



CROP INSURANCE

Keeps America Growing

After decades of costly government bailouts, crop insurance emerged as a way to reduce taxpayer risk and leverage private-sector efficiency following agricultural disasters.

Now, farmers buy insurance and private companies underwrite policies so taxpayers aren't on the hook for the entirety of disaster assistance.

The 2014 Farm Bill made crop insurance the centerpiece of modern-day farm policy, replacing disaster packages and direct subsidy payments.

But crop insurance cannot succeed unless it remains affordable and widely available to farmers and economically viable for private-sector participation.

Crop Insurance **Basics**

- Private companies sell and service 1.2 million insurance policies that protect 290 million acres and \$100 billion worth of goods.
- Policies are available on more than 125 crops—including fruits and vegetables—and to farmers of all sizes in all states.
- Farmers help fund their own safety net, collectively spending nearly \$50 billion out of their own pockets on insurance coverage since 2000.
- Private claims adjusters verify losses following disaster and speed assistance—usually within 30 days—to affected farmers.
- The government discounts premiums and covers some losses, but taxpayers avoid future ad hoc disaster bills, which cost nearly \$70 billion from 1989 to 2009.

What They're Saying

"Crop insurance is the cornerstone of the farm safety net. You have my word to continue to protect, preserve, and improve the number one risk management tool in every farmer's toolbox."

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas)

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman

"Today, crop insurance is the foundation of this Farm Bill and the farm safety net. The farmer gets a bill, not a check with crop insurance...and they don't get help unless they really need it."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan)

Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member

"Put simply, crop insurance is working. For every farmer, banker, and rural businessman I talk to, they all remind me that crop insurance is the cornerstone of the farm safety net."

Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Texas)

House Agriculture Committee Chairman

"Crop insurance is a way to avoid bailouts.... Farmers don't control weather or prices. To maintain food production in this country we have to have this."

Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minnesota)

House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member

"Farmers and ranchers are tightening their belts, and they'll rely on the safety net and risk management programs in the farm bill, such as crop insurance, more than they have in years."

Zippy Duvall, President

American Farm Bureau Federation

"When Mother Nature strikes or markets fluctuate, without crop insurance, many family farmers and ranchers could be put out of business."

Roger Johnson, President

National Farmers Union

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