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B-338223

March 27, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives

Subject: *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation: Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program*

Pursuant to section 801(a)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, this is our report on a major rule promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) entitled “Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program” (RIN: 0560-AI87). We received the rule on March 12, 2026. It was published in the *Federal Register* on February 23, 2026. 91 Fed. Reg. 8360. The effective date of the rule is February 23, 2026.

According to CCC, the rule provides \$11 billion in one-time bridge payments to American farmers in response to temporary trade market disruptions and increased production costs. CCC stated that payments under the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program are intended in part to aid producers until assistance from provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Public Law 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (July 4, 2025), notably increases in reference prices to major covered commodities, reach eligible farmers after October 1, 2026.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires a 60-day delay in the effective date of a major rule from the date of publication in the *Federal Register* or receipt of the rule by Congress, whichever is later. 5 U.S.C. § 801(a)(3)(A). The 60-day delay in effective date does not apply, however, if the agency finds for good cause that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, and the agency incorporates the finding and a brief statement of its reasons in the rule. 5 U.S.C. § 808(2). CCC determined that good cause existed for this rule because benefits made by the rule are critical to the financial stability of producers who participate in this program and this assistance is necessary to help those producers sustain their normal business operations. 91 Fed. Reg. at 8363–64.

Enclosed is our assessment of CCC’s compliance with the procedural steps required by section 801(a)(1)(B)(i) through (iv) of title 5 with respect to the rule. If you have any questions

about this report or wish to contact GAO officials responsible for the evaluation work relating to the subject matter of the rule, please contact me at (202) 512-8156.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley A. Jones
Managing Associate General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: William Beam
Executive Vice President
Commodity Credit Corporation

REPORT UNDER 5 U.S.C. § 801(a)(2)(A) ON A MAJOR RULE
ISSUED BY THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION
ENTITLED
“FARMER BRIDGE ASSISTANCE (FBA) PROGRAM”
(RIN: 0560-A187)

(i) Cost-benefit analysis

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) prepared an analysis of the costs and benefits of this rule. See 91 Fed. Reg. 8360, 8364 (Feb. 23, 2026). CCC estimated that the total program cost will be \$10.998 billion, which also represents the benefit to producers, but the final amount will depend on the number of applications submitted and approved. *Id.*

(ii) Agency actions relevant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. §§ 603–605, 607, and 609

CCC stated that this rule is exempt from the requirements of the Act because those requirements are specifically tied to the Administrative Procedure Act or other requirements for a proposed rule, which did not apply to the rule because it involves matters relating to benefits. 91 Fed. Reg. at 8363.

(iii) Agency actions relevant to sections 202–205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, 2 U.S.C. §§ 1532–1535

CCC stated that this rule contains no federal mandates, as defined by the Act, for state, local, and Tribal governments, or the private sector. 91 Fed. Reg. at 8364.

(iv) Other relevant information or requirements under acts and executive orders

Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 551 *et seq.*

CCC stated that the Administrative Procedure Act’s notice-and-comment and delayed-effective-date requirements do not apply when the rule involves specified actions, including matters relating to loans, grants, benefits, and contracts, and this rule falls within this exemption. 91 Fed. Reg. at 8363.

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501–3520

CCC determined that this rule contains information collection requirements under the Act. 91 Fed. Reg. at 8364–65.

Statutory authorization for the rule

CCC promulgated this rule pursuant to sections 714 *et seq.* of title 15, United States Code.

Executive Order No. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)

CCC stated that this rule is economically significant under the Order and was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget. 91 Fed. Reg. at 8364.

Executive Order No. 13132 (Federalism)

CCC indicated in its submission to us that it did not discuss the Order in this rule.