

Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



Ga. Peanut Commission on Congress' suggestion to not increase reference prices

Executive Director of the Georgia Peanut Commission Dan Koehler is in a battle to find a new farm bill.

"You know, we have a position that we need and increase the things that they don't face reality about is that we've had a paradigm shift in cost production. You know cost production over time has always had incremental increases. But what we've had for two years was a paradigm shift that has put our farmers where they're drowning in a sea of red.

I was just in a meeting last week, with Amanda Smith, who's the economist with UGA, and she showed the numbers. And when you go down and look, I mean, nothing is not red right now on the bottom line. And farmers have to make a living just like anybody else.

They can't keep losing money, or we're going to be a hungry society at some point."

Do you see any future here for the farm bill and for these price reference prices?

"So I think the issue of reference prices has to be addressed and the thing that I'm a little concerned about is that perhaps we won't be able to do that this year because they did a one-year extension in with the budget agreement. And I think that took the pressure off of Washington to Do anything right now, but instead of having a 2024 farm bill, we may have a 2025, but over time they know they're going to have to do something.

Because if they don't, we're going to see farmers having to sell land and go out of business and our rural economies just can't stand that. We're already losing population in our rural communities, we have poor healthcare outcomes, we have higher food insecurity.

And we don't need the farmer base, which is a lot of what the economy is made of in these rural counties, to struggle."

Source: <https://www.walb.com/2024/01/30/ga-peanut-commission-congress-suggestion-not-increase-reference-prices/>