

From: Sarah Graddy sarah@ewg.org
Subject: Trump Campaign Advisors Have Already Received Over \$2M in Trade Bailout Payments
Date: September 11, 2019 at 10:27 AM
To:



Hi there,

As billions more taxpayer dollars begin flowing out the door to farmers for “relief” from Trump’s trade war, the Environmental Working Group has uncovered that some of Trump’s most prominent agricultural advisors were among the lucky recipients of the first round of bailout payments.

EWG found that 15 members of an agribusiness council that advised 2016 Trump’s campaign raked in \$2.2 million during the initial bailout, which lavished about \$8.6 billion onto [mostly soy] farmers. Our analysis is pasted below this email.

So far, EWG’s investigation of the dubious bailout has found:

- [The biggest, richest farmers](#) have, by far, benefitted the most
- [3,500 farms](#) have received over the payment max
- [Over 9,000 city slickers](#) have received payments
- Payments have overwhelmingly [gone to white farmers](#), continuing USDA’s racist legacy

In addition, the *Washington Post* [observed](#) that 9 in 10 counties that voted for Trump have received subsidies to fight the trade war.

The newest bailout has already distributed [\\$2.5 billion](#), with another \$14.5 billion promised.

All of our bailout work lives [here](#). Please call or email me with any questions.

Best,

Sarah Graddy
Communications Director
EWG
(202) 939-9141
sarah@ewg.org

[Trump Campaign Advisors Receive Over \\$2 Million in Trade Bailout Payments](#)

By [Donald Carr, Senior Advisor](#)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Fifteen members of an agribusiness council that advised Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign have received \$2.2 million from the federal bailout program for farmers hurt by the president's trade war with China.

Two months before Trump won the 2016 election, his campaign announced the formation of an Agriculture and Rural Advisory Committee. Designed to smooth over any misgivings farmers might have voting for a rich Manhattan playboy, the council was a who's who of industrial agriculture luminaries.

The group's founder and leader is Charles Herbster, a Nebraska farmer, rancher and CEO of an agricultural products company. During the campaign, Herbster told Politico the group's focus would be fundraising and mobilizing rural voters. In a set of talking points distributed by the committee, a topline message to farmers was "If you want a more predictable and profitable future, your choice is straight forward – you must vote for Donald Trump for President."

Since Trump entered the White House, nothing has been predictable for American farmers. But for 15 members of the advisory council, Trump's trade war has brought more than \$2 million in Market Facilitation Payments, the Department of Agriculture program for farmers whose access to the Chinese market has been cut off by the president's tariffs.

EWG obtained data on the payments from USDA through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Market Facilitation Payments to Trump's Ag Campaign Advisors

Name, Farm Location	Position	Payment
<u>John J. Armstrong</u> Muscota, Kan.	Kansas Wheat Commission member	\$80,026
<u>Michael D. Brandenburg</u> Edgely, N.D.	State representative, North Dakota	\$118,106
<u>John S. Dalrymple III</u> Casselton, N.D.	Governor, North Dakota, 2010-2016	\$256,668
<u>Rodney L. Davis</u> Florissant, Mo.	U.S. representative (R-Ill.), House Agriculture Commission	\$1,034
<u>Steve L. Foglesong</u> Astoria, Ill.	Former president, National Cattlemen's Beef Association	\$14,612

<u>Ronald Ray Heck Perry</u> , Iowa	Past president, American Soybean Association	\$168,147
<u>Charlotte Kelley Burlison</u> , Tenn.	Cotton grower, former county Republican Party chair	\$874,842
<u>Ted A. McKinney</u> Tipton, Ind.	Under secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, USDA	\$6,308
<u>Jim Moseley</u> Clarks Hill, Ind.	Former deputy secretary, USDA	\$15,624
<u>Jim L. Reese</u> Nardin, Okla.	Former Oklahoma secretary of agriculture	\$21,300
<u>Marcus Rust</u> Remington, Ind.	CEO, Rose Acre Farms, second largest egg producer in U.S.	\$54,058
<u>Leslie Rutledge</u> Marion, Ark. (wife of recipient Boyce Johnson)	Arkansas attorney general	\$35,780
<u>Kip Tom</u> Leesburg, Ind.	U.S. ambassador to U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture	\$509,342
<u>Steve Wellman</u> Syracuse, Neb.	Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture	\$41,022
<u>Walt Whitcomb</u> Waldo, Maine	Former Maine agriculture commissioner	\$2,904
Total		\$2,199,773

Source: EWG, from USDA data obtained via the Freedom of Information Act

Among the Trump campaign advisors receiving MFP payments is Kip Tom, who is one of the largest corn, soybean and seed growers in Indiana. Last year Trump **appointed** him the Rome-based ambassador to the United Nations for food and agriculture. Toms Farms Partners, one of his businesses, received \$509,000 in MFP payments.

Among other notable members of the advisory committee:

- Charlotte Kelly, who owns a 14,000-acre Tennessee cotton farm, received \$874,000 in MFP payments.
- Jack Dalrymple, a wheat and soybean farmer who was the Republican governor of North Dakota from 2010 to 2016, received \$256,668 in payments.
- Ron Heck of Iowa, past president of the American Soybean Association, received \$168,147.
- North Dakota state Rep. Mike Brandenburg, whose farms grow wheat, corn and soybeans, received \$118,106.

Billions of dollars in MFP payments have also flowed into the bank accounts of **“city slickers”** who live in the nation’s largest cities and **mega-farms** owned by America’s richest farmers – not to small struggling family farmers and **minority farmers**.

One of the Trump ag council’s campaign talking points was “A Trump administration will change things. You will have the government off your back and out of your pocket.”

A trade war that has cut off many growers from their most important market is hardly getting government off farmers’ backs. And \$2 million in bailouts? The government is definitely in these advisory council members’ pockets.

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Sarah Graddy
Communications Director
Environmental Working Group
1436 U Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20009
Office: (202) 939-9141
Cell: (202) 570-1939
Fax: (202) 939-9126
www.ewg.org
sarah@ewg.org
Twitter: @sarah_graddy