

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Senator John Hoeven
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Appropriations Committee

April 14, 2026

Chair Hoeven and Ranking Member Shaheen,

I write to request \$10 million in federal appropriations for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN). I am thankful for the Subcommittee's previous support for FRSAN and urge continued support.

FRSAN supports farmers, ranchers and their families by connecting them to stress assistance and mental health resources. Through four regional centers, the program expands access nationwide by coordinating services tailored to the unique needs of each region, including telephone helplines and websites, training programs, workshops, support groups and outreach services.

Since its inception, FRSAN has helped raise awareness, reduce stigma, and improve access to care in agricultural communities. While more farmers and ranchers are seeking mental health support, there remains a strong need.

Farmers and ranchers face higher rates of stress and depression than the general population, driven by ongoing financial pressures, volatile markets, and rising input costs. Farm bankruptcies have increased in recent years, and the number of U.S. farms continues to decline, placing additional strain on rural communities. Meanwhile, more than 60 percent of rural residents live in areas with shortages of mental health professionals.

FRSAN plays a critical role in bridging this gap by delivering targeted, community-based support in areas where access to mental healthcare is limited. Continued investment will ensure that farmers and ranchers have the resources they need to manage stress, maintain their wellbeing, and sustain their operations during challenging economic conditions.

As you continue your work on the FY2027 agriculture appropriations bill, I request funding FRSAN at \$10 million to ensure continued support for the wellbeing of farmers, ranchers, and their families.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Marshall

Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator