



MESSAGE: You Are Losing Money Because of Republican Tariffs

- **Minnesota farmers are losing money because of Republican tariffs.** Higher costs for equipment, fertilizer, and other farm supplies make it more expensive to grow food and stay competitive.
- **Tariff chaos is making Minnesota businesses lose money.** Family farms and small businesses are the backbone of our rural communities, but constantly changing trade policies make it harder to create jobs, invest, and grow.
- **Minnesota families are losing money because of Republican tariffs.** Higher prices on groceries and household goods leave you with less money in your pocket.
- **Republicans promised you lower costs on day one — instead, they broke that promise and weakened our economy.** Their tariffs are raising costs and creating uncertainty in your life.
- **While you are losing, Republicans are gaining.** Trump took away your security while he made himself billions of dollars last year.
- **Minnesota Democrats are fighting to lower costs, create more opportunities for Minnesota farmers and small businesses, and help families get ahead.**

FACTS

- Minnesota farmers and exporters lost \$3.4 billion last year from Trump's tariffs. [\[Source\]](#)
- For the average Minnesota farm, Trump's tariffs and war of choice in Iran are costing Minnesota farmers nearly \$8,000 more just to put nutrients on the field. [\[Source\]](#) [\[Source\]](#) [\[Source\]](#)
- 94% of farmers say their financial situation is the same or worse than it was last year, and that it harmed their planting and purchasing. [\[Source\]](#)

DFL MESSAGE MEMO

- Small businesses importers are footing the bill for Trump's tariffs, which lost them \$306,000 per business on average over the past year. [[Source](#)]
- Families can't get ahead. Any increase in wages has been matched or beaten by the inflation caused by Republicans' war with Iran or sweeping tariffs. [[Source](#)]
- Midwest families lost an extra \$2,000 per household last year as a result of Donald Trump's tariffs. That's an extra \$167/month you've paid for the Republican trade war — and it's not done yet. [[Source](#)]
- As families head back to school, tariffs and gas prices are driving up the cost of school supplies. Over just the **last year**, prices have gone up for:
 - *Lunch boxes*: **+\$4.02** → \$18.91 (up 27% since 2025)
 - *One-subject notebook*: **+\$1** → \$4.92 (up 23%)
 - *Index cards*: **+\$0.70** → \$3.86 (up 22%)
 - *Glue sticks*: **+\$0.54** → \$7.68 (up 7.6%) [[Source](#)]
- While you're losing, they're gaining: Donald Trump made a whopping \$2.2 billion dollars last year in office. [[Source](#)]

QUOTES

Minnesota farmers:

- “[I’m paying] a dollar below what I got for most of my [soy]beans last year. My fear is that the price is even going to get worse and worse.” —Farmer Ryan, Brownton, Minnesota [[Source](#)]

Republicans:

- “You know what? I don’t know off the top of my head. [...] I’m trying to do a little math, but [...] I couldn’t do it very quickly.” —GOP Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, on the price of soybeans [[Source](#)]
- “A shake-up was needed.” —GOP Congressman Brad Finstad on voting for tariffs that lost Midwest families \$2,000/household [[Source](#)]

DFL MESSAGE MEMO

Minnesota Democrats:

- **“Trump’s tariffs keep changing. But what doesn’t change is who pays for the chaos: Americans, every time they check out at the grocery store.”**
—DFL Senator Amy Klobuchar on the Republican cost to your life [[Source](#)]

IN THE NEWS

- AMERICAN JOURNAL: **“Finstad backed Trump tariffs as Minnesota farmers paid the price”** [[Source](#)]
- FARM AID: **“Tracking the Farm Economy in Crisis”** [[Source](#)]
- DETROIT LAKES TRIBUNE: **“Fischbach’s silence says a lot”** [[Source](#)]

ACTION

- [Share this graphic!](#)
- [Sign up for an event or volunteer](#) with our DFL-endorsed candidates.

Prepared by Asha Carroll, Senior Director, Communications, Research, and Data, and Brock Lawhead, Press Secretary, Minnesota DFL. Your input and feedback directly shape this memo. Please send thoughts, edits, or additions any time. This memo is drafted and finalized each Friday for the week ahead; if significant news breaks that impacts our message, updates will be sent. Reach out at acarroll@df.org or blawhead@df.org.