

When Did America **Stop Making Things?**

Cheap imports felt like a feature until they showed up at the pump, at the port, and at the grocery store.

~16%

America's share of global manufacturing today. At the start of this century it was 25%. China now produces nearly 30%.

Source: Congress.gov

6.5M
barrels/day

What America still imports in crude oil every day, even as the world's largest producer.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

\$30-60B

Projected drop in U.S. net farm income in 2026.

Source: Purdue University

No Fuel, No Food

Energy isn't one part of the American food system. It's woven throughout. Diesel runs almost every tractor and harvester on American farms. All the cargo ships, semi-trucks, and river barges that transport seed, grain, and food - from fields to ports to storage - run on fuel. When crude prices spike, almost everything on a farm spikes with them.

Sources: EIA, AAA

The Energy Behind Every Acre

Modern agriculture runs on fertilizer. Roughly half the world's food production depends on it. And fertilizer depends on energy to produce.

Sulfur, a byproduct of oil refining, is a key input for phosphate-based crop nutrients. When refining capacity is disrupted, sulfur supply tightens and fertilizer costs climb. Since early 2024, the price of sulfur has surged more than 1,700%, the tightest supply the industry has seen since 2008.

Sources: S&P Global, Argus Media



A Repeat of the 80s

Every spring, most American farmers borrow money to plant. When energy prices spike, fuel, fertilizer, and borrowing costs move together, squeezing margins on all sides.

"I started farming in the 80s, and it was bad in the 80s. It was 18% interest, and other things were working against us. But I can tell you, this is a repeat of the 80s."

Monty Rast, farmer, Calhoun County, South Carolina

Source: WIS TV, April 2026



One Disruption. A Thousand Ripples.

Most Americans follow these events as news. They show up on the grocery bill six months later.

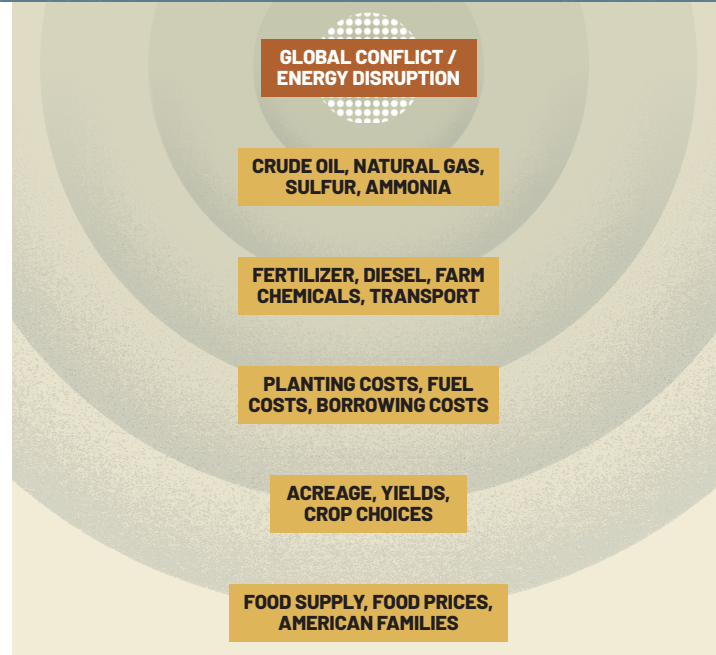
How a Far-Away Crisis Reaches the Table

Crude oil prices spike. Sulfur, a byproduct of refining, tightens. Ammonia, which depends on natural gas, gets more expensive. Diesel climbs alongside them.

Then it reaches producers. Fuel costs go up. Fertilizer costs go up. Everything downstream of energy moves when energy moves.

Then it reaches the farm. Planting costs rise. Borrowing costs rise. Farmers make hard choices: fewer acres, different crops, less product per acre.

Then it reaches the table. Less production means tighter supply. Prices follow. American families pay more for food because of something that happened six months ago halfway around the world.



50 years

Since America built its last major oil refinery.

Source: EIA

~1M barrels/day

Refining capacity lost since 2020.

Source: EIA

70%

China produces nearly 70% of the world's active ingredients for crop protection.

Source: Farm Bureau

Real Problems, Real Solutions

The forces squeezing American families and farmers are global, geopolitical and slow to reverse. Solving the problem starts with understanding the root causes and acting on them.



Stabilize What We Can

Help American farmers access homegrown inputs. Support domestic refinery output to drive raw material costs down.

Provide targeted relief for farmers facing cost spikes.



Build Domestic Capacity

Invest in domestic fertilizer, vitamin and crop protection production.

Streamline permitting for energy, mining and manufacturing projects.

Develop strategic reserves for sulfur, ammonia and key farm inputs.



Build Resilience Before the Next Crisis

Build domestic refining capacity to stabilize raw material supply chains.

Strengthen agricultural supply partnerships with allied nations. Invest in farm technologies that reduce dependence on volatile global markets.

America feeds itself. But we're beholden to foreign supply chains to do it. It's time to fix that.