



Crop Insurance

Help Protect Your Constituents Through Crop Insurance

April 2017

What Agents Do

The Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP) is a highly technical program that relies on the expertise of independent insurance agents. The FCIP provides our nation's farmers with the ability to manage their risk and continue to produce a safe, strong, and dependable food supply. Since Congress first called on independent insurance agents to deliver the program in the 1980s, crop insurance has become the cornerstone of the United States' farm risk management, with over 290 million acres insured and over 100 types of crops protected. As the face of the FCIP, crop insurance agents work every day to deliver unprecedented financial protections, service, and value to farmers. By navigating through the technicalities inherent in the program, they help agricultural producers make sound risk assessments.

The Issue: Cuts to Crop Insurance

The Agricultural Act of 2014, better known as the Farm Bill, was enacted in March of 2014. The law continues a subsidy program for farmers who purchase crop insurance and strengthens crop insurance by providing a wider array of risk management choices to farmers and ranchers and by making crop insurance affordable to farmers who are just starting out. Despite this, opponents to the program have continued to propose cuts to the program. Attacking farmers' most important risk management tool only weakens the farm safety net and threatens our nation's economic and agricultural stability.



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How You Can Help

Oppose Cuts to the Federal Crop Insurance Program

- ◆ Congress included \$3 billion in cuts in recent years and the Obama administration routinely proposed cutting the program in their budget request (Trump's budget request on mandatory programs, such as crop, has not been released yet).
- ◆ While these cuts were removed from the final legislation due to intense advocacy by PIA members and our allies, we are concerned by these ongoing attempts to cut the program.
- ◆ With the Farm Bill up for reauthorization in 2018, it is important to note that during the last reauthorization a multitude of cuts to the farm safety net, and crop insurance was estimated to contribute \$23 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years at the time of passage.
- ◆ Farmers and ranchers, lenders, input suppliers and processors, agents, insurance and reinsurance providers agree that crop insurance is the centerpiece of agricultural risk management. With over 290 million acres protected, crop insurance is a sound investment and helps ensure the production of a stable food, fiber, feed and fuel supply.



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