



AACI in Action: Quarterly Report



American Association of Crop Insurers
Third Quarter Report 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Despite the extended August recess that Congress takes every year it remained a busy few months on-and-around Capitol Hill. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released details of both another round of disaster aid and market facilitation programs, which are designed to assist producers with ongoing weather and trade complications. AACI has continued to engage coalition partners and policy makers to ensure that these efforts ultimately work to encourage sustainable risk management practices as America's agricultural producers continue to literally weather the storm.

Also, two bipartisan champions of the crop insurance program, Reps. Cheri Bustos (D-IL) and G.T. Thompson (R-PA) recently formed a member organization called the Congressional Crop Insurance Caucus. The mission of the caucus is to educate lawmakers on the details of how the program functions and to serve as way for members to highlight their support of crop insurance by joining the group. The initial crop insurance 101 briefing with staff was held with standing room only. The organization will continue to serve as a platform to proactively engage and educate policy makers and their staffs on the vital importance of the crop insurance program. In fact, encouraging Members of Congress to join this group will serve as the primary focus of our upcoming fall fly-in later this month.

Politically, the AACI-PAC continued hosting and participating in multiple fundraising events that have assisted in further raising the profile of AACI inside the Beltway.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in AACI. Your efforts and involvement make all the difference.

SCOTT GRAVES
President

Bipartisan Crop Insurance Caucus Launched to Educate Congress

In July, Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17) and Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA-15) launched the Congressional Crop Insurance Caucus to help Members of Congress and their staff better understand the program and build bipartisan support for this critical risk management tool for farmers and ranchers.

“For the long-term success of American agriculture and our national food supply, it is critical that farmers and ranchers have access to voluntary tools to help manage that risk,” stated Rep. GT Thompson about the new effort. “I’m proud to serve as co-chair of the House Crop Insurance Caucus in order to support our farm families, economy and national food security.”

Fellow co-chair Rep. Bustos added, “crop insurance should never be a partisan issue and I’m proud to work across the aisle with Congressman Thompson to build support in Congress for our farm safety net.”

Other members of the newly formed caucus echoed these sentiments saying that they take seriously the responsibility to maintain vibrant and healthy rural economy and seek to maintain crop insurance that is affordable, available and economically viable.

Going forward, these members will work with AACI and other stakeholders to grow the membership and organize briefings and events to keep everyone focused on protecting and advancing the crop insurance program.



“The crop insurance program is a critical tool to protect against the risks that come with farming. As the rural economy faces another tough year, it is encouraging to see members of Congress from both sides of the aisle come together to stand up for America’s farmers.”

RON MOORE
soybean farmer

Crop Insurance Caucus Members



Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17)
Co-Chair



Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA-15)
Co-Chair



Rep. Cindy Axne (D-IA-03)



Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL-12)



Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24)



Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-02)



Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL-13)



Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL-23)



Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA-02)



Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (D-NJ-02)



Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX-34)

“Crop insurance should never be a partisan issue.”

– REP. CHERI BUSTOS
Co-Chair of the Congressional Crop Insurance Caucus

“For the long-term success of American agriculture and our national food supply, it is critical that farmers and ranchers have access to voluntary tools to help manage that risk.”

– REP. GLENN “GT” THOMPSON
Co-Chair of the Congressional Crop Insurance Caucus

What They’re Saying About The Congresssonal Crop Insurance Caucus

“The announcement of the House Crop Insurance Caucus comes at a critical moment for rural America. Farmers are trying to recover from a one-two punch of weather disasters and a struggling rural economy. Never has crop insurance been more crucial to the survival of America’s farmers and ranchers. We commend Representatives Bustos and Thompson for their leadership in launching the House Crop Insurance Caucus and providing a forum for all members to learn more about the value of crop insurance while encouraging bipartisan collaboration to protect this important risk management tool. We look forward to working with the Caucus to strengthen crop insurance and ensure it remains affordable, widely available, and economically viable.”

– AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CROP INSURERS
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Crop Insurance Professionals Association, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, and National Crop Insurance Services

Crop insurance is a critical component of the farm safety net for Illinois soybean growers. Protecting and preserving the program is paramount, especially in years like this when Mother Nature has not been kind. We greatly appreciate the leadership of Congresswoman Bustos and Congressman Thompson to create the Crop Insurance Caucus to protect this critical tool for farmers.”

– RON MOORE
Illinois soybean farmer and Board Member of the American Soybean Association

“Farm Credit, a dedicated provider of credit to agriculture and rural communities, supports a range of risk-management tools for producers. A viable federal crop insurance program allows lenders to finance many of those agriculture producers, particularly young and beginning farmers and ranchers who typically have less collateral and equity. We trust that the bipartisan Crop Insurance Caucus will inspire more support for this successful public-private partnership on Capitol Hill.”

– TODD VAN HOOSE
CEO of Farm Credit Council

“NCGA’s farmer members have consistently cited the federal crop insurance program as their most important risk management tool to protect against significant production losses. In challenging times, like many farmers are currently facing, the program becomes even more critical. NCGA welcomes the formation of the House Crop Insurance Caucus and commends Reps. Bustos and Thompson for their support of this important program.”

– JON DOGETT
CEO of National Corn Growers Association (NCGA)

“This year our agency witnessed firsthand the level of uncertainty and devastation that can come with extreme weather. Farmers wwh backbone of our community and a strong crop insurance program allows them the certainty and security they need to recover and maintain their operations. We applaud Rep. Bustos and Rep. Thompson for their efforts to educate Congress on the importance of crop insurance and the critical role it plays in communities like ours here in Illinois.”

– GREG AND LUKE SANDROCK
Cornerstone Agency

Policy Announcements

There were several announcements related to agriculture during the third quarter of 2019. The majority focused on additional support for farmers following a year of devastating weather and trade uncertainties. USDA had already announced a series of flexibilities to reduce stress on producers affected by weather, including: providing more time for cover crop haying and grazing by moving up the start date to September 1; allowing producers who filed prevented planting claims then planted a cover crop with a potential for harvest to receive a \$15 per acre Market Facilitation Program payment; and holding signups in select states for producers to receive assistance in planting cover crops. Below is a summary of the activity that’s happened over the past three months.

Crop Insurance-Specific Announcements

- July 10:** RMA announced deadline extensions (July 15 to July 22) in 12 states for reporting spring-seeded crops to FSA's county offices and crop insurance agents.
- August 15:** RMA announced that it will defer accrual of interest for all producers' spring 2019 crop year insurance premiums to the earlier of the applicable termination date or for two months, until November 30, for all policies with a premium billing date of August 15, 2019.
- August 27:** RMA announced that certain producers of industrial hemp will be able to obtain insurance coverage under the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) policy in the 2020 crop year for hemp grown for fiber, flower, or seeds.
- August 30:** RMA announced that beginning in the 2020 crop year, producers with Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) and WFRP may receive indemnity payments under both policies. Also, RMA made several measures available to prevent large drops in approved revenue from year to year and smooth the historical values. The changes were triggered by language in the 2018 farm bill.
- September 26:** RMA announced that producers with crop insurance who filed prevent plant claims due to excess flooding or moisture will receive supplemental payments through their insurance providers starting in mid-October. Producers with Yield Protection and Revenue Protection with Harvest Price Exclusion will receive a 10% top-up payment and producers with Revenue Protection will receive 15%. They do not need to sign up to receive payments and all producers with a 2019 prevented planting indemnity will receive the top-up.

Other Announcements

- July 25:** USDA announced details for the second round of Market Facilitation Program (MFP 2.0) payments. Farmers can sign up for payments at their local FSA office from July 29 - December 6, 2019. To be eligible, non-specialty and cover crops must have been planted by August 1, 2019. The first tranche of payments will equal 50 percent of payment per acre in a county, and no payment will be less than \$15. This pay limit is double the amount from the first round of MFP payments and there will be separate limits for row crops, specialty crops, and livestock. Following the supplemental disaster law, if 75 percent or more of a farm's income is derived from farming, ranching, etc., AGI is waived. Applications are expected to surpass signups for the first round of MFP because USDA is making a broader range of crops eligible for payments.
- September 9:** USDA released the first details of the disaster aid program aimed to assist producers who were impacted by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019, including hurricane Dorian. Producers can apply for assistance through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Signups began on September 11. Some of the most notable items in the announcement include: Prevent Plant supplemental payments will be a payment equal to 10% of crop insurance PP indemnity, with an additional 5% to those who purchased Harvest Price Option; producers who suffered loss of harvested crop stored in on-farm structures will receive assistance through On-Farm Storage Loan Programs; and pay limit per year is \$125,000 unless 75% of income is derived from farming in which case the pay limit is \$250,000 (combined maximum for 2018, 2019, and 2020 crop years is \$500,000).



Member of Congress Connect Program

AACI launched its *Member of Congress Connect Program* which helps our association members engage and build relationships with Members of Congress in their state or district offices. The intent of this new effort is to build AACI's footprint outside of Washington, D.C. so that district and state staff have the necessary resources and contacts when questions or issues surface relating to crop insurance. This will serve as another opportunity to grow Congressional champions for the crop insurance program.

f you are interested in a meeting with your member of Congress or would like more information, please contact the AACI staff.

\$137,500

The AACI PAC has given \$137,500 to 79 different campaigns to date.

\$95,007

AACI PAC has received \$95,007 in membership contributions through September 30.



Thank you to our AACI PAC Contributors

PAC Champion: \$5,000

Carothers, Dan
Rain and Hail Insur.
Society PAC

PAC Leader: \$2,500 (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Brichler, Ron
Latham, Benson

PAC Trailblazer: \$1500 (\$1,500 - \$2,499)

Adams, Grant
Heitman, Larry
Leighton, Bradley

PAC Pioneer: \$500 (\$500 - \$1,499)

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Brosnahan, Ryan
Brown, Jack
Bryan, Michael
Bunting, Naomi A
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Christoffersen, Sharon
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Durkes, Kim
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Edelman, Randy
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Elam, Melody
Ellis, Lynne

Emerson, Heidi
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Erickson, Darrin
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Franz, Tim
Frazier, Austin J
Fridgen, Toni
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Gillett, Marie
Glanzer, Jon N
Goche, Joshua
Gothier, Pamela J.
Graham, Peter
Green, Steven
Grout, Crystal
Gruben, Rickey
Gruner, Bradley
Guestin, Rick
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Hanawa, Ben
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Hayden, Jan
Hayes, Terry K
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Hobson, Danny
Hoffman, Jeff
Holmes, Susan
Holz, Kenneth D
Horner, Richard
Huckert, Anissa
Hudson, Rebecca J
Hunnicut, Plenn
Hunt, Dan

Jackson, Roy
Jackson, Shane
Jacob, Artz
Jacobi, Jay
Jacobsen, Brian
Jamison, William (Bill)
Jensen, Brenda
Joachim, Susan
Johnson, Camille
Johnson, Danelle
Johnson, Jan
Jones, Karla K
Joseph, Michele
Junk, Greg
Kegley, Michael
Kelich, Tricia
Kelley, Craig
Kerber, Cory
Kerns, Harold
Kesner, Cherise
Kessler, Jason
Klais, Glen
Klaus, Amy
Koebel, Angie
Koester, Jason
Kopf, Kathy
Korthals, David
Krause, Carole
Krebs, Gabriel
Kreikemeier, Barry
Krusemark, Rochelle
Kueny, Vincent
Kunshek, Bill
LaMattina, Staci
Lamb, Thomas
Lang, Jean M.
Lanier, Jeffrey
Large, JC (Joseph)
Larsen, John R.
Larson, Mark A.
Lassey, Paul
Lasz, Cheryl
Leibbrand, Richard
Lekstrom, Cheryl
Lenhof, Bernice
Levtzow, Merlyn
Lewis, Tish
Lewis, William
Lillehaugen, Luke
Little, Amy
Loff, Bryan
Look, Kathy
Luedtke, Kara
Martin, Laurel
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Mathis, Ronnie
Mattern, Randy
Mattrocce, David
May, Bodie
McDaniel, James E.
McHenry, Robert
McKnight, Wesley
McMartin, John
Melcher, Jason
Melgoza, Alvaro
Mesko, George
Meyer, Glen
Michels, Jan
Mickelson, Mark
Milholland, Steve
Miller, Jeff K.
Miller, Kelly
Milloy, Cheryl A
Moe, Christopher
Molen, Todd Vander
Molstad, David B.
Monson, Dean
Montelauro, Kevin
Morrill, Daniel
Morrison, Justin
Morrison, Vic
Morrison, William
Moser, Brad L
Murphy, Rickey
Myers, Aaron
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Nelson, Jenna
Nelson, LeAnn
Norrish, Holly
Norrish, Kimberly
Norwood, David
Oleaga, William
Olek, John
Olin, Michael T.
Olson, Barry
Olson, Catherine
Ormon, Clay
Otto, James
Parker, Wendell
Paul, David
Peasland, Brian
Perez, Leonard
Peterson, Deborah
Phillips, William
Polden, Barbara A
Pullen, Derek
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Randall, Tanner
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Reece, Robert

Reed, Ronald L
Regas, Alex
Remington, Andrew
Rentz, Mark
Richard, George
Richter, Brenda
Riesselman, Andy
Roberts, Bryce
Rohach, Michael
Rohlfs Jr, Darrel
Roiger, Bill
Ross, Jackie
Ross, Nicholas
Rowekamp, Jason
Ryan, Kathryn
Sabella, Todd A.
Savage, Kent
Schenck, Aaron
Scherting, Megan
Schletewitz, Travis
Schlimme, Jean
Schmitz, Donald
Schuknecht, Fred
Schult, Gary
Schunk, Kristin
Schwarz, Debby
Scott, Sarah
Sellers, Mary
Setraycic, Kimberly D
Shawgo, Regina
Shepard, Billie
Siebrecht, Roger
Singleton, Larry
Sisk, Joe
Sisk, Kyle
Sizemore, Travis
Slack, Blane
Slowiak, Carolyn
Sluka, Tom
Smith, Eric
Smith, Jennifer
Smith, Rob
Smith, Steve
Spain, James
Spence, Gary
Spurlock, Karen
Stauffer, John
Stickelmaier, Julie
Strait, Mark
Strei, Chad
Stroop, Wendy
Struble, Aaron
Swanson, Tom
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Swing, Robert

Tague, Laverne
Taubert, Dennis R.
Tekinalph, Serhat
Terry, John
Thompson, Carol K.
Thompson, Matt
Throckmartin, Ryan
Tower, Chad
Trampel, Roger
Trojcak, Josh
Turnbull, Cameron
Vandiver, Paul
Vinson, Robert
Wagener, Gloria F.
Wagner, John
Walsh, Christopher
Ward, Dale
Wardenburg, Eric
Waters, Missy
Wesenick, Melissa
Wheeler, Kathy
Wheeler, Kevin
Whiddon, Johnny
Wiedeman, John
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Wiering, Richard
Wilke, Lloyd
Williams, Gary J.
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Wischmeyer, Robert
Withers, Jolene
Wolters, Greg
Wood, Ron
Yeager, Terryn

<\$25

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Carrillon, Nicole
Engelbrecht, Laci
Gaworski, George
Gilbreath, Lynda
Hardisty, Abigail
Pandolfo, Anthony
Rasmussen, Alan
Royer, Steve
Schneider, Eden
Thompson, Debra

Type II Contributions

Rain & Hail PAC

CGB PAC
Brichler, Ron
Deterding, Kelly
Rutledge, Ron
Latham, Benson
Young, Brian
Schuler, Dave
Allison, Mark
Carroll, Jason
Carroll, Arthur
Fix, Curtis
Heitman, Larry
Klein, Matthew
Korin, James
Sheeley, John
Singleton, Alan
Weber, Scott
Arnold, Scott
Frerichs, Stephen
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Davenport, Micahel
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Ufer, Bill
Supple, Patrick
Jakway, Douglas
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Bird, Bob
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Coleman, Micahel
Darling, Brad
Gonzales, Craig
Grimsley, Gene
James, Jon
Krakau, Mark
Legleiter, Michael
Shuler, Paul W
Utter, Cynthia Ellie
Foster, Shannon
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Lung, Ted
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