLANTING COMPANY	\$ 1,422,782	MARSH FARMS	\$ 1,335,688
LOCKLEY BROTHERS	\$ 1,414,009	KLEINHEKSEL FARMS	\$ 1,333,935
TOMMY K. LAUBHAN	\$ 1,411,802	RED OAKS FARM	\$ 1,333,401
JAMES DARIN HEISHMAN	\$ 1,410,047	ROSSI GRAIN FARMS	\$ 1,333,150
JD FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,408,436	CORCORAN FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,332,513
BARE BONES FARMS	\$ 1,405,467	GLOVER FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,329,837
HUFFER & HUFFER	\$ 1,404,968	D & S FARMS	\$ 1,328,640
MCELROY FARMS ENTERPRISES	\$ 1,402,755	SARATOGA PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,327,956
ANTHONY FARMS	\$ 1,401,667	B FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,326,370
MORAVEC ST. ELMO FARMS	\$ 1,398,896	TER RAE FARMS, INC.	\$ 1,325,590
BARBER FAMILY FARM PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,396,113	MILL FARMS	\$ 1,323,462
WHISKEY CREEK PARTNERS	\$ 1,386,390	MARTIN G. MYRE	\$ 1,319,678
HASTINGS FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,383,755	SMITH FARMS LTD	\$ 1,318,215
OTTO FARMS	\$ 1,383,603	WHITEWATER FARMS	\$ 1,318,039
JOHN E. WALSH AND SONS	\$ 1,378,843	DITTRICH FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,316,233
ENGER FARMS	\$ 1,378,060	MERNA VALLEY AG.	\$ 1,315,254
REYSTEAD FAMILY PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,376,125	HF FARMS	\$ 1,314,940
SCHIFF PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,375,780	PRESNALL FARMS GP	\$ 1,308,245

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
GIBSON FARMS	\$ 1,307,680	PORTER FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,233,974
HAROLD JERDON HAMLIN	\$ 1,301,997	BEARSKIN FARMS	\$ 1,233,234
RIVER ROCK FARMS	\$ 1,301,742	IRISH FAMILY FARMS LLC	\$ 1,232,200
LUTHER GRIFFIN FARM	\$ 1,296,164	FOUR COUNTY GRAIN	\$ 1,229,788
MITCHELL FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,294,985	WALTER JAMES JR. STAFFORD	\$ 1,229,117
WOLLE FARMS	\$ 1,293,031	LORI ANN STAFFORD	\$ 1,229,110
RAY DEAN HEARD FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,290,593	THORNTON FARMS	\$ 1,227,370
HOUR GLASS FARMS PARTNERSHIPS	\$ 1,288,509	HASKELL FAMILY PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,225,678
CIRCLE C FARMS, INC.	\$ 1,286,518	WHITE FARMS	\$ 1,224,163
STEPHEN DOZIER FARMS	\$ 1,282,499	HOKE RANCHES	\$ 1,224,136
HARVEY FARM ENTERPRISES PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,273,180	WRIGHT LIBERTY FARMS LLC	\$ 1,220,932
LAKELAND PLANTING COMPANY	\$ 1,272,888	THURSTON FARMS	\$ 1,219,945
MOUND BAYOU	\$ 1,271,298	AG PARTNERS	\$ 1,216,794
DARREL & JEAN SPRINGER J VENTURE	\$ 1,270,744	JON W THOMPSON	\$ 1,216,682
FTJ FARMS	\$ 1,268,774	HILL AND HILL PARTNERS	\$ 1,216,651
DEYOUNG FARMS	\$ 1,265,743	SHELSTAD BROTHERS	\$ 1,215,009
B & B LIVESTOCK	\$ 1,265,408	DIAMOND S FARMS LLC	\$ 1,214,996
ARMES GRAIN & LIVESTOCK	\$ 1,263,140	BRADLEY GENE JONGELING	\$ 1,214,033
BENSHOOF FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,249,530	STEWART FARMS	\$ 1,211,902
LIPPY BROTHERS FARMS, ST	\$ 1,248,572	OBERY FARMS PARTNERS	\$ 1,210,891
PENN BROTHERS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,241,975	RUNNING LAKE FARMS	\$ 1,209,709
J & D FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,238,051	MEULENERS FARMS GRAIN PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,209,359
FRIEMEL FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,237,436	OBRYAN GRAIN FARMS	\$ 1,209,356
HIZER FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,237,323	KIM THOMPSON	\$ 1,205,217
HIGH HORIZONS FARM, INC.	\$ 1,235,117	SUHRE AND SUHRE	\$ 1,204,108
JET FARMS	\$ 1,234,842	CROW FARM OPERATIONS, LLC	\$ 1,200,988
MARTHALER FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,234,779	BRELSFORD FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,199,494

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
PLATTE HUTTERIAN BRETHREN INC	\$ 1,198,394	4T PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,153,008
WHITEHEAD FARMS	\$ 1,198,284	VINCENT FARMS	\$ 1,152,932
DRY CREEK FARMS	\$ 1,197,834	R A PICKENS AND SON, COMPANY	\$ 1,148,923
THOMAS JACK MEERT	\$ 1,192,733	WESTOVER PLANTING CO.	\$ 1,148,871
F & J FARMS	\$ 1,192,567	YINGST FARM LLC,	\$ 1,148,630
PETERSEN FARMS	\$ 1,192,373	SCOTT C. SHIRLEY	\$ 1,143,653
HOLDERLY FARMS INC	\$ 1,189,508	FREELAND FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,141,371
SURBER FARMS	\$ 1,189,011	TWIN H FARMS	\$ 1,141,351
G.T. LUTTRULL, INCORPORATED	\$ 1,187,123	3N FARMS	\$ 1,134,727
PEARSON FARMS	\$ 1,186,718	PEAVY BROTHERS	\$ 1,132,701
G & L GASAWAY FARMS	\$ 1,186,646	MEADOWBROOK FARMS	\$ 1,130,148
NORTH AMERICAN FARMS, INC	\$ 1,185,522	LARRY AND DARLENE KNOX	\$ 1,129,669
PHARR FARMS	\$ 1,183,791	LARRY LESTER HEISHMAN	\$ 1,129,650
HAND BROS	\$ 1,183,725	HOLT & DEBBIE SHOAF FARMS	\$ 1,127,736
SILLER BROTHERS, INC.	\$ 1,182,419	PEINE FARMS LLP	\$ 1,127,658
MARY JEAN BAUMERT	\$ 1,182,094	RED RIVER FARMS	\$ 1,126,822
C E LUCKEY & SONS	\$ 1,179,698	LEWIS FARMS	\$ 1,121,904
JOHN WILLIAM DEMOTT	\$ 1,179,241	SARRADA FARMS	\$ 1,116,116
COLEMAN FARMS	\$ 1,178,798	MEADOW VIEW FARMS	\$ 1,114,489
BARBWIRE S FARMS	\$ 1,178,492	J T & K KALFSBEEK	\$ 1,114,359
DEMAREE FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,177,580	SANDLIN FARMS	\$ 1,114,058
ANGELA LEE DEMOTT	\$ 1,170,880	K-FOUR FARMS	\$ 1,111,271
CARWELL FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,170,674	J & L FARMS	\$ 1,110,803
HANNA FARMING PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,162,967	LITTLE CREEKS	\$ 1,110,661
SEWARD & SON PLANTING COMPANY	\$ 1,156,903	D & D HORRAS FARMS	\$ 1,109,314
BEECHLAND FARMS PARTNERS	\$ 1,155,770	LINDSEY FARMS	\$ 1,109,211
MEMERING FARMS	\$ 1,154,328	DOUBLE A FARMS	\$ 1,109,023

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
STARK FARMS	\$ 1,109,020	FORT MORGAN FARMS LLC	\$ 1,067,580
MCGUIRE AG	\$ 1,107,139	CHRISTOPHE RANDALL ZUBKE	\$ 1,065,206
MOON ISLAND FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,107,099	WYNN FARMS	\$ 1,061,810
FRANKLIN PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,106,684	WRAY FARMS INC.	\$ 1,055,652
CASH FARMS	\$ 1,104,748	HILLSIDE FARMS	\$ 1,055,241
KEITH WITT, DBA WITT FARMS	\$ 1,103,051	LINDSKOV RANCH	\$ 1,054,811
LEIFKER ENTERPRISES, LLC	\$ 1,100,985	PETERSON FARMS	\$ 1,052,742
CIRCLE H JOINT VENTURE	\$ 1,097,605	TIM LUCKEY FARMS	\$ 1,050,578
MURPHY LAKE FARMS	\$ 1,094,620	WEST FARMS INC.	\$ 1,049,946
ANDERSON FARMS	\$ 1,094,587	MANN FARMS	\$ 1,049,500
EDIE WACKER	\$ 1,093,943	STIEBER BROS INC.	\$ 1,048,792
RICHARD L. WACKER	\$ 1,093,943	STEVEN T. HORNING	\$ 1,047,490
R. ALAN THOMPSON	\$ 1,091,987	MARSHALL FARMS INC.	\$ 1,046,786
THERESA L. THOMPSON	\$ 1,091,985	WELSH AG ENTERPRISES	\$ 1,046,562
G & G FARMS INC.	\$ 1,088,416	PEARSON RANCH	\$ 1,045,045
CARLSON FARMS OF GOODHUE	\$ 1,088,310	MB ROTH FARMS	\$ 1,043,699
CARROLL FARMS LLC	\$ 1,082,366	DOUBLE D FARMS	\$ 1,041,905
MAGNOLIA PLANTATION PARTNERS	\$ 1,081,180	GUY LELAND MILLS, JR.	\$ 1,039,693
REED FARMS	\$ 1,079,475	MEDFORD & SONS	\$ 1,039,265
BOMKE FARMS	\$ 1,079,152	DONALD SWENSON	\$ 1,039,242
IMHOLTE FARMS LLC	\$ 1,079,087	THOMPSON FAMILY FARMS	\$ 1,037,140
BRANTLEY FARMING CO.	\$ 1,077,955	GMG FARMS	\$ 1,032,569
BERRY FARM ENTERPRISES	\$ 1,075,374	D & L MOE FARMS LLC	\$ 1,031,641
FOUR STAR PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,074,943	BRIAN ELWOOD TEAL	\$ 1,028,983
HEXAD FARMS	\$ 1,074,500	HALL FARMS	\$ 1,028,895
HAP FARMS INC.	\$ 1,070,648	DAVID ALLEN PRIMROSE	\$ 1,028,432
CLEAR MEADOW FARMS	\$ 1,068,141	COLEMAN FARMS	\$ 1,027,444

RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)	RECIPIENT	TOTAL FARM SUBSIDIES (FY2017)
ASH MORE FARM PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,027,353	EVANS FARMS PARTNERSHP	\$ 1,012,837
ROSA PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,026,318	HARVEY JORDAN FARMS PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,008,253
TAYLOR FARMS GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	\$ 1,024,599	LANE FARMS	\$ 1,008,241
GARDNER FARMS	\$ 1,023,740	DAVID RUSSELL PEPPER	\$ 1,005,656
DIANA L. SCHROCK	\$ 1,019,517	J & K GRAIN FARMS	\$ 1,003,571
WOODBURN FARMS	\$ 1,017,591	RENFROE FARMS	\$ 1,003,294
BRADOW FARMS	\$ 1,015,799	CARSTENS & SONS FARM	\$ 1,001,587
SPRING VALLEY HUTTERIAN BRETHREN INC.	\$ 1,015,520	PUSHEN & PULLEN FARMS	\$ 1,001,199
LEPLEY FARMS LLC	\$ 1,013,374		

SOURCE: 2017 UNITED STATES FARM SUBSIDIES DATA COMPILED BY OPENTHEBOOKS.COM VIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

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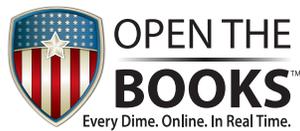
### The Board of Directors at American Transparency (OpenTheBooks.com) thanks our team:

**Adam Andrzejewski**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, authored this report. **Matthew Tyrmand**, Deputy Director, disseminated this report to national media. **Craig Mijares**, Chief Operating Officer at American Transparency, assembled and organized datasets. **Frank Bruno**, Director of Government Oversight, and **Madalen Strumpf**, Oversight Manager, managed our data investigation and oversight teams. **Jessie Fox**, Communications Specialist, and **Lauren Renslow**, Social Media Specialist, helped draft and edit the report.

### Research Interns included:

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This report quantifies federal transactions compiled at [www.openthebooks.com](http://www.openthebooks.com) as a result of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. To the extent the government makes mistakes in reporting inaccurate or incomplete data, our report will reflect these same mistakes.



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