

Charlie Hatcher (TN-05) Research Report

Significant Findings

Hatcher Skipped All The Meetings Of A Subcommittee He Was Appointed To That Reviewed How Tennessee Funded Schools, Forgoing The Opportunity To Weigh In On How The State Allocated About \$9 Billion In Education Funding

- ✓ 2021-2022: Governor Bill Lee appointed public officials, including Hatcher, to subcommittees to review how Tennessee funded education.
- ✓ Following the establishment of the subcommittees, Gov. Lee signed a bill to invest about \$9 billion in education.
- ✓ Hatcher skipped all six meetings of a “rural and small district” subcommittee he was appointed to.
- ✓ February 2022: When confronted about his absences, Hatcher said the subcommittee meetings “conflicted with professional obligations” and said he watched recordings afterward.

2024: Hatcher’s Error As Agriculture Commissioner Caused Tennessee To Miss Out On \$7.2 Million In Federal Funds That Could Have Flowed To Small Farms

- ✓ 2024: While Hatcher was commissioner, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture did not apply for \$7.2 million it could have received from the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Plus program, which provided a key source of revenue to small farms.
- ✓ 2019-2025: Hatcher served as Tennessee State Agriculture Commissioner.
- ✓ 2023: The Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program provided Tennessee with \$8 million for food banks to spend on produce grown at local farms.
- ✓ 2024: A follow-up program, LFPA Plus, could have brought an additional \$7.2 million to Tennessee.
- ✓ Under Hatcher’s leadership, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture reportedly did not see emails from the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the LFPA Plus program until after the application deadline passed.
- ✓ Hatcher said he was not aware his department had missed the LFPA Plus deadline until nearly a year after the program was announced.
- ✓ Hatcher said the USDA sent generic emails that did not directly address him, but the USDA said it emailed the Tennessee Department of Agriculture six reminders about the LFPA Plus program.
- ✓ Hatcher acknowledged he owned the state agency’s failure to secure the federal funds, which had to be replaced using Tennessee taxpayer dollars.

- ✓ 2024: In discussing the LFPA Plus deadline, Hatcher said, “We missed it, and I’m going to own that part of it.”
- ✓ 2024: The Tennessee state budget restored \$7.2 million in lost funding for small farmers, families, and food banks.

Hatcher Supported Ending ACA Health Insurance Subsidies, Risking Out-Of-Pocket Insurance Premiums Doubling For 62,000 Individuals In TN-05

- ✓ October 2025: In discussing expiring ACA health insurance subsidies, Hatcher said, “expenses have to be cut” and “it’s going to be painful across the board.”
- ✓ October 2025: Hatcher encouraged Republicans to keep the government shut down rather than agree to extend ACA tax credits.
- ✓ 62,000 people on marketplace plans in TN-05 were at risk of their out-of-pocket health insurance premiums doubling due to expiring ACA subsidies.
- ✓ Tennessee had a higher proportion of people who depended on ACA marketplace plans.
- ✓ Nashville local news reported premium payments for ACA marketplace enrollees could double if subsidies expired.
- ✓ The end of enhanced tax credits would lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75% as insurers raised premiums.

Hatcher Was Supportive Of A Federal Spending Plan That Would Kick Nearly 25,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In TN-05 And Threaten Food Assistance For Nearly 15,000 Households In The District

- ✓ Hatcher was supportive of Trump’s federal spending plan the One Big Beautiful Bill.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, slashing local hospital revenue, and would kick nearly 25,000 people in TN-05 off their health insurance.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill failed to extend ACA tax credits, driving up health care costs for 62,000 individuals in TN-05 on marketplace plans.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill cut crucial health resources for rural Americans and risked closure of a hospital in TN-05.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest SNAP cuts in history, threatening food assistance for nearly 15,000 households in TN-05.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill gave billions in tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy at the expense of working families.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill would add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt.

Hatcher Supported Tariffs Estimated To Cost Tennessee Farmers \$430 Million In 2025

- ✓ 2025: Hatcher supported tariffs, which were expected to lose \$430 million for Tennessee farmers in 2025.
- ✓ October 2025: Local news reported Hatcher supported Trump's trade war, which involved tariffs against nearly every other country.
- ✓ December 2025: Tennessee farmers lost \$298 million in 2024 and were projected to have lost \$430 million in 2025.
- ✓ 2025: Local news reported Tennessee was one of the states most vulnerable to tariff risks.
- ✓ Tennessee farmers feared they might go out of business in the wake of tariffs, with one farmer calling the situation "Farmageddon."
- ✓ 2025: American Soybean Association President: "Soybean farmers cannot survive a prolonged trade dispute with our largest customer."

Hatcher Wrote Approvingly In His Memoir About How His Granddad Shot And Killed Their Family Dog

- ✓ In his memoir, Hatcher wrote approvingly about how his granddad shot and killed Tip, the family dog, and said it taught him the lesson that "there are penalties for bad choices."

In His Memoir, Hatcher Shared Anecdotes That Raised Questions About His Life And Family History

- ✓ Hatcher said his African American nanny Lilly Mae worked for his family for more than a decade doing childcare, cooking, and housework; yet Hatcher described her as poor and compared her to "Aunt Jemima."
- ✓ Despite the extensive domestic labor he said Lilly Mae did, Hatcher said Lilly Mae was poor and did not own a car, house, or many earthly possessions.
- ✓ Hatcher said one of his parents found Lilly Mae at a tenant house and brought her to his family's house to work.
- ✓ Hatcher said Lilly Mae "resembled Aunt Jemima" and wore "drab colored dresses" and "a head wrap."
- ✓ Hatcher used condescending language in his memoir to describe Lilly Mae and the way she spoke.
- ✓ Hatcher said enslaved people were buried on his farm property and that his great-grandfather was a slaveholder who fought for the South in the Civil War.
- ✓ Hatcher fondly recounted chasing his wife Sharon around the house naked.

- ✓ Hatcher said one of his cows, Jevon, was milked for ten consecutive lactations and “looked good doing it, too.”

Hatcher Skipped All The Meetings Of A Subcommittee He Was Appointed To That Reviewed How Tennessee Funded Schools, Forgoing The Opportunity To Weigh In On How The State Allocated About \$9 Billion In Education Funding

2021-2022: Governor Bill Lee Appointed Public Officials, Including Hatcher, To Subcommittees To Review How Tennessee Funded Education, And Then The State Invested About \$9 Billion In Education

2021: Gov. Bill Lee And The Tennessee Department Of Education Appointed Public Officials, Including Hatcher, To Subcommittees To Review How Tennessee Funded Education

Gov. Bill Lee And The Tennessee Department Of Education Appointed Public Officials To Subcommittees To Review How Tennessee Funded Education. “State leaders have long touted the importance of a months-long review of how Tennessee funds education, asserting that lawmakers and stakeholders on 18 subcommittees made invaluable contributions to a proposed new way to pay for schools. But nearly a dozen lawmakers and State Board of Education members skipped these discussions, an analysis by The Tennessean found. The subcommittees, appointed by Gov. Bill Lee and the Tennessee Department of Education, each met six times since Lee and Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn launched the funding review in October.” [Tennessean, [2/9/22](#)]

- **October 2021: Hatcher Was Appointed To The “Rural And Small District” Subcommittee.** [Tennessee Department of Education, Press Release, [10/20/21](#)]

- **Rural and Small District Subcommittee**

- Chair: Janet Ayers, President, The Ayers Foundation
- Dr. Allan Pratt, Board Member, Tennessee Rural Education Association
- **Charlie Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture**
- Dr. Jerry Boyd, Director of Schools, Washington County Schools
- Mike Garren, Superintendent, Loudon County Schools
- Kristy Brown, Director of Schools, Jackson County Schools
- Shawn Kimble, Director of Schools, Lauderdale County Schools
- Dr. Norma Gerrell, Director of Schools, Paris Special School District
- Eddie Pruett, Director of Schools, Gibson County Special School District
- William Curtis, Director of Schools, Cannon County Schools
- John Stevens, Senator, Tennessee General Assembly
- Ron Gant, Representative, Tennessee General Assembly
- Lillian Hartgrove, Chair, State Board of Education

[Tennessee Department of Education, Press Release, [10/20/21](#)]

Education Advocates Said Tennessee Had “One Of The Most Complex Education Funding Formulas In The Country,” Leading Parents And Educators to Question How The State Funded Schools

Nashville Public Education Foundation: “Tennessee Has One Of The Most Complex Education Funding Formulas In The Country.” “The BEP is not without controversy. Tennessee has one of the most complex education funding formulas in the country. The tension between the needs of large, diverse cities and smaller, less wealthy counties is a hallmark of Tennessee policymaking, and school finance is not immune. The state has been sued multiple times by school districts, both large and small, seeking more equitable distribution of funding.” [Nashville Public Education Foundation, Funding Our Schools, [March 2021](#)]

- **Tennessee Used A Basic Education Program (BEP) Formula To Determine How Much State Money Each School System Gets.** “Without a state income tax, Tennessee predominantly funds public schools through sales and property taxes. Schools are funded through the Basic Education Program (BEP) — a formula that generates a total amount of dollars needed per school system and determines how much of the funding is the responsibility of the state and how much should come from local funding bodies.” [Tennessean, [10/11/21](#)]

Tennessean: “Lawmakers, Educators And Parents Alike Have Questioned How The State Currently Funds Education For Years.” “Last week, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee announced that he and Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn are launching a review of the state's public education funding formula, with the hopes of creating a new model for funding. Lawmakers, educators and parents alike have questioned how the state currently funds education for years — with some arguing that the current formula is archaic or that the state doesn't invest enough dollars into schools.” [Tennessean, [10/11/21](#)]

Small And Large School Districts Had Been Sued Tennessee For A Fairer Funding Distribution

Small And Large School Districts Had Been Sued Tennessee Multiple Times For A Fairer Distribution Of

Funding. “The BEP is not without controversy. Tennessee has one of the most complex education funding formulas in the country. The tension between the needs of large, diverse cities and smaller, less wealthy counties is a hallmark of Tennessee policymaking, and school finance is not immune. The state has been sued multiple times by school districts, both large and small, seeking more equitable distribution of funding.” [Nashville Public Education Foundation, *Funding Our Schools*, [March 2021](#)]

2022: Following The Establishment Of The Subcommittees, Gov. Lee Signed The TISA Act, Which Changed Tennessee’s Approach To School Funding And Invested About \$9 Billion In Education

2022: Gov. Lee Signed The TISA Act Into Law, Which Would Transition Tennessee’s Public Schools To A Student-Based Funding Approach. “The TISA Act was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly on April 28, 2022 and was signed into law by Governor Bill Lee on May 2, 2022. Through the passage of the TISA Act, Tennessee’s K-12 public schools will now transition to a student-based funding approach and invest an estimated \$9 billion in education funding for the state, including state and local funds, which includes an additional recurring state investment of \$1 billion starting in the 2023-24 school year.” [Tennessee Department of Education, *Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Formula*, accessed [12/16/25](#)]

- **The TISA Act Would Invest About \$9 Billion In Education In Tennessee.** “Through the passage of the TISA Act, Tennessee’s K-12 public schools will now transition to a student-based funding approach and invest an estimated \$9 billion in education funding for the state, including state and local funds, which includes an additional recurring state investment of \$1 billion starting in the 2023-24 school year.” [Tennessee Department of Education, *Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Formula*, accessed [12/16/25](#)]
- **Gov. Lee Proposed The Tennessee Investment In Student Achievement (TISA) Act After Convening 18 Subcommittees To Explore The State’s Education Funding Formula.** “In the fall of 2021, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Former Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn invited Tennesseans to participate in the full review of the state’s public education funding formula and explore possibilities for a more student-centered approach. The Tennessee Department of Education and the General Assembly convened 18 funding subcommittees and organized a legislative steering committee. [...] On Thursday, February 24th, Governor Bill Lee and Former Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn released the details of the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Act, which transitions Tennessee’s K-12 public schools to a student-based funding approach.” [Tennessee Department of Education, *Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Formula*, accessed [12/16/25](#)]

Hatcher Skipped All Six Meetings Of A “Rural And Small District” Subcommittee He Was Appointed To

October 2021: Hatcher Was Appointed To The “Rural And Small District” Subcommittee

October 2021: The Tennessee Department Of Education Announced Subcommittee Members. “Today, the Tennessee Department of Education announced the subcommittee members of the Teacher Advisory Subcommittee, Principal Advisory Subcommittee, School System Personnel Subcommittee, School System Leadership Subcommittee, Rural and Small District Subcommittee, Suburban Districts, Municipals, and Fast-Growing Communities Subcommittee, Urban District Subcommittee, which is the next in the series of announcements on Tennessee’s review of a student-based public education funding strategy.” [Tennessee Department of Education, *Press Release*, [10/20/21](#)]

October 2021: Hatcher Was Appointed To The “Rural And Small District” Subcommittee. [Tennessee Department of Education, *Press Release*, [10/20/21](#)]

- **Rural and Small District Subcommittee**

- Chair: Janet Ayers, President, The Ayers Foundation
- Dr. Allan Pratt, Board Member, Tennessee Rural Education Association
- **Charlie Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture**
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- Eddie Pruett, Director of Schools, Gibson County Special School District
- William Curtis, Director of Schools, Cannon County Schools
- John Stevens, Senator, Tennessee General Assembly
- Ron Gant, Representative, Tennessee General Assembly
- Lillian Hartgrove, Chair, State Board of Education

[Tennessee Department of Education, Press Release, [10/20/21](#)]

2022: The Tennessean: Hatcher Skipped All Six Subcommittee Meetings

2022: The Tennessean: Hatcher Skipped All Six Meetings Of His Subcommittee. “The Tennessean's review found seven lawmakers, four state board members and the state agriculture commissioner missed all of their subcommittee's six meetings. Another five lawmakers only attended one. Here's who didn't attend: [...] Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Hatcher.” [Tennessean, [2/9/22](#)]

- **2022: Tennessean Headline: “A Dozen Lawmakers, Officials On Panels Reviewing Tennessee Education Funding Didn’t Attend Meetings.”** [Tennessean, [2/9/22](#)]

February 2022: When Confronted About His Absences, Hatcher Said The Subcommittee Meetings “Conflicted With Professional Obligations” And Said He Watched Recordings Afterward

February 2022: When Confronted About His Absences, Hatcher Said Subcommittee Meetings “Conflicted With Professional Obligations” And Said He Watched The Recordings Afterward. “Some absent lawmakers said they had scheduling conflicts. Others said they weren't initially aware they had been appointed to a committee. The Tennessee Department of Education released the names of subcommittee members over the course of several weeks in October. Hatcher said the meetings ‘conflicted with professional obligations,’ but he viewed the recordings afterward to remain informed.” [Tennessean, [2/9/22](#)]

- **Hatcher Said He Attended One In-Person Town Hall At UT Southern In Pulaski On November 2.** “Hatcher said the meetings ‘conflicted with professional obligations,’ but he viewed the recordings afterward to remain informed. He added he did attend one of the department's eight in-person town halls at UT Southern in Pulaski on Nov. 2.” [Tennessean, [2/9/22](#)]

2024: Hatcher's Error As Agriculture Commissioner Caused Tennessee To Miss Out On \$7.2 Million In Federal Funds That Could Have Flowed To Small Farms

2024: While Hatcher Was Commissioner, The Tennessee Department Of Agriculture Did Not Apply For \$7.2 Million It Could Have Received From The USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Plus Program, Which Provided A Key Source Of Revenue To Small Farms

2019-2025: Hatcher Served As Tennessee State Agriculture Commissioner

2019-2025: Hatcher Served As Tennessee State Agriculture Commissioner. “Tennessee Department of Agriculture Charlie Hatcher will retire from the role this month, Gov. Bill Lee’s office announced Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Andy Holt, a former Tennessee House representative, will take the reins on Oct. 1. Hatcher, a veterinarian and fifth-generation Tennessee farmer, was among Lee’s first cabinet picks after Lee won the 2018 gubernatorial election. Hatcher was sworn in as the state’s 38th commissioner of agriculture in January 2019.” [Tennessee Lookout, [9/3/25](#)]

2023: The Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program Provided Tennessee With \$8 Million For Food Banks To Spend On Produce Grown At Local Farms

2023: The Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program Brought More Than \$8 Million To Tennessee So Food Banks Could Buy Local Produce. “Last year, however, was a good one for Smiley's family farm. The federal Local Food Purchase Assistance program brought more than \$8 million to Tennessee so that food banks could buy local produce. Every Friday, Smiley would call Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. The Nashville [sic] food bank told Smiley what they needed, and the farmer would deliver the fresh food on Tuesday.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

- **Tennessee's Smiley's Family Farm Benefited From Food Banks Purchasing Fresh Local Produce Through The LFPA Program.** “Last year, however, was a good one for Smiley's family farm. The federal Local Food Purchase Assistance program brought more than \$8 million to Tennessee so that food banks could buy local produce. Every Friday, Smiley would call Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. The Nashville [sic] food bank told Smiley what they needed, and the farmer would deliver the fresh food on Tuesday.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]
- **LFPA Was Funded With \$400 Million From The American Rescue Plan.** “The LFPA was funded with \$400 million from the 2021 American Rescue Plan, the federal COVID-19 pandemic assistance act.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

2024: A Follow-Up Program, LFPA Plus, Could Have Brought An Additional \$7.2 Million To Tennessee

April 2024: Tennessee Could Have Received An Additional \$7.2 Million From The LFPA Plus Program. “The LFPA was funded with \$400 million from the 2021 American Rescue Plan, the federal COVID-19 pandemic assistance act. Smiley always knew the program was temporary. But in September 2022, a follow-up program, LFPA Plus, with an additional \$460 in funding was announced. Tennessee could have received an additional \$7.2 million from the \$464 million LFPA Plus program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, however, did not see the emails from the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the new program until after the deadline passed.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

- **LFPA Plus Was A Follow-Up Program With Additional Funding.** “The LFPA was funded with \$400 million from the 2021 American Rescue Plan, the federal COVID-19 pandemic assistance act. Smiley always knew the program was temporary. But in September 2022, a follow-up program, LFPA Plus, with an additional \$460 in funding was announced.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

Under Hatcher's Leadership, The Tennessee Department Of Agriculture Reportedly Did Not See Emails From The U.S. Department Of Agriculture About The LFPA Plus Program Until After The Application Deadline Passed

Tennessean: The Tennessee Department Of Agriculture "Did Not See The Emails From The U.S. Department Of Agriculture [USDA] About The [LFPA Plus] Program Until After The Deadline Passed."

"The LFPA was funded with \$400 million from the 2021 American Rescue Plan, the federal COVID-19 pandemic assistance act. Smiley always knew the program was temporary. But in September 2022, a follow-up program, LFPA Plus, with an additional \$460 in funding was announced. Tennessee could have received an additional \$7.2 million from the \$464 million LFPA Plus program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, however, did not see the emails from the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the new program until after the deadline passed."

[Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

Small Tennessee Farmers Relied On The Program As A Significant Source Of Revenue, With One Farmer Saying It Represented 20% Of The Farm's Expected Income

Second-Generation Tennessee Farmer: Federal Contract Provided A "Significant" Source Of Income At A Critical Time For The Farm, At One Point Representing 20% Of The Farm's Expected Income. "For Kelsey Keener, the end of the program will mean a disappointing coda for a contract that provided financial consistency for his family farm and a meaningful connection to the community. Keener, a second generation farmer at Sequatchie Cove Farm, was one of the first farmers to sign up for the first round of the local food purchase program. Though Keener said he was hesitant to rely too much on a single contract, the federal funds provided a "significant" source of income at a critical time for the farm. Sequatchie was able to scale up its operations over the last three years, in part thanks to the contract. Keener said it made up about 20% of their expected income at its high watermark." [The Tennessean, [3/13/25](#)]

- **The Tennessean Headline: "Why Small Tennessee Farmers Will Lose Millions After USDA Budget Cuts."** [The Tennessean, [3/13/25](#)]

The Local Food For Schools Program And The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement "Funneled Millions Of Dollars Into Tennessee To Keep Local Products In Local Communities." "Tennessee farmers will lose millions in local food purchases after sweeping federal cuts at the U.S. Department of Agriculture led to the closure of two programs funding fresh food for schools and food banks. The USDA announced nearly \$1 billion in cuts last week, shuttering the Local Food for Schools program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement. The two programs funneled millions of dollars into Tennessee to keep local products in local communities, buying things like fresh eggs or produce from small farms to feed kids at nearby schools or needy populations at local food pantries." [The Tennessean, [3/13/25](#)]

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2024: Hatcher Said He Was Not Aware His Department Had Missed The LFPA Plus Deadline Until Nearly A Year After The Program Was Announced

2024: Tennessean: "Hatcher Told Lawmakers He Was Not Aware The Department Had Missed The LFPA Plus Deadline Until Nearly A Year After The Program Was Announced." "Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher told lawmakers he was not aware the department had missed the deadline until nearly a year after the program was announced. The department asked the USDA to consider Tennessee's application to the LFPA Plus after the May 2023 deadline for the program, but the federal agency denied that request." [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

Hatcher Said The USDA Sent Generic Emails That Did Not Directly Address Him, But The USDA Said It Emailed The Tennessee Department Of Agriculture Six Reminders About The LFPA Plus Program

2024: Hatcher Said The USDA Sent Generic Emails To People In His Section, But Not A Direct Email Addressed To Him. “‘Nobody was more upset than I was about it, to leave money on the table,’ Hatcher said. ‘Looking into the matter, it looked like USDA had sent some generic emails to a few of the people in our grant section, but never was there a direct addressed email to me or anybody else to ask if we wanted to go through with a second round. Regardless, we missed it, and I’m going to own that part of it.’” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

The USDA Said It Emailed The Tennessee Department Of Agriculture Six Notifications And Reminders About The LFPA Plus Program. “Tennessee could have received an additional \$7.2 million from the \$464 million LFPA Plus program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, however, did not see the emails from the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the new program until after the deadline passed. [...] The USDA said it emailed the state department six notifications and reminders about the LFPA Plus program to ‘all government points of contact indicated on their initial LFPA proposals.’ The agency also discussed the new program during its monthly ‘office hours,’ which were open to any agency that received a LFPA grant.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

The USDA Discussed The New LFPA Plus Program During Its Monthly Office Hours, Which Were Open To Any Agency That Received A LFPA Grant. “The USDA said it emailed the state department six notifications and reminders about the LFPA Plus program to ‘all government points of contact indicated on their initial LFPA proposals.’ The agency also discussed the new program during its monthly ‘office hours,’ which were open to any agency that received a LFPA grant.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

Hatcher Acknowledged He Owned The State Agency’s Failure To Secure The Federal Funds, Which Had To Be Replaced Using Tennessee Taxpayer Dollars

2024: In Discussing The LFPA Plus Deadline, Hatcher Said, “We Missed It, And I’m Going To Own That Part Of It”

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- **Hatcher: “Nobody Was More Upset Than I Was About It, To Leave Money On The Table.”** “‘Nobody was more upset than I was about it, to leave money on the table,’ Hatcher said. ‘Looking into the matter, it looked like USDA had sent some generic emails to a few of the people in our grant section, but never was there a direct addressed email to me or anybody else to ask if we wanted to go through with a second round. Regardless, we missed it, and I’m going to own that part of it.’” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

2024: Tennessee Department Of Agriculture Officials Told Lawmakers The Department’s Grant Procedures Had Been Revamped. “Tennessee could have received an additional \$7.2 million from the \$464 million LFPA Plus program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, however, did not see the emails from the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the new program until after the deadline passed. [...] Hatcher told Watson that agency's leadership had met with local food banks since the grant snafu, and officials assured lawmakers the department’s grant procedures have been revamped under a centralized grant process.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

2024: The Tennessee State Budget Restored \$7.2 Million In Lost Funding For Small Farmers, Families, And Food Banks

2024: Tennessee Required The Tennessee Department Of Agriculture To Use \$7.2 Million Of Its Requested Budget To Continue The Local Food Purchase Program. “Tennessee could have received an additional \$7.2 million from the \$464 million LFPA Plus program. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, however, did not see the emails from the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the new program until after the deadline passed. [...] The state is not providing the department with additional money, but rather requiring the agency to use \$7.2 million of its requested budget to continue the local food purchase program. The news of the agency's failure to apply for LFPA Plus funds was first reported by the Chattanooga news site Food as a Verb.” [Tennessean, [4/18/24](#)]

April 2024: The Tennessee State Budget Restored \$7.2 Million In Lost Funding For Small Farmers, Families, And Food Banks. “On Thursday afternoon, Tennessee lawmakers passed the state’s \$52.8 billion budget, which restores \$7.2 million in lost funding for small farmers, families and food banks. More details are in this update from Food as a Verb.” [Civil Eats, [4/18/24](#)]

Hatcher Supported Ending ACA Health Insurance Subsidies, Risking Out-Of-Pocket Insurance Premiums Doubling For 62,000 Individuals In TN-05

October 2025: In Discussing Expiring ACA Health Insurance Subsidies, Hatcher Said, “Expenses Have To Be Cut” And “It’s Going To Be Painful Across The Board”

Hatcher On Expiring ACA Subsidies: “Expenses Have To Be Cut [...] It’s Going To Be Painful Across The Board”

October 2025: Regarding Expiring ACA Health Insurance Subsidies, Hatcher Said, “Expenses Have To Be Cut” And “It’s Going To Be Painful Across The Board.” “Hatcher also said Republicans, who control the White House and both chambers of Congress, should ‘stand their ground’ in the ongoing federal government shutdown. Democrats have tied their support for reopening the government to extending Affordable Care Act subsidies that help millions of ACA marketplace enrollees afford health insurance. Researchers estimate that premium payments for enrollees could double next year if the subsidies expire, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates 4 million people would lose their insurance. A disproportionate number of enrollees live in Tennessee. ‘Expenses have to be cut,’ Hatcher said. ‘It’s going to be painful across the board.’” [Nashville Banner, [10/14/25](#)]

October 2025: Hatcher Encouraged Republicans To Keep The Government Shut Down Rather Than Agree To Extend ACA Tax Credits

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October 2025: Hatcher Said Republicans Should “Stand Their Ground” In The Federal Government Shutdown. “Hatcher also said Republicans, who control the White House and both chambers of Congress, should ‘stand their ground’ in the ongoing federal government shutdown. Democrats have tied their support for reopening the government to extending Affordable Care Act subsidies that help millions of ACA marketplace enrollees afford health insurance.” [Nashville Banner, [10/14/25](#)]

November 2025: Republicans Refused To Extend Affordable Care Act Tax Credits During The Government Shutdown. “House Democrats will take steps to force a vote on a three-year extension of expiring Affordable Care Act tax credits after Republicans refused to address the issue as part of a bipartisan Senate deal to reopen the federal government.” [Politico, [11/12/25](#)]

2025: The Federal Government Shutdown Was The Longest In History, Costing The U.S. Economy Billions And Forcing 730,000 Federal Workers To Go Without Pay

2025: The Federal Government Shutdown Was The Longest In History, Costing The U.S. Economy Billions And Forcing 730,000 Federal Workers To Go Without Pay. “On Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, the United States reached a grim milestone: day 36 of the government shutdown, officially making it the longest shutdown in American history. The previous record of 35 days was set during the 2018-2019 shutdown under the first Trump administration. [...] The economic consequences of the shutdown are staggering. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the crisis will cost the U.S. economy at least \$7 billion by the end of 2026, with the number growing to \$14 billion if the shutdown lasts until the end of November. In addition, roughly 730,000 federal workers have been furloughed without pay, while an additional 670,000 employees continue to work without receiving a paycheck.” [Partnership for Public Service, [11/5/25](#)]

62,000 People On Marketplace Plans In TN-05 Were At Risk Of Their Out-Of-Pocket Health Insurance Premiums Doubling Due To Expiring ACA Subsidies

Tennessee’s 5th Congressional District Was Home To 62,000 ACA Marketplace Enrollees

2024: 62,000 Individuals In TN-05 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [CAP, [5/2/24](#)]

Number Of TN-05 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2024	
District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
TN-05	62,000

[CAP, [5/2/24](#)]

2025: 642,867 Individuals In Tennessee Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of Tennessee Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
Tennessee	642,867

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

NOTE: Data above refers to TN-05 prior to May 2026 redistricting.

Tennessee Had A Higher Proportion Of People Who Depended On ACA Marketplace Plans

Nashville Banner: “A Disproportionate Number Of [ACA Marketplace] Enrollees Live In Tennessee.”

“Democrats have tied their support for reopening the government to extending Affordable Care Act subsidies that help millions of ACA marketplace enrollees afford health insurance. Researchers estimate that premium payments for enrollees could double next year if the subsidies expire, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates 4 million people would lose their insurance. A disproportionate number of enrollees live in Tennessee.” [Nashville Banner, [10/14/25](#)]

Nashville Local News Reported Premium Payments For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Could Double If Subsidies Expired

Nashville Banner: “Researchers Estimate That Premium Payments For [ACA Marketplace] Enrollees Could Double Next Year If The Subsidies Expire.” “Democrats have tied their support for reopening the government to extending Affordable Care Act subsidies that help millions of ACA marketplace enrollees afford health insurance. Researchers estimate that premium payments for enrollees could double next year if the subsidies expire, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates 4 million people would lose their insurance. A disproportionate number of

enrollees live in Tennessee.” [Nashville Banner, [10/14/25](#)]

The End Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of More Than 75% As Insurers Raised Premiums

The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of More Than 75%. “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. “For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

Insurance Companies Raised Their Rates As They Anticipated The End Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits

The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%. “Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

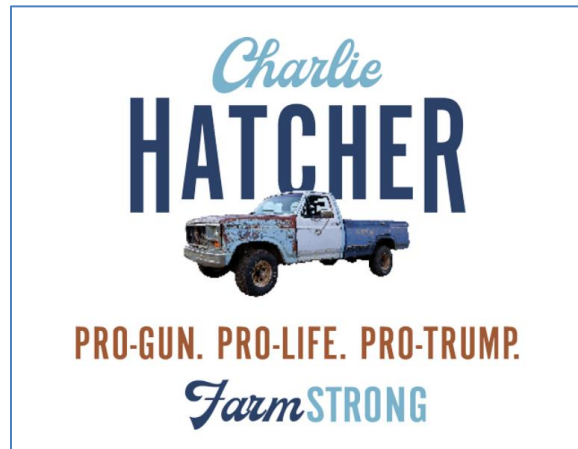
The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases. “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

Hatcher Was Supportive Of A Federal Spending Plan That Would Kick Nearly 25,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In TN-05 And Threaten Food Assistance For Nearly 15,000 Households In The District

Hatcher Was Supportive Of Trump’s Federal Spending Plan The One Big Beautiful Bill

October 2025: Hatcher Called Himself “Pro-Trump” And Praised Trump

October 2025: Hatcher Had The Phrase “Pro-Trump” In His Logo. [Charlie Hatcher for Congress, accessed [10/27/25](#)]



[Charlie Hatcher for Congress, accessed [10/27/25](#)]

October 2025: Hatcher: “Trump Would Have Been A Fantastic Farmer Because He Has That Work Ethic.” “Trump would have been a fantastic farmer because he has that work ethic. But it might not be enough money for him! He gets things done. Think what President Trump could do if our congressman spent less time talking and more time doing.” [Charlie Hatcher for Congress, accessed [10/27/25](#)]

- **Hatcher: “[Trump] Gets Things Done.”** “Trump would have been a fantastic farmer because he has that work ethic. But it might not be enough money for him! He gets things done. Think what President Trump could do if our congressman spent less time talking and more time doing.” [Charlie Hatcher for Congress, accessed [10/27/25](#)]

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CHARLIE HATCHER IS FARM STRONG. FARM TOUGH. FARM SMART.



[Charlie Hatcher for Congress, accessed [10/27/25](#)]

July 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill

July 4, 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill. “President Trump on Friday signed a massive spending and tax bill that the White House has dubbed the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ to implement much of his domestic policy agenda. The bill passed Thursday after Republican leaders in the House of Representatives convinced holdouts in their own party to get in line behind the controversial legislation.” [NPR, [7/4/25](#)]

May 2025-June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda” And Praised House Republicans For Passing It

June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda To Very Simply Make America Great Again!” “The One Big Beautiful Bill will Secure our Borders, turbocharge our economy, and bring back the American Dream. This is the ultimate codification of our agenda to very simply Make America Great Again!” [Donald J. Trump, Truth Social, [6/26/25](#)]



[Donald J. Trump, Truth Social, [6/26/25](#)]

May 2025: The Hill: “Trump Sent Kudos To House Republicans” After They Passed The One Big Beautiful Bill. “President Trump sent kudos to House Republicans after they worked late Sunday evening and narrowly cleared a key hurdle to advance the ‘big, beautiful bill’ that contains most of his legislative priorities. ‘CONGRATULATIONS REPUBLICANS!!!’ the president posted on Truth Social just before 1 a.m. EDT on Monday. ‘MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!’” [The Hill, [5/19/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Would Kick Nearly 25,000 People In TN-05 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick Nearly 25,000 People In TN-05 Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated Nearly 25,000 People In Tennessee’s 5th Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans’ Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. “According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)’s most recent analysis, President Trump and Congressional Republicans’ cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would result in 16 million people losing their health insurance by 2034. Using CBO’s analysis released June 4 and other research, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority calculated new estimates of the number of people who would lose health insurance.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

TN-05: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
23,100	1,820	24,920

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

NOTE: Data above refers to TN-05 prior to May 2026 redistricting.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut More Than \$7.3 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In TN-05

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In TN-05 Were Projected To Lose More Than \$7.3 Million As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

Projected Cuts To TN-05 Hospital Revenue From Medicaid Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Hospital	City	Projected Cut To Hospital Revenue
Maury Regional Hospital	Columbia	\$2,834,778.00
Southern Hills Medical Center	Nashville	\$1,820,180.00
Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital	Lebanon	\$1,349,921.00
Williamson Health	Franklin	\$1,034,192.00
Marshall Medical Center	Lewisburg	\$334,631.00
Total:		\$7,373,702.00

[Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

NOTE: Data above refers to TN-05 prior to May 2026 redistricting.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program's History

The Hill: Republicans Passed “The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s.”

“Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Hill: The Republicans’ Reconciliation Bill Made About \$1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Take Health Insurance Away From More Than 14 Million People

KFF: “CBO Estimates Show That The Number Of Uninsured People Will Increase By More Than 14 Million In 2034.” [KFF, [8/20/25](#)]

Rolling Stone Headline: “Congress Officially Passes Trump’s Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Failed To Extend ACA Tax Credits, Driving Up Health Care Costs For 62,000 Individuals In TN-05 On Marketplace Plans

The One Big Beautiful Bill And Trump’s Tariffs Made Health Care More Expensive For 62,000 TN-02 Residents That Got Coverage From ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: 642,867 Individuals In Tennessee Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of Tennessee Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025

State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
Tennessee	642,867

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

2024: 62,000 Individuals In TN-05 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [CAP, [5/2/24](#)]

Number Of TN-05 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2024	
District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
TN-05	62,000

[CAP, [5/2/24](#)]

NOTE: Data above refers to TN-05 prior to May 2026 redistricting.

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. “For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. “The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike.” [Center for American Progress, [7/29/25](#)]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]
- **The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%.** “Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]
- **The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of Over 75%.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting

healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Cut Crucial Health Resources For Rural Americans And Risked Closure Of A Hospital In TN-05

The Reconciliation Bill’s Cuts To Medicaid Would Particularly Impact Rural Communities

NBC Headline: “Rural Communities Brace For Medicaid Cuts In Republicans’ Big Bill.” [NBC, [6/25/25](#)]

The Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Result In 1.8 Million People In Rural Communities Losing Their Medicaid Coverage. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened The Closure Of Vital Rural Hospitals, Including Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital In TN-05

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Cuts To Medicaid Would Result In A \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Funding For Rural Hospitals

Rural Hospitals Would Collectively Lose More Than \$1.8 Billion In Funding, Which Would Be Equivalent To 21,000 Full-Time Hospital Employees’ Salaries. “Hospitals in rural areas would collectively lose more than \$1.8 billion with a 15% cut to Medicaid. That loss in revenue is roughly equivalent to 21,000 full-time hospital employees’ salaries. Rural hospitals’ margins have been deteriorating for 10 to 15 years, said Michael Topchik, executive director for the Chartis Center for Rural Health, which analyzes and consults on rural hospital finances. Ten years ago, about one-third of rural hospitals were operating in the red. That’s closer to 50% now, he said.” [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

- **KFF Headline: “‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ Would Batter Rural Hospital Finances, Researchers Say.”** [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Result In \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Spending For Rural Hospitals Over The Next Ten Years. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened More Than 300 Rural Hospital Closures, Including At Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital

The Cuts To Medicaid And Other Federal Health Programs In President Trump’s Budget Plan Would “Rapidly Push” More Than 300 Financially Struggling Rural Hospitals Toward A Fiscal Cliff. “Cuts to Medicaid and other federal health programs proposed in President Donald Trump’s budget plan would rapidly push more than 300 financially struggling rural hospitals toward a fiscal cliff, according to researchers who track the facilities’ finances. The hospitals would be at a disproportionate risk of closure, service reductions, or ending

inpatient care, according to a report authored by experts from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research following a request from Senate Democrats, who released the findings publicly Thursday. Many of those hospitals are in Kentucky, Louisiana, California, and Oklahoma, according to the analysis.” [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

2025: TN-05 Had A Rural Hospital Listed As At-Risk Based On Financial Vulnerability. “In order to understand in greater detail how rural communities could be impacted by health care cuts contained in the reconciliation package, we requested the attached data from the Sheps Center on the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and potential impacts on their viability. These hospitals have been identified as at-risk hospitals based on financial data, including: whether the hospital has been unprofitable for the last three years; whether the hospital is at risk of financial distress relative to peer hospitals; and whether the hospital serves a disproportionately high share of Medicaid patients. The findings demonstrate that hundreds of rural hospitals across the country would feel pain from the House-passed reconciliation bill.” [Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, Letter on Rural Hospitals, [6/12/25](#)]

2025: At-Risk Rural Hospitals In TN-05			
Hospital	City	Top Medicaid Provider	Three Consecutive Years Of Negative Margins
Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital	Lebanon	No	Yes

[Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, At-Risk Rural Hospitals List, [6/12/25](#)]

NOTE: Data above refers to TN-05 prior to May 2026 redistricting.

Researchers Warned Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital Could Close Due To Medicaid Cuts. “Researchers are concerned that Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital and eight others across Tennessee could close due to proposed Medicaid cuts. Researchers warned that potential cuts to Medicaid programs such as TennCare could close several local hospitals. The cuts are part of President Trump’s so-called ‘big, beautiful bill.’” [WKRN News, [7/2/25](#)]

Rural Hospital Closures Would Lead To Increased Unemployment. “Rural hospital closures often raise concerns about access to care and the local economy. When a rural hospital closes, patients may have to travel further to obtain services, which could lead some to forgo care altogether. Closures may be especially problematic for people who have difficulty traveling long distances and for people with time-sensitive conditions, such as heart attacks and childbirth. Research suggests that rural hospital closures lead to increased unemployment (including among non-healthcare industries), lower income levels, and slower economic growth.” [KFF, [4/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cuts In History, Threatening Food Assistance For Nearly 15,000 Households In TN-05

Center For American Progress: The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cut In The Program’s History

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

- **Axios: “The Bill Would Reduce Nutrition Funding, Which Includes SNAP, By Around \$186 Billion Between 2025 And 2034.”** “By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. While analyst's projections have fluctuated as the legislation's provisions are tweaked, analysts have indicated millions of people could be cut from SNAP under the work requirement provisions.” [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]
- **CBPP Headline: “House Reconciliation Bill Proposes Deepest SNAP Cut In History, Would Take Food Assistance Away From Millions Of Low-Income Families.”** [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/28/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut SNAP By Around \$186 Billion. President Trump's massive tax and spending bill, which is advancing through the House after surviving its Republican push through the Senate, would slash food benefits for thousands. The big picture: It would mark a historic cut to the social safety net that Republicans claim weeds out waste, fraud and abuse — but experts say the restructuring of assistance programs could leave more people hungry and uninsured. [...] By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Risked Food Assistance For 14,693 Households In TN-05

According To The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, 16,693 Households Participated In Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In TN-05. [USDA, accessed [10/28/25](#)]

Who Receives SNAP?

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budgets of low-income families so they can purchase healthy food.

In TN District 5, SNAP serves...

14,693
HOUSEHOLDS

Explore below to learn about SNAP participants in TN District 5.

NOTE: Data above refers to TN-05 prior to May 2026 redistricting.

The Reconciliation Bill’s Cuts To SNAP Would Disproportionately Impact Rural Communities

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

NC Newsline Headline: “GOP Cuts To Food Assistance Would Hit Rural America Especially Hard.” [NC Newsline, [6/5/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Gave Billions In Tax Breaks To The Ultra-Wealthy At The Expense Of Working Families

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The House-Passed Reconciliation Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026. “The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump’s desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill’s tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. [...] The richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a total of \$117 billion in net tax cuts in 2026. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers on the income scale, a group that has 20 times the number of taxpayers as the richest 1 percent, would receive less than half that much, \$53 billion in net tax cuts that year.” [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, [7/3/24](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest Americans, Giving Them Tax Cuts Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest Americans. “The One Big Beautiful Bill includes the largest tax cuts in U.S. history. Whether it’s actually ‘beautiful’ is in the eye of the beholder. At every income level taxes should subside. That’s a big selling point from President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans who pushed the law through Congress with no Democratic support. It will benefit everyone. But the biggest cuts go to the wealthiest taxpayers – the ones who pay the lion’s share of taxes. For most families the savings will be miniscule in comparison, in raw dollars and as a share of income. And millions will lose subsidized health insurance and other benefits. Critics see a plan that widens income inequality and, worse, offsets tax cuts for the wealthy with draconian spending cuts that hit lower-income households.” [Cronkite News, [7/16/25](#)]

The House-Passed Republican Reconciliation Bill Extended The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Which Skewed In Favor Of The Wealthy By Providing Them Tax Cuts That Were Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans. “The tax provisions of the House Republican reconciliation bill double down on the failures of the 2017 tax law, which was skewed in favor of the richest people in the country, further eroded the nation’s revenue base, and didn’t produce the promised economic gains for working people.[1] Instead of changing course and prioritizing people with low and moderate incomes as House Republicans’ rhetoric about supporting hard-pressed working families would suggest, the House Republican tax bill only offers more of the same. The bill is heavily skewed to the wealthy: Under the bill, the top 1 percent of people would receive tax cuts three times the size of those for people with incomes in the bottom 60 percent, measured as a share of after-tax income. (See Figure 1.) The top 0.6 percent of people — the 1.2 million people with annual incomes above \$1 million — would receive more total tax cuts than the 127 million people with incomes below \$100,000. [...] The bill extends and expands the 2017 tax law’s increase in the estate tax exemption, boosting the cut in estate taxes for the 1 in 1,000 wealthiest estates to \$6.3 million.[3] Next year a couple could pass on an estate worth up to \$30 million tax free, \$1.7 million more than under a simple extension of the 2017 law.” [CBPP, [5/22/25](#)]

CBS: “Like Penn Wharton, Other Researchers Have Said The Republican Bill Is Likely To Benefit Wealthy Americans At The Expense Of People Lower Down The Ladder.” “Like Penn Wharton, other researchers have said the Republican bill is likely to benefit wealthy Americans at the expense of people lower down the ladder. The measure would likely reduce the financial resources available to the lowest-earning 10% of U.S. households by \$1,600 per year, or almost 4% of their annual income, according to a report published earlier this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. White House officials have previously questioned the CBO's scoring of the bill. But the highest-earning 10% of households would see a gain of \$12,000 per year in resources, while middle-income households would see a gain of \$500 to \$1,000, the CBO projected. Its analysis is based on the bill's tax breaks, as well as reductions for federal programs and reductions in state funds for safety net programs such as Medicaid and food stamps. In considering the impact of higher U.S. debt on future generations, the cost would come in the form of lower wages and higher costs, such as more expensive mortgages, Smetters said.” [CBS News, [6/26/25](#)]

The Hill: “The Republicans’ ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make The Poorest Americans Even Poorer, While Padding The Wallets Of The Highest Earners The Most, According To An Analysis Released Monday By Congress’s Budget Arm.” “The Republicans’ ‘big, beautiful bill’ will make the poorest Americans even poorer, while padding the wallets of the highest earners the most, according to an analysis released Monday by Congress’s budget arm. The assessment, conducted by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) at the request of top Democrats, found that the top 10 percent of earners in the country will see an average boost of \$13,600 per year over the next decade as a direct result of provisions in the law, while the bottom 10 percent will see an average annual decrease of \$1,200. The report challenges the arguments made by President Trump and other Republicans that the massive domestic policy package would benefit workers at all levels of wealth and income. And it’s given fuel to the attacks from Democrats that the legislation was, all along, designed to help the wealthiest people at the expense of the working poor.” [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

- **The Hill Headline: “Budget Office Says GOP’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make Rich Richer, Poor Poorer.”** [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Decade

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Ten Years.

“President Donald Trump’s ‘big, beautiful bill,’ which he signed into law this month, will add \$3.4 trillion to the U.S. national debt over the next decade, according to a report the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office published Monday.” [NBC News, [7/21/25](#)]

Hatcher Supported Tariffs Estimated To Cost Tennessee Farmers \$430 Million In 2025

2025: Hatcher Supported Tariffs, Which Were Expected To Lose \$430 Million For Tennessee Farmers In 2025

October 2025: Local News Reported Hatcher Supported Trump’s Trade War, Which Involved Tariffs Against Nearly Every Other Country

October 2025: Nashville Banner: “Hatcher Told The Banner That He Supported Trump’s Trade War.”

“Hatcher told the Banner that he supported Trump’s trade war, which has left Tennessee soybean farmers without their biggest customer, China. Instead, Hatcher blamed the Biden administration for not negotiating more trade deals and said input costs driven by inflation have hurt farmers.” [Nashville Banner, [10/14/25](#)]

- **Nashville Banner: “Hatcher Blamed The Biden Administration For Not Negotiating More Trade Deals And Said Input Costs Driven By Inflation Have Hurt Farmers.”** “Hatcher told the Banner that he supported Trump’s trade war, which has left Tennessee soybean farmers without their biggest customer, China. Instead, Hatcher blamed the Biden administration for not negotiating more trade deals and said input costs driven by inflation have hurt farmers.” [Nashville Banner, [10/14/25](#)]

2025: Trump’s Tariffs Plunged The U.S. Into Trade Wars With Nearly Every Other Country. “It’s been a rollercoaster of a year for U.S. trade policy. President Trump launched a barrage of new tariffs in 2025, plunging the U.S. into trade wars with nearly every country in the world.” [Los Angeles Times, [12/30/25](#)]

December 2025: Tennessee Farmers Lost \$298 Million In 2024 And Were Projected To Have Lost \$430 Million In 2025

December 2025: The University Of Tennessee Institute Of Agriculture Estimated Tennessee Farmers Lost \$298 Million In 2024 And Would Lose \$430 Million In 2025. “Tennessee agriculture officials told Gov. Bill Lee during a budget hearing this week that the state’s crop farmers are facing significant financial losses as market conditions continue to weaken. During the FY2027 Agriculture Department budget hearing, officials said producers are losing money on four of the state’s major crops: corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture estimates losses reached \$298 million in 2024 and are projected to increase to \$430 million in 2025.” [ABC News 9, [12/9/25](#)]

2025: Local News Reported Tennessee Was One Of The States Most Vulnerable To Tariff Risks

October 2025: WKRN News Headline: “Tennessee Among States Most Vulnerable To Tariff Risks, Study Finds.” [WKRN News, [10/21/25](#)]

Tennessee Imported About \$120 Billion Worth Of Goods In 2024, Accounting For Nearly 22% Of Its Economy. “A new study by the Pew Charitable Trusts named Tennessee one of the most vulnerable states to the risks of tariffs. [...] According to the study, Tennessee imported about \$120 billion worth of goods globally in 2024, accounting for 21.9% of its economy — higher than the nation’s 11.2%. During that same time, Tennessee’s imports from China alone accounted for about 3.8% of the state’s economy and was the highest percentage in the U.S.” [WKRN News, [10/21/25](#)]

Tennessee Farmers Feared They Might Go Out Of Business Because Of Tariffs, With One Farmer Calling The Situation “Farmageddon”

September 2025: Tennessee Farmers Feared They Might Go Out Of Business As They Dealt With The Impacts Of Tariffs. “Many Tennessee farmers are reaching out to lawmakers, seeking help as they try to deal with the impact of tariffs and fearing they may go under if something doesn’t change.” [WREG News, [9/25/25](#)]

WAFF News: “One Farmer In Elkmont Said This Year Has Been A Struggle Because The Cost To Grow Cotton Has Increased Due To Tariffs.” “Cotton farmers across the Tennessee Valley have started harvesting their cotton. However, one farmer in Elkmont said this year has been a struggle because the cost to grow cotton has increased due to tariffs. Greyson Lauderdale of Elkmont said over the last few years, they have been operating at a loss. Lauderdale owns a huge cotton farm in Elkmont that has been in his family for four generations.” [WAFF News, [10/16/25](#)]

Tennessee Farmer Greyson Lauderdale: “At The End Of The Day, Some Things You Can’t Control.” “Cotton farmers across the Tennessee Valley have started harvesting their cotton. However, one farmer in Elkmont said this year has been a struggle because the cost to grow cotton has increased due to tariffs. Greyson Lauderdale of Elkmont said over the last few years, they have been operating at a loss. Lauderdale owns a huge cotton farm in Elkmont that has been in his family for four generations. ‘It doesn’t feel too good,’ said Lauderdale. ‘At the end of the day, we’re doing things right. We’re doing it the same as we always have and trying to learn along the way. At the end of the day, some things you can’t control. The demand for cotton needs to increase if we want to see the price go up.’” [WAFF News, [10/16/25](#)]

Agriculture Company Founder Joe Jennings: “This Is Probably As Bad As We’ve Seen It In Well Over A Decade[,] And We’ve Termed This Farmageddon.” “Many Tennessee farmers are reaching out to lawmakers, seeking help as they try to deal with the impact of tariffs and fearing they may go under if something doesn’t change. Joe Jennings is CEO and founder of Tilley, a agriculture company that helps farmers with business management, and has a term for what farmers are seeing. ‘This is probably as bad as we’ve seen it in well over a decade. And we’ve termed this farmageddon, because it’s really the perfect storm,’ Jennings said.” [WREG News, [9/25/25](#)]

- **Jennings: “We’ve Termed This Farmageddon, Because It’s Really The Perfect Storm.”** JENNINGS: “This is probably as bad as we’ve seen it in well over a decade. And we’ve termed this farmageddon, because it’s really the perfect storm.” [WREG News, 01:21, [9/25/25](#)] (VIDEO)

2025: American Soybean Association President: “Soybean Farmers Cannot Survive A Prolonged Trade Dispute With Our Largest Customer”

August 2025: American Soybean Association President: “Soybean Farmers Cannot Survive A Prolonged Trade Dispute With Our Largest Customer.” “Soybean farmers are under extreme financial stress. Prices continue to drop and at the same time our farmers are paying significantly more for inputs and equipment. U.S. soybean farmers cannot survive a prolonged trade dispute with our largest customer. [...] Sincerely, Caleb Ragland President American Soybean Association.” [American Soybean Association, Letter to President Trump, [8/19/25](#)]

Hatcher Wrote Approvingly In His Memoir About How His Granddad Shot And Killed Their Family Dog, Tip

In His Memoir, Hatcher Wrote Approvingly About How His Granddad Shot And Killed Tip, The Family Dog, After Finding The Dog Ravaging A Goat

Hatcher Said His Granddad Shot And Killed Tip, The Family Dog, After Finding The Dog “Ravaging” A Goat

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said His Granddad Shot And Killed The Family Dog, Tip, Who Had Been “Ravaging” A Goat. “One year, several weeks before the goat round-up, dogs got into the goats. We arrived with Granddad to witness a horrific scene of death, dying, and destruction. [...] Granddad pulled out a high-powered rifle from the seat of the Montego. He carefully and deliberately took aim at a dog that was still ravaging one of the goats. A shot rang out, and the dog fell dead beside the mortally wounded goat. Two or three other dogs scattered and ran for their lives after they heard the gunshot. We ran over to the lifeless dog and rolled it over. I was horrified when I realized it was the family dog, Tip.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher Said His Granddad Shot The Family Dog, Tip, With A High-Powered Rifle After Carefully Taking Aim.** “One year, several weeks before the goat round-up, dogs got into the goats. We arrived with Granddad to witness a horrific scene of death, dying, and destruction. [...] Granddad pulled out a high-powered rifle from the seat of the Montego. He carefully and deliberately took aim at a dog that was still ravaging one of the goats. A shot rang out, and the dog fell dead beside the mortally wounded goat. Two or three other dogs scattered and ran for their lives after they heard the gunshot. We ran over to the lifeless dog and rolled it over. I was horrified when I realized it was the family dog, Tip.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]
- **Hatcher: “A Shot Rang Out, And The Dog Fell Dead Beside The Mortally Wounded Goat. [...] We Ran Over To The Lifeless Dog And Rolled It Over. I Was Horrified When I Realized It Was The Family Dog, Tip.”** “One year, several weeks before the goat round-up, dogs got into the goats. We arrived with Granddad to witness a horrific scene of death, dying, and destruction. [...] Granddad pulled out a high-powered rifle from the seat of the Montego. He carefully and deliberately took aim at a dog that was still ravaging one of the goats. A shot rang out, and the dog fell dead beside the mortally wounded goat. Two or three other dogs scattered and ran for their lives after they heard the gunshot. We ran over to the lifeless dog and rolled it over. I was horrified when I realized it was the family dog, Tip.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said He “Learned An Important Lesson From Granddad” That “There Are Penalties For Bad Choices”

Hatcher: “I Had Just Learned Another Important Lesson From Granddad: There Are Penalties For Bad Choices.” “Seeing the death and destruction both of the goats and Tip left me feeling empty. To Granddad, the goats were his responsibility: they had a purpose, and it didn’t matter whose dogs did the killing. The penalty for them was still death. I had just learned another important lesson from Granddad: there are penalties for bad choices.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said His Granddad Was Responsible For The Goats And “It Didn’t Matter Whose Dogs Did The Killing” Because “The Penalty For Them Was Still Death.” “At that moment, many questions ran through my mind. How could Tip do this to other helpless animals? How could Granddad kill Tip? Seeing the death and destruction both of the goats and Tip left me feeling empty. To Granddad, the goats were his responsibility: they had a purpose, and it didn’t matter whose dogs did the killing. The penalty for them was still death. I had just learned another important lesson from Granddad: there are penalties for bad choices.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

In His Memoir, Hatcher Shared Strange Anecdotes That Raised Questions About His Life And Family History

Hatcher Said His African American Nanny Lilly Mae Worked For His Family For More Than A Decade Doing Childcare, Cooking, And Housework; Yet Hatcher Described Her As Poor And Compared Her To “Aunt Jemima”

Hatcher Said Lilly Mae, His African American Nanny, Did Childcare, Cooking, And Housework For His Family For More Than A Decade

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said Lilly Mae, His African American Nanny, Helped His Mother With Childcare, Cooking, And Housework For More Than A Decade. “Lilly Mae, my African American nanny who greatly impacted my childhood years on the farm, helped my mother with all the child-care, cooking, and housework for over a decade.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher: Lilly Mae “Cooked For Us, Cleaned Up After Us, And Washed Our Clothes.”** “Lilly Mae acted as our mother in every respect in helping to raise us. She was as much a mother to us as Mom was during those very impressionable childhood years on the farm. Although she wasn’t really the kind of person that showed a lot of affection, we could tell she really loved us. She showed her love for us in many ways. She spanked us with switches from the willow tree by the spring in the front yard as needed without hesitation, but she also cooked for us, cleaned up after us, and washed our clothes. She also took us fishing.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]
- **Hatcher: Lilly Mae “Was As Much A Mother To Us As Mom Was During Those Very Impressionable Childhood Years On The Farm.”** “Lilly Mae acted as our mother in every respect in helping to raise us. She was as much a mother to us as Mom was during those very impressionable childhood years on the farm. Although she wasn’t really the kind of person that showed a lot of affection, we could tell she really loved us. She showed her love for us in many ways. She spanked us with switches from the willow tree by the spring in the front yard as needed without hesitation, but she also cooked for us, cleaned up after us, and washed our clothes. She also took us fishing.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Despite The Extensive Domestic Labor He Said Lilly Mae Did, Hatcher Said Lilly Mae Was Poor And Did Not Own A Car, House, Or Many Earthly Possessions

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said Lilly Mae Was “Poor Financially But Surely Not Poor In Spirit.” “Lilly Mae enjoyed smoking a pipe, and always smiled profusely when she was smoking. She was poor financially but surely not poor in spirit. She didn’t drive, own a car or a house, or have many earthly possessions.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher: Lilly Mae “Didn’t Drive, Own A Car Or A House, Or Have Many Earthly Possessions.”** “Lilly Mae enjoyed smoking a pipe, and always smiled profusely when she was smoking. She was poor financially but surely not poor in spirit. She didn’t drive, own a car or a house, or have many earthly possessions.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said One Of His Parents Found Lilly Mae At A Tenant House And Brought Her To His Family’s House To Work

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said, “Mom Or Dad Picked Up Lilly Mae Up At A Tenant House Some Five Miles Away And Brought Her To Our House To Work.” “Mom or Dad picked up Lilly Mae up at a tenant house some five miles away and brought her to our house to work. No one really knew how old Lilly Mae was. My dad helped Lilly Mae obtain a social security number after determining her approximate date of birth.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said His Dad Helped Lilly Mae Obtain A Social Security Number, As No One Knew Her Actual Date Of Birth Or How Old She Was. “Mom or Dad picked up Lilly Mae up at a tenant house some five miles away and brought her to our house to work. No one really knew how old Lilly Mae was. My dad helped Lilly Mae obtain a social security number after determining her approximate date of birth.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said Lilly Mae “Resembled Aunt Jemima” And Wore “Drab Colored Dresses” And “A Head Wrap”

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said, “Lilly Mae Resembled Aunt Jemima.” “Lilly Mae resembled Aunt Jemima—the African American woman on the bottle of pancake syrup—in dress and appearance. She wore drab colored dresses, blouse tops, and a head wrap.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher: Lilly Mae “Wore Drab Colored Dresses, Blouse Tops, And A Head Wrap.”** “Lilly Mae resembled Aunt Jemima—the African American woman on the bottle of pancake syrup—in dress and appearance. She wore drab colored dresses, blouse tops, and a head wrap.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Used Condescending Language To Describe Lilly Mae And The Way She Spoke

In His Memoir, Hatcher Mimicked The Way Lilly Mae Spoke, Saying She Believed, “There Is No Distinction Between Black And White, Only What She Referred To As ‘Peoples’ Created Equally Under God.” “But the most important gifts from Lilly Mae were those life lessons of love. She taught us how to love and what it feels like to be loved, regardless of skin color, nationality, or material wealth. According to Lilly Mae, there is no distinction between black and white, only what she referred to as ‘peoples’ created equally under God. I got a full view of this truth early on thanks to Lilly Mae. What a profound effect this good woman had on my life!” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said, “No One Really Knew How Old Lilly Mae Was.” Mom or Dad picked up Lilly

Mae up at a tenant house some five miles away and brought her to our house to work. No one really knew how old Lilly Mae was. My dad helped Lilly Mae obtain a social security number after determining her approximate date of birth.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher: Lilly Mae “Spanked Us With Switches From The Willow Tree By The Spring In The Front Yard As Needed Without Hesitation.”** “Lilly Mae acted as our mother in every respect in helping to raise us. She was as much a mother to us as Mom was during those very impressionable childhood years on the farm. Although she wasn’t really the kind of person that showed a lot of affection, we could tell she really loved us. She showed her love for us in many ways. She spanked us with switches from the willow tree by the spring in the front yard as needed without hesitation, but she also cooked for us, cleaned up after us, and washed our clothes. She also took us fishing.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said Enslaved People Were Buried On His Farm Property And That His Great-Grandfather Was A Slaveholder Who Fought For The South In The Civil War

Hatcher Said There Were Graves Of Enslaved People On His Farm

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said There Were “Graves Of Slaves As Well As Slaveholders Still On The Farm Property Today.” “The legacy of the Civil War has left visible marks on our farm in other ways, however: there are graves of slaves as well as slaveholders still on the farm property today that remind us of that dark period of American history.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said His Great-Grandfather Was A Slaveholder

In His Memoir, Hatcher Said His Great-Grandfather, Abraham Woodridge Hatcher, Was A Slaveholder. “My great-grandfather, Abram Wooldridge Hatcher, and his brother, Spotswood Henry Hatcher, fought for the South, while their east Tennessee cousin John Hatcher fought for the North. Abram and Spotswood were both slaveholders. I struggle today with why Abram and Spotswood were slaveholders. How could they have owned human beings?” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Fondly Recounted Chasing His Wife Sharon Around The House Naked

Hatcher: “I Had The Freedom To Chase Sharon Around The House Naked With No Fear Of Anyone Seeing Me.” “We lived so far off the main road that Sharon and I used to joke that anyone coming up the driveway was either there to visit us or do us harm. Our little house on the hill on the farm was a slice of paradise. I had the freedom to chase Sharon around the house naked with no fear of anyone seeing me. We had no neighbors for miles. Life was good.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher: “We Had No Neighbors For Miles. Life Was Good.”** “We lived so far off the main road that Sharon and I used to joke that anyone coming up the driveway was either there to visit us or do us harm. Our little house on the hill on the farm was a slice of paradise. I had the freedom to chase Sharon around the house naked with no fear of anyone seeing me. We had no neighbors for miles. Life was good.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]
- **1978: Hatcher Married Sharon Between His Sophomore And Junior Year Of College.** “In the late summer of 1978 between my sophomore and junior year of college, Sharon and I were married in the front room of the home place—Lucy’s house—in the presence of a small gathering of close friends and family.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher Said One Of His Cows, Jevon, Was Milked For Ten Consecutive Lactations And “Looked Good Doing It, Too”

In His Memoir, Hatcher Described The Cows In The “Hatcher Cow Hall Of Fame,” Which Included One Named Jevon. “Lastly, Jevon, named after Jevon Kears of the Tennessee Titans during his rookie season, was our last inductee into the Hatcher Cow Hall of Fame. [...] She is the most beautiful and elegant of all the Hall of Fame cows—the prototype of what a dairy cow should be, the ideal cow, and Charles’s favorite.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

Hatcher: “Jevon Milked At Least Ten Consecutive Lactations—She Looked Good Doing It, Too.” “Lastly, Jevon, named after Jevon Kears of the Tennessee Titans during his rookie season, was our last inductee into the Hatcher Cow Hall of Fame. [...] She is the most beautiful and elegant of all the Hall of Fame cows—the prototype of what a dairy cow should be, the ideal cow, and Charles’s favorite. Jevon milked at least ten consecutive lactations—she looked good doing it, too—until retiring after the birth of twins at the age of thirteen.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]

- **Hatcher Said Jevon’s Old Age And Failing Liver “Required That She Be Put Down.”** “Lastly, Jevon, named after Jevon Kears of the Tennessee Titans during his rookie season, was our last inductee into the Hatcher Cow Hall of Fame. [...] She is the most beautiful and elegant of all the Hall of Fame cows—the prototype of what a dairy cow should be, the ideal cow, and Charles’s favorite. Jevon milked at least ten consecutive lactations—she looked good doing it, too—until retiring after the birth of twins at the age of thirteen. We decided to permanently turn her out to pasture to allow her to raise her twins until the end of her days. It was not a good day when Charles found Jevon down and unable to stand in her retirement lot. Charles called Jennifer to come and examine her. It was apparent that Jevon was not going to get up. Her advanced age coupled with a failing liver required that she be put down.” [Charlie Hatcher, “Farm Strong: Faith, Family, Farm & Fitness,” Selah Press, 12/9/16]