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## **New Study: Community Banks and Rural Small Businesses Would Be Jeopardized by Bayer-Monsanto Merger**

*Mega-merger would devastate farmers, community banks and Main Street businesses*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Farmers and Families First, Inc., today released a new [white paper](#) showing how the proposed merger between agriculture giants Bayer AG and Monsanto Company would devastate American farmers and rural communities across the country. The study outlines how the mega-merger would substantially raise agricultural input prices, which would lead to increased farm debt that would threaten the solvency of community banks and undermine the success of small businesses.

In addition to examining the impact of a \$66 billion corporation with unprecedented control over the agricultural economy, the study highlights key areas where this proposed merger would hurt farmers and rural communities, including:

- The Monsanto-Bayer merger would raise the price of agricultural inputs like seeds, herbicides and insecticides, increasing the size of agricultural production debt most farmers must incur to finance operations.
- Increasing the cost of agricultural inputs could trigger widespread default on farm loans. 75 percent of all U.S. farms currently operate on unsustainable margins.
- An agricultural debt crisis would threaten the solvency of community banks that are heavily invested in U.S. farms and farmland.
- Community banks are an indispensable source of capital for small businesses. Over 15 million people rely on community banks for banking services.

“The more we learn about this merger, the worse it looks for our farmers, families and communities,” said Dan Conston, President of Farmers and Families First, Inc. “That’s why we strongly urge the Department of Justice to carefully review this deal that would drain America’s heartland and devastate already struggling families across America. This is simply a deal we cannot afford.”

To download a full copy of the white paper, click [here](#).

To download previous studies, click [here](#).

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*Farmers and Families First, Inc. is a 501(c)(4) that advocates for free market-based policies to help the American farmers who grow our nation's food and help the American families who consume that food. Our primary goal is to put ideas into action that promote innovation, lower costs through competition, and fairness for farmers and families. For more information, visit [www.farmersandfamiliesfirst.com](http://www.farmersandfamiliesfirst.com).*

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