



Help Protect Your Constituents Through Crop Insurance

August 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 120 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 provide an essential service to agricultural producers and enable them to 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. The Farm Bill is up for reauthorization again in 2018. With a negative agriculture outlook, crop insurance is more important than ever. 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.



Local
Agents
Serving
Main Street
America™

Help Protect Your Constituents Through Crop Insurance

How You Can Help

✓ **OPPOSE Cuts to the Federal Crop Insurance Program**

- Congress included \$3 billion in cuts in 2015. While these cuts were removed from the final legislation due to intense advocacy by PIA members and our allies, we remain concerned by these attempts to cut the program. Most recently, President Trump proposed a nearly \$29 billion cut to crop insurance in his budget request.
- During the last Farm Bill reauthorization, a multitude of cuts to crop insurance contributed an estimate of \$23 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years from the time of passage. With the Farm Bill up for reauthorization in 2018, policymakers should recall that crop insurance has already made a substantial contribution to deficit reduction and cannot afford further cuts.
- Farmers and ranchers, lenders, input suppliers and processors, agents, and 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.



**National Association of Professional Insurance Agents
400 North Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314**

**For more information on this issue contact
Jon Gentile, Vice President, Government Relations
jonge@pianet.org 703-518-1365**