



**A GREENER WORLD**  
Our Food. Our Farms. Our Future. Let's Choose!

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Stephanie Wuorenma**  
**Phone: 202-446-2138**  
**Office: Terrebonne, OR (Pacific Time Zone)**  
**Email: [mediarelations@agreenerworld.org](mailto:mediarelations@agreenerworld.org)**  
**Website: [agreenerworld.org](http://agreenerworld.org)**

## **A GREENER WORLD STATEMENT ON THE EXCLUSION OF FARMERS FROM FEDERAL SUPPORT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**--Small Business Administration specifically excludes farms from accessing vital disaster loan assistance, directly conflicting with federal legislation--**

**TERREBONNE, OR (APRIL 1, 2020)**--Nonprofit farm certifier and food label, [A Greener World](http://A Greener World) (AGW) has learned that the Small Business Administration (SBA) is maintaining that farms and agricultural businesses are ineligible for emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) programs meant to mitigate the economic harm of the COVID-19 pandemic. While aquaculture enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, and nurseries are eligible for such SBA disaster assistance, farms are specifically excluded. This is direct violation of the act, which clearly said a sum would be available to farmers. The impacts of COVID-19 have devastated many farm businesses and there is no end in sight to the market disruption caused by this deadly virus. With the mounting closures of restaurants and farmers' markets, many farms serving these customers have seen their sales evaporate overnight.

**AGW Executive Director Andrew Gunther says,**

"We're calling on all of our constituents--farmers, allied businesses, consumers to contact their representatives and demand an urgent action to rectify this outrage. Along with healthcare workers, farmers are on the front lines in the fight against this pandemic. They are continuing to work unimaginable schedules--many times with no safety net and new demands of adapting to pandemic conditions--to provide us the food we depend on. These loans could be the lifeline for sustainable, cutting edge farms in the United States.

I am outraged but unfortunately not surprised; farmers are forgotten far too often. While the first priority in this unprecedented and challenging time is keeping people safe and healthy, we must have a competence of crisis management that doesn't sacrifice our future. If we can't show our independent farmers the same level of appreciation that we do for a multi-million dollar widget-maker, we face the very real danger of losing these farms forever--and with them,

the food security of this country. I call on everyone to contact their representatives immediately and demand a solution to this travesty.”

A Greener World offers resources and support for farmers and businesses navigating this rapid market change--through [technical and marketing support](#), distributing [important information and resources](#), and [matching market supplies and demands](#). For more information on how A Greener World is responding to COVID-19 please visit <https://agreenerworld.org/resources/covid-19/>.

###

#### **ABOUT A GREENER WORLD**

A Greener World (AGW) identifies, audits, certifies and promotes practical, sustainable farming systems by supporting farmers and ranchers and informing consumers. AGW’s growing family of trusted certifications includes [Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW](#), [Salmon Welfare Certified by AGW](#), [Certified Grassfed by AGW](#) and [Certified Non-GMO by AGW](#). Each program is designed to have positive and measurable impacts on the environment, society and animals, and to encourage truly sustainable farming practices. AGW’s standards and procedures are robust, transparent and achievable.

A nonprofit funded by donations, AGW offers a range of resources to help people make informed food choices, including an [Online Directory](#) of certified farms and products and [Food Labels Exposed](#)--a definitive guide to food label claims (available in print and online). For more information visit [agreenerworld.org](https://agreenerworld.org).