

## Senate Agriculture Committee

### Oversight of the US Department of Agriculture

June 10, 2026

Witness: Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins

#### Highlights:

The Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on USDA oversight focused primarily on the broader farm economy, including rising input costs, trade policy, disaster assistance, and agency staffing, with repeated concerns that farmers are facing financial strain from high fertilizer, fuel, and labor costs.

#### Key points:

- Lawmakers emphasized challenges with USDA capacity; noting staff reductions and reorganization efforts could limit access to key programs.
- There was bipartisan concern on rising bankruptcies, declining profitability, and financial strain on producers.
  - Input costs such as fertilizer, fuel, labor, and market volatility were repeatedly cited as major drivers.
  - There was broad agreement that current assistance is not enough, and more support may be needed.
- Secretary Rollins flagged that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) \$30 billion cap is restricting flexibility.
  - There was bipartisan interest in expanding or adjusting the CCC and using it for emergency support (e.g. fertilizer, disaster aid).
- Secretary Rollins also gave a lot of emphasis on the New World Screwworm outbreak response, citing that the USDA has already invested \$1.3 billion to combat the issue, including a rapid scale-up of the sterile fly production.
- Debates over SNAP reforms and nutrition program funding highlighted tensions between reducing costs and maintaining food access for vulnerable populations.
- Although Tribes were not explicitly discussed during the hearing, several major issues raised have clear implications for Tribal communities.
  - Concerns about reduced USDA staffing and service delivery could disproportionately affect Tribal producers who rely on local offices for technical assistance and program access, while changes to SNAP and broader nutrition policies may impact food access in Indian Country.

- Ongoing challenges related to high input costs, disaster assistance delivery, and livestock disease response—such as the New World screwworm outbreak—are likely to affect Tribal producers and food systems, even though Tribal-specific needs and priorities were not directly addressed in the discussion.