

Update: Diesel Prices on Track to Cost Farmers \$2.4 Billion In Higher Planting and Harvest Costs in 2026 Amid Trump's Iran War

President Trump [campaigned](#) on lowering prices for farmers, but his actions caused the opposite result: American farmers are facing skyrocketing costs. Trump's decision to go to war with Iran drove up the cost of diesel fuel just as farmers were set to start their spring planting – a process that requires millions of gallons of diesel fuel across the country. Now, his failure to re-open the Strait of Hormuz has pushed diesel prices to hit [record highs](#) right in the middle of the fall harvest season. In addition, Trump's tariffs have significantly increased other [costs](#) for farmers and made it more difficult for them to plan for the future. Experts expect that these high [diesel costs](#) will soon drive up grocery costs even more, adding more economic pain for Americans struggling with high costs under Trump.

This Joint Economic Committee – Minority analysis estimates that farmers across the country are on track to spend an additional **\$2.4 billion on diesel fuel alone across this year's spring planting and fall harvest seasons compared to last year; a 68 percent increase for certain key crops**. This calculation only takes into account the diesel used to plant and harvest corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, and rice; it doesn't factor in other war-related increases such as the increased costs of running diesel generators that power some greenhouses or the increases at the pump that farmers and truckers face when they drive products to market.

The Committee calculated the increase in overall diesel spending by farmers across the U.S. using diesel price data from AAA, estimates of average fuel use by crop and field operation from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau Intelligence, Iowa State University Ag Decision Maker research, and U.S. Department of Agriculture data on 2025 and 2026 acreage and planting windows and crop progress for corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, and cotton.

Increase in Diesel Costs for Farming by State

The Committee estimates that, nationally, higher diesel prices will increase the cost of planting and harvesting major crops by more than **\$2.4 billion in 2026 compared to the previous year – a 68 percent increase**. This overall cost increase includes an estimate of how much more farmers spent on diesel in the spring 2026 to plant corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton and rice – five of the country's most commonly grown crops – combined with new Committee forecasts of how much more farmers are paying in diesel costs during this fall's harvest season for those same crops. As of the release of this report, the harvest is well [underway](#) in the states that provide the vast majority of these crops in the U.S. The tables below show the top 20 states by both the overall 2025-2026 increase in diesel costs tied to planting and harvesting corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton and rice and the percentage increase over that same period to account for the difference in the scale of agricultural operations across states.

Top 20 States by Overall Increase in Planting and Harvesting Diesel Costs	
State	\$ Increase in Farming Diesel Costs from 2025 to 2026
1. Illinois	+\$284,496,067
2. Iowa	+\$251,253,459
3. Minnesota	+\$174,129,161
4. Nebraska	+\$166,123,939
5. North Dakota	+\$142,525,358
6. Indiana	+\$140,895,450
7. Kansas	+\$137,297,269
8. South Dakota	+\$125,865,228
9. Texas	+\$116,101,620
10. Missouri	+\$108,437,558
11. Ohio	+\$102,304,430
12. Wisconsin	+\$75,866,580
13. Arkansas	+\$70,189,803
14. Michigan	+\$58,646,766
15. Mississippi	+\$39,351,487
16. Kentucky	+\$38,985,154
17. North Carolina	+\$33,293,115
18. Tennessee	+\$31,997,019
19. Louisiana	+\$25,462,505
20. Georgia	+\$25,022,835
United States	+\$2,391,600,434
Sources: AAA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau Intelligence, and Iowa State University Ag Decision Maker research.	
Values represent the sum of the 2025-2026 increase in diesel costs associated with planting and harvesting corn, soybeans, spring wheat, cotton, and rice. Harvest cost estimates in 2026 use forecast state average diesel prices for the relevant crop's expected harvest season in that state.	

Top 20 States by Percent Increase in Planting and Harvesting Diesel Costs	
State	Percent Increase in Farming Diesel Costs from 2025 to 2026
1. Florida	+111.9%
2. Oklahoma	+100.2%
3. New Mexico	+97.2%
4. Alabama	+95.6%
5. Illinois	+90.0%
6. Georgia	+89.8%
7. Indiana	+88.5%
8. Wisconsin	+87.8%
9. Texas	+86.5%
10. Michigan	+86.5%
11. Ohio	+85.6%
12. West Virginia	+85.4%
13. Kansas	+84.1%
14. Kentucky	+82.1%
15. Tennessee	+81.7%
16. South Carolina	+81.3%
17. Mississippi	+80.2%
18. North Carolina	+79.3%
19. Arkansas	+76.9%
20. Connecticut	+75.8%
United States	+68.3%
Sources: AAA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau Intelligence, and Iowa State University Ag Decision Maker research.	
Values represent the percent change from 2025 to 2026 in diesel costs associated with the planting and harvesting of corn, soybeans, spring wheat, cotton, and rice. Harvest cost estimates in 2026 use forecast state average diesel prices for the relevant crop's expected harvest season in that state.	

Increase in Farm Vehicle Fuel Costs During Fall Harvest

The Committee also finds that spiking diesel prices during the fall of 2026 planting season caused the average farmer to **spend around \$2,000 more to refill their farm's onsite fuel tank** – the common way that farmers buy and store diesel fuel – compared to the same high point during the 2025 harvest season. In addition, farmers spent hundreds more to fill up just one tank of diesel for common tractors and grain trucks compared to last harvest season.

State	Increase in Cost to Fill Up Typical Farm Fuel Tank	Increase in Cost to Fill Up Typical Grain Truck	Increase in Cost to Fill Up Typical Tractor
Alabama	+\$1,995	+\$266	+\$324
Alaska	+\$2,087	+\$278	+\$340
Arizona	+\$2,055	+\$274	+\$334
Arkansas	+\$2,046	+\$273	+\$333
California	+\$2,448	+\$326	+\$398
Colorado	+\$2,131	+\$284	+\$347
Connecticut	+\$1,977	+\$264	+\$322
Delaware	+\$1,942	+\$259	+\$316
Florida	+\$1,943	+\$259	+\$316
Georgia	+\$2,032	+\$271	+\$331
Idaho	+\$1,999	+\$267	+\$325
Illinois	+\$2,173	+\$290	+\$353
Indiana	+\$2,192	+\$292	+\$357
Iowa	+\$1,916	+\$255	+\$312
Kansas	+\$1,964	+\$262	+\$319
Kentucky	+\$2,114	+\$282	+\$344
Louisiana	+\$1,997	+\$266	+\$325
Maine	+\$1,893	+\$252	+\$308
Maryland	+\$1,972	+\$263	+\$321
Massachusetts	+\$1,886	+\$252	+\$307
Michigan	+\$2,204	+\$294	+\$359
Minnesota	+\$1,883	+\$251	+\$306
Mississippi	+\$2,064	+\$275	+\$336
Missouri	+\$2,120	+\$283	+\$345
Montana	+\$1,997	+\$266	+\$325
Nebraska	+\$2,000	+\$267	+\$325
Nevada	+\$2,118	+\$282	+\$345
New Hampshire	+\$1,931	+\$257	+\$314
New Jersey	+\$1,996	+\$266	+\$325
New Mexico	+\$2,015	+\$269	+\$328
New York	+\$1,935	+\$258	+\$315
North Carolina	+\$1,992	+\$266	+\$324
North Dakota	+\$1,883	+\$251	+\$306
Ohio	+\$2,214	+\$295	+\$360

Oklahoma	+\$1,947	+\$260	+\$317
Oregon	+\$1,781	+\$237	+\$290
Pennsylvania	+\$1,864	+\$248	+\$303
Rhode Island	+\$1,858	+\$248	+\$302
South Carolina	+\$2,002	+\$267	+\$326
South Dakota	+\$2,065	+\$275	+\$336
Tennessee	+\$2,060	+\$275	+\$335
Texas	+\$2,005	+\$267	+\$326
Utah	+\$2,082	+\$278	+\$339
Vermont	+\$1,913	+\$255	+\$311
Virginia	+\$2,000	+\$267	+\$325
Washington	+\$1,796	+\$239	+\$292
West Virginia	+\$2,026	+\$270	+\$330
Wisconsin	+\$2,125	+\$283	+\$346
Wyoming	+\$1,952	+\$260	+\$317
United States	+\$1,995	+\$266	+\$324

Sources: AAA and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Notes: Figures are based on peak diesel prices during the 2025 and 2026 harvest seasons as of October 14th, 2026, for corn, soybeans, spring wheat, cotton, and rice in each state. The calculations assume fuel tank capacities of 750 gallons for a farm fuel tank, 100 gallons for a grain truck (based on a dual-tank International 4900 tandem-axle grain truck) and 122 gallons for a tractor (based on the John Deere Series 7R 250 model). The per-gallon diesel price used to estimate the farm fuel tank and tractor cost increases excludes the state and federal taxes levied on diesel for highway use. Alaska values are based on the harvest season for spring barley.