

Opinions

America's Farmers remain Open to Feed America

Across America, stores are shut down and school is canceled to protect our communities against the spread of COVID-19. While this virus has upended much of our daily lives, there is one thing it has not canceled: springtime.

At our farm, KC Bailey Orchards, our family is hard at work pruning, fertilizing and planting trees to get ready for the spring. Our family is proud to grow food for our neighbors right here in New York and customers across America.

This crisis has demonstrated the importance of supporting our farmers and ensuring that we have a stable, safe and affordable food supply.

Farming is our passion. As first-generation farmers, we know the difficulties that come with growing food. The COVID-19 virus has created more challenges and that's why we are thankful for the steps that Congress has taken to help sup-

port rural America by passing aid packages with help earmarked for farmers.

However, it's important that Congress also support, long-term, the farm policies that assist our family farm and allow us to survive even the difficult years.

That includes tools such as crop insurance.

Apple farming has really become a monoculture. Historically, farmers had other crops to help mitigate some of the risk.

We are always dealing with weather. The hail and the frost are hard to plan for and that's where we rely on crop insurance to help mitigate the risk.

Hope, like spring, has not been canceled. At the end of the day, we're still farming.

Chip and Karla Bailey
Owners, KC Bailey Orchards
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