

Improving Agriculture Data Research and Analysis

- There is a need for accessible data and analysis that quantifies the risk reduction benefits of conservation practices. We believe this analysis will help farmers reduce risks and increase profitability.
- USDA already manages and stores valuable producer data as part of its mandate. We believe that this data can be better utilized to inform producer understanding about which conservation practices reduce risk and improve profitability.
- Currently, certain restrictions prevent trusted researchers from translating raw data into meaningful information for America's farmers. This bill would give qualified researchers at the land-grant universities that farmers know and trust the ability to analyze data and connect the dots between conservation practices, crop yields, soil health, and risk.
- In addition to securing cost-savings for America's farmers, we believe that improved data research, analysis, and dissemination will strengthen the crop insurance program and ensure that it remains defensible.
- We support establishing a conservation and farm productivity data warehouse. This confidential, secure data warehouse would collect, aggregate, and transform data to enable innovative research and analysis.
- Producer privacy is a priority. The integrity and confidentiality of producer data can be protected by upholding strict privacy protocols already in place at USDA and used by academic institutions and researchers.
- Since 2013, AGree's Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force (CCITF) has been working to drive broader adoption of conservation practices through data integration and analysis. The CCITF is a diverse and bipartisan group of experts that includes farmers, former USDA leadership, researchers and academics, and representatives from conservation organizations and the private crop insurance industry.

About the Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force

The AGree Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force (CCITF) is a diverse group of experts including agricultural producers, researchers, former USDA leadership, and representatives from farmer-based and environmental and conservation NGOs, and the crop insurance industry – developing and pursuing innovative ways to drive broader adoption of conservation practices through opportunities in federal crop insurance and federal conservation programs. The CCITF is identifying and advocating for opportunities in the 2018 Farm Bill and in other venues to support increased adoption of conservation practices across U.S. working lands.

Overarching Goal: Drive broader adoption of conservation practices on working lands while maintaining a viable crop insurance program, across the United States.

Members of the Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force

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| <i>Nicole Ayache: K-Coe Isom</i> | <i>Ferd Hoefner: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition</i> | <i>Kellis Moss: Ducks Unlimited</i> |
| <i>Robert Blair: Three Canyon Farms</i> | <i>Paul Wolfe: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition</i> | <i>James Moseley: AGree Co-Chair, Former Deputy Secretary of USDA</i> |
| <i>Larry Clemens: The Nature Conservancy</i> | <i>*Wayne Honeycutt: Soil Health Institute</i> | <i>*Rob Myers: University of Missouri</i> |
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| <i>Kristin Weeks Duncanson: Duncanson Growers</i> | <i>John Larson: American Farmland Trust</i> | <i>Ryan Stockwell: National Wildlife Federation</i> |
| <i>Callie Eideberg: Environmental Defense Fund</i> | <i>Scott Marlow: Rural Advancement Foundation International</i> | <i>Joshua Woodard: Cornell University</i> |
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*Not involved in any lobbying activities related to the CCITF's data improvement recommendations.