

Strengthening TEFAP Investments Supports America's Families, Farmers and Food Banks

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) helps keep families, the economy, and food systems in rural communities resilient and stable.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Feeding America urges you to include an emergency appropriation of \$450 million in the FY 2026 year end funding bills for additional food purchases to support specialty crops and other commodities to be distributed through TEFAP. These purchases would help specialty crop growers and commodity farmers facing high input costs.

TEFAP purchases provide a win-win for farmers, food banks, and individuals and families facing hunger.



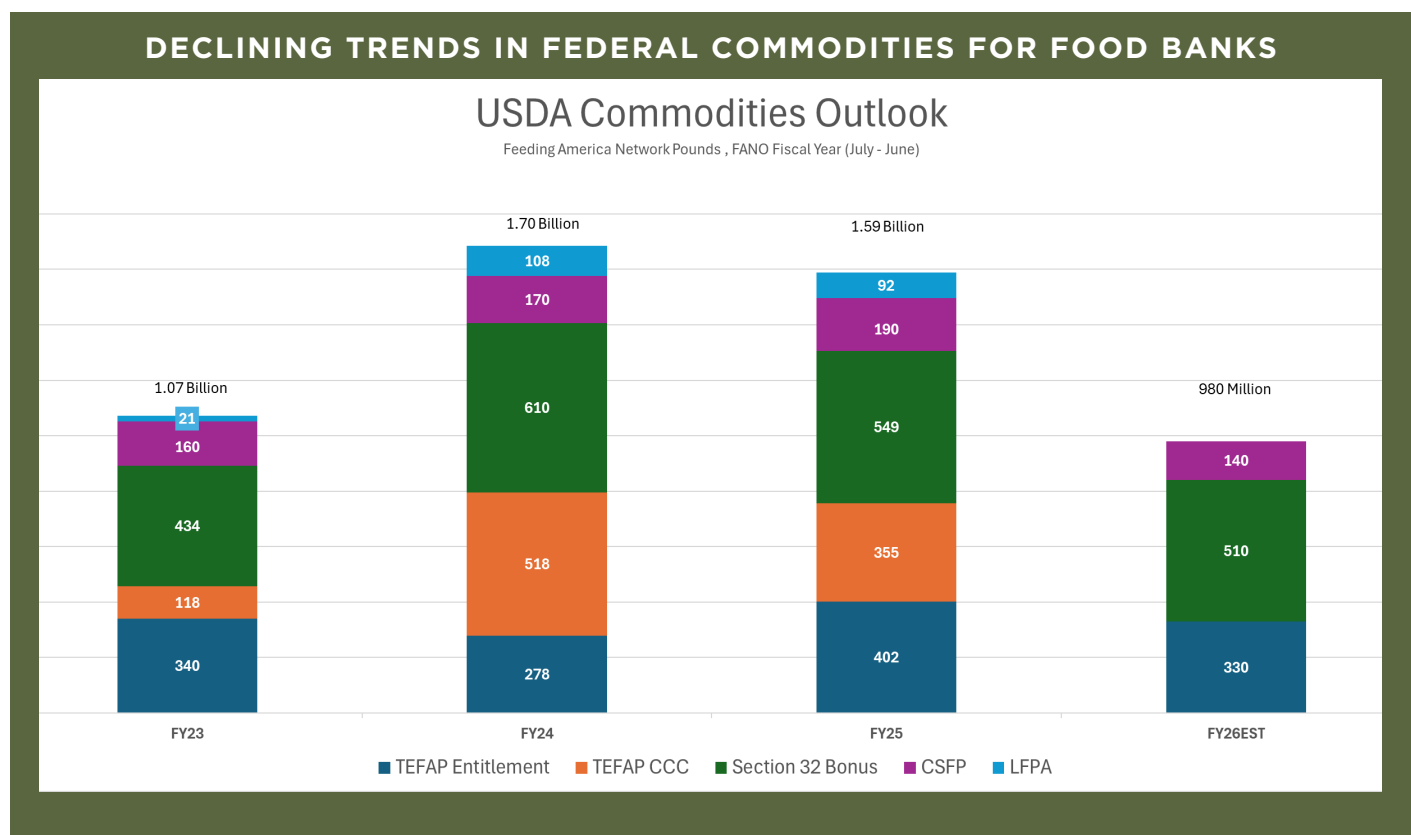
HOW TEFAP SUPPORTS RURAL COMMUNITIES

- **Direct Purchases from Farmers:** Through TEFAP entitlement food purchases authorized in the U.S. Farm Bill, USDA buys large quantities of food directly from U.S. farmers, supporting the agricultural sector.
- **Crop Market Stabilization:** By purchasing surplus food, USDA supports U.S. producers impacted by trade issues, helps prevent market gluts in times of high crop yields and stabilizes prices to reestablish farmers' purchasing power.
- **Food Assistance:** USDA provides food to communities through emergency food providers, like food banks. This helps families facing hunger put nutritious, U.S.-grown food on the table.

THE NEED

Feeding America food banks surveyed reported an average **12-14% increase in the amount of food distributed** during the almost two-month government shutdown, as compared to the same timeframe last year.

In January 2026, food banks are facing a **projected reduction of 20 million pounds in TEFAP foods**, compared to the 2025 monthly average, as USDA is still catching up on food orders that were on hold during the shutdown.



Stabilizing the farm economy through additional TEFAP purchases can help support families facing hunger. By leveraging the scale and efficiency of food banks and food pantries participating in TEFAP, Congress will remain a key partner in supporting our nation's farmers while directing surplus U.S.-grown food products to families in need.

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