

2023
MIDYEAR REPORT

AACI in Action



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we stand on the threshold of another pivotal moment for our industry, we must come together to ensure that the interests of the crop insurance industry are firmly represented and protected. This year, as Congress considers the Farm Bill, the stakes couldn't be higher for our association and the farmers we serve.

In the spring, we hosted our first fly-in of the year, where many of you joined us in Washington, DC, to meet directly with members of Congress. Your presence and voice made a significant impact, highlighting the realities of our industry and the vital role crop insurance plays in supporting America's farmers and ranchers.

Given the gravity of the Farm Bill, we're planning a second fly-in this fall. That's a testament to the importance we place on this legislation. We thank you in advance for taking time from your busy schedules and appreciate the ever-increasing interest and involvement that assists us in both promoting and defending this critical industry.

Our team remains in constant contact with staff on Capitol Hill, ensuring we stay current with the Farm Bill's timing and process. Crop insurance, and the public-private partnership the policy is built upon represents the cornerstone of federal agriculture policy. However, in order to maintain the effectiveness of the program we must continue to be diligent in ensuring it works for all private sector entities that deliver the program to our nation's agriculture producers.

Now, more than ever, we need you - our members - to stay active and engaged in the Farm Bill process. Your voice is invaluable. Our strongest advocates are the ones who understand the intricacies of our industry and can effectively communicate its importance. We need your help to protect and strengthen the crop insurance program.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all your work supporting our efforts. Your commitment and dedication are appreciated and instrumental in navigating the challenges and opportunities we face.

Let's continue to work together, ensuring that the upcoming Farm Bill fully reflects the needs of our industry and the farmers we serve. I do not doubt that with your continued engagement, we will succeed.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

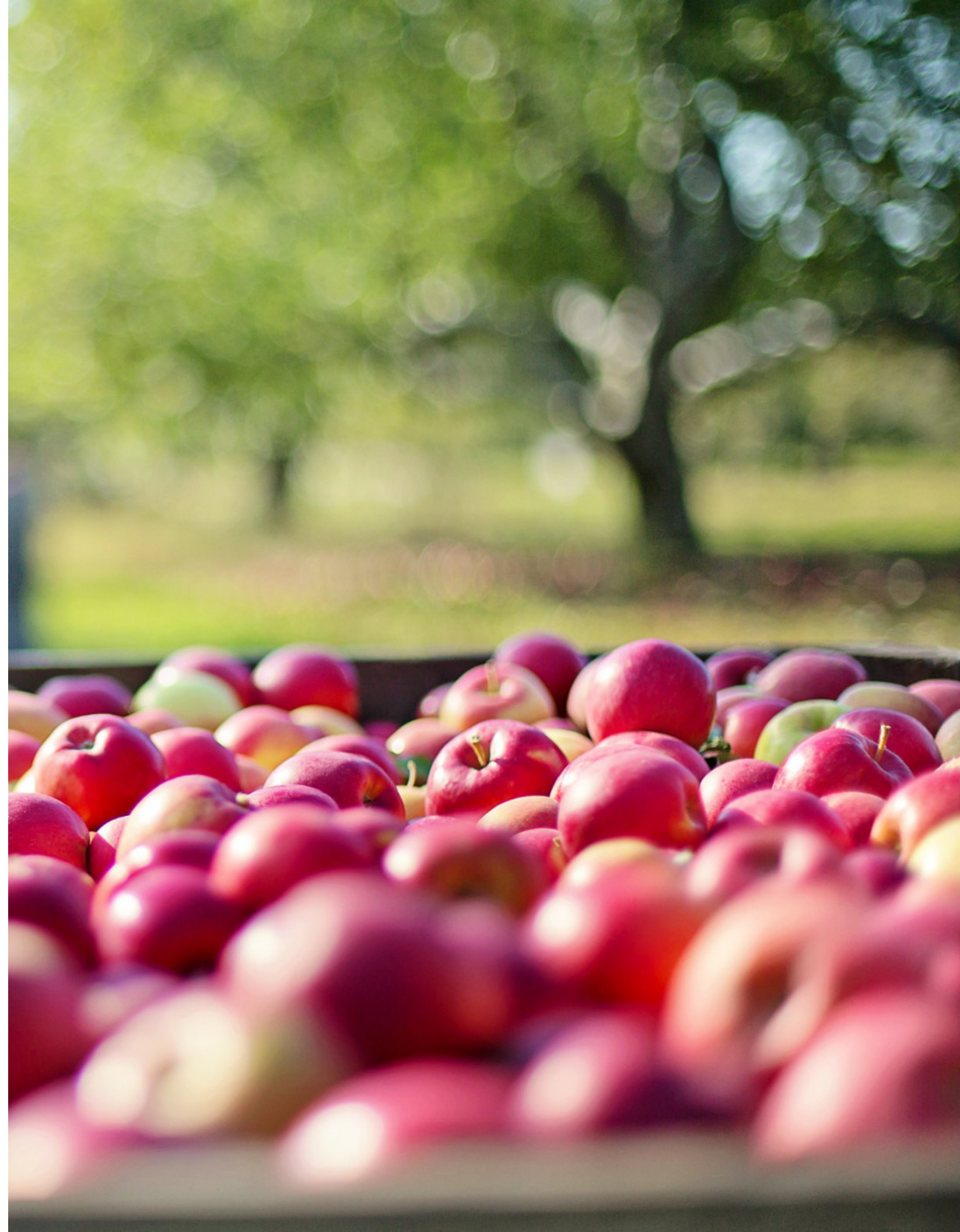
Scott Graves

President, AACI



SCOTT GRAVES

President



Our Mission

The American Association of Crop Insurers advocates on behalf of all segments of the private crop insurance industry from companies to agents to its affiliates. AACI provides a unified voice to promote and protect a viable, affordable, and diverse crop insurance program.

Our Values

Since our founding in 1983 as the primary trade association of insurance providers, we have followed a set of core values. These founding principles guide our efforts to promote policies that encourage the effective and efficient private sector delivery of crop insurance.

- 1 We support American farmers and ranchers in their pursuit to provide our nation and the world with an affordable, abundant, and secure food, fiber, and feed supply.
- 2 We support protecting the integrity of the crop insurance program by continually working to identify and correct inefficiencies and abuses of current policies.
- 3 We support partnering with industry leaders to foster vibrant rural communities.
- 4 We support promoting the stewardship of our nation's natural resources.
- 5 We support expanding crop insurance so that farmers, ranchers, and growers all across the country have access to this essential risk management tool regardless of their farm size, background, location, or method of production.

Our Goals

AACI has identified the following strategic goals to align both its organizational mission and values.



- 1 Maintain and advance strong policies that support the effective and efficient private sector delivery of the federal crop insurance program.
- 2 Continue to expand coverage of crop insurance to reach a diverse range of farmers, ranchers, and growers across the country.
- 3 Increase awareness of the value and cost-effectiveness of crop insurance and work to ensure adequate resources are available to maintain the viability of the program.
- 4 Foster strong, purposeful relationships within the legislative and executive branches of government in a proactive manner by promoting the critical role that crop insurance plays in contributing to a safe, abundant, and affordable domestic food and fiber supply.
- 5 Build upon existing relationships within the agricultural, conservation, and wildlife communities and identify opportunities to expand support for the federal crop insurance program.

2023 AACI/NCIS Convention

In February, individuals gathered in Bonita Springs, FL for the 2023 Crop Insurance Industry Annual Convention hosted by AACI and the National Crop Insurance Services. Over the course of three days, attendees heard from current and former Members of Congress, Administration officials, and other industry professionals.

AACI opened the convention by hosting fundraisers for House Agriculture Committee members Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA). Here the two Members were able to mix and mingle with a small group of contributors and discuss specific issues and topics heading into the 2023 Farm Bill. The events successfully raised more than \$18,000 for each member, making it one of the strongest showings at a convention-related event.

The general session kicked off with comments from the leadership of both organizations. Each of them highlighted their accomplishments over the course of 2022 and laid out the steps they plan to take in

2023 to continue to build support for the program on Capitol Hill and across the country. Specifically, Grant Adams recognized the individuals who completed AACI's Leadership Develop Program, and Scott Graves highlighted op-eds from House Ag Committee Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA) and Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA).

After opening remarks, attendees heard from several great panels. First was a group of commodity representatives, who each expressed strong support for the federal crop insurance program. Several of them also pointed to potential areas of improvement both within crop insurance and in other titles of the Farm Bill. Most notably, the representative from the specialty crop industry said they have developed a list of 109 priorities that they plan to bring before Congress.

Next, attendees heard from House Agriculture Committee members Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA), who joined former Ag

Committee Chairman Mike Conaway on a panel. The group gave an inside look at the prospects of passing a Farm Bill, the challenges we can expect, and the importance of educating new members both on and off the Agriculture Committee. In the end, each person on the panel believed Congress can pass a bill before the end of the year, but doing so before September 30 will require a lot of hard work. [Read more here](#), [here](#) & [here](#).

The first day closed with a congressional staff panel, including individuals from the Senate and House Ag Committees who work directly on crop insurance, as well as another staffer from a personal office. The staffers laid out the general priorities of their bosses, which included everything from protecting and improving crop insurance, to strengthening Title I of the Farm Bill, to finding ways of ensuring producers are rewarded for certain farming practices. They also explained how the industry needs to share ideas with Congress often and early to ensure the needs of the industry are met.

Throughout the general session, video remarks from the four corners of the Agriculture Committees were shown including Chairwoman Stabenow (D-MI), Ranking Member Boozman (R-AR), Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA), and Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA). Each member expressed their support for crop insurance and said they look forward to working with the industry to protect and improve the program in the Farm Bill.

Day two opened with a panel of economists representing industry, government, and academia, who provided an outlook for the agriculture economy heading into the farm bill. They touched on the negative impact that high input costs have had on producers, despite strong prices for certain commodities. They also explained that if farm income drops this year because of a change in

commodity prices or other factors, input costs are unlikely to follow suit, especially the price of farmland which is at an all-time high. In the end, they noted that the state of the farm economy will play a significant role in whether the farm bill passes.

Next attendees were addressed by RMA Administrator Marcia Bunger and her staff who provided an update on the agency. They highlighted the work RMA has done to support small and underserved producers; specifically their educational roadshows and the changes made to micro-farm and whole-farm policies. Bunger also added that her agency was willing to provide technical assistance to Congress if they wish to expand crop insurance in the next Farm Bill. Of note: At the meeting, RMA announced that it is expanding its Hurricane Insurance Protection-Wind Index (HIP-WI) Endorsement with a Tropical Storm Option, which will be offered for the 2023 crop year.

Day two closed with a presentation from political expert David Wasserman, senior editor for the Cook Political Report. Wasserman explained that even though House Republicans underperformed in the 2022 election, history is still on their side heading into 2024 because a House hasn't flipped in a presidential cycle since 1952. Wasserman added that it's a similar story in the Senate where Democrats will be defending 23 seats compared to the Republicans' 11 in 2024. Wasserman believed this would make it tough for Democrats to hold on to their slim majority. However, he noted that presidential politics will play a significant role down the ballot, and the Republicans' success will rely heavily on their eventual nominee.

The 2024 Crop Insurance Industry Annual Convention will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona from February 4-7, 2024. Registration for the convention will open up 4-6 weeks in advance of the event.



AACI 2023 Spring Fly-in

On May 9-11, more than 40 AACI members traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the association's 2023 spring fly-in. The week began with a welcome lunch where individuals got to briefly meet with one another before staff reviewed the schedule for the week as well as the talking points for each of the meetings.

The full group then headed up to Capitol Hill where they heard from staff on Senate & House Agriculture Committees. First, they met with staff for House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA), followed by staff with Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) and finally several staffers with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). Each group of staffers gave an update on where they currently stand in the farm bill process and expressed their optimism in getting a farm bill done before the end of the year. Staff also highlighted the various listening sessions that have taken place around the country and noted the busy hearing schedules within both Committees. AACI members engaged in a Q&A in each meeting, and in closing, all parties committed to working together to protect crop insurance as we work through the farm bill process.

On Tuesday evening, Congressman Tracey Mann (R-KS) took the full group on a private tour of the Capitol building. During the tour, Congressman Mann led the group through several different rooms in the Capitol and provided historical background along the way.

On Wednesday morning, AACI held separate fundraising events for three Democratic members of the House Agriculture Committee: Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski (D-IL), Congressman Eric Sorensen (D-IL), and Congresswoman Shontel Brown (D-OH), who is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit. These events gave AACI an opportunity to give the Members an overview of the association and its footprint in each of their respective areas. They also explained the importance of the crop insurance program, specifically as it pertains to their states & districts. The Members gave a brief overview of their priorities for the farm bill, which ranged from protecting the crop insurance program to addressing diversity and climate concerns within agriculture.

The rest of Wednesday was spent on Capitol Hill

where fly-in participants broke into groups and visited over 60 Senate and House offices across Capitol Hill. During these meetings, AACI members provided crop insurance data specific to each of the offices and answered any questions Members and staff had. They also explained the importance of maintaining adequate funding levels for the program in the upcoming farm bill and urged staff to be on the lookout for any potential attacks. On the House side specifically, AACI asked Members to consider joining the Congressional Crop Insurance Caucus to stay up to date on relevant issues ahead of the farm bill.

Some of the lawmakers that AACI met with include: Senate Ag Approps Chairman John Hoeven (R-ND), Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS), House Ag Subcommittee Chairman Austin Scott (R-GA), Congressman Darren Soto (D-FL), Congressman Frank Lucas (R-OK), Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Congressman Brand Finstad (R-MN), Congressman Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Congressman Barry Moore (R-AL), Congressman Derrick Van Orden (R-WI), Congressman Zach Nunn (R-IA), Congressman Mark Alford (R-MO), and others.

At the end of the day, AACI hosted a Congressional Reception in the House Agriculture Committee

room on Capitol Hill, where individuals had an opportunity to connect with Members and their staff in a more casual setting. The reception lasted from 5-7pm, and during that time over 100 people stopped by to visit with AACI Members.

On Thursday morning, AACI held separate fundraising events for four different Republican Members. Three of the Members sit on the House Agriculture Committee—Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), Congressman David Rouzer (R-NC), and Congressman Nick Langworthy (R-NY)—and the fourth was Congressman Chip Roy (R-TX). Congressmen LaMalfa and Rouzer touched on the work that's being done in the Agriculture Committee and gave their opinion on what needs to be done to get a farm bill passed this year. As more senior members on the Committee, they also explained the importance of educating new Members and staff as quickly as possible. Congressmen Langworthy and Roy focused on their work within the Rules Committee, which is responsible for deciding which amendments receive a vote on the House floor. AACI highlighted how critical the Rules Committee can be in a farm bill as it's often the last place to stop a hostile amendment before it reaches the House floor.



AACI 2023 Spring Fly-in

For the final meeting of the fly-in, AACI met with Robert Bonnie, USDA's Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, which oversees several agencies, including the Risk Management Agency. After introductions, USDA staff gave brief updates regarding what they are currently working on as it pertains to crop insurance and discussed a host of programs that are already being implemented. Next, AACI members raised several issues with the Undersecretary, most notably the concerns with the A&O cap. USDA officials relayed an understanding of the issue and committed to an ongoing dialog with AACI as we work towards finding a long-term solution to the problem. In addition to A&O, participants also asked about potential impacts to the crop insurance program if the debt limit is reached, as well as if there's anything the industry can do to help achieve USDA's goals of educating underserved producers. The meeting ended on a positive note, and AACI looks forward to working with Undersecretary Bonnie moving forward to protect and enhance crop insurance.

AACI Leadership Class Completes 1st Course

As part of AACI's fly-in, the association held the first course of the leadership development program for the second class. The first course, titled "History & Mission", is where the class learns about the history of AACI and the federal crop insurance program. The session began with a lunch where individuals introduced themselves to the group and provide some background, including how long they have been working in the crop insurance industry.

The first presentation began with the history of AACI, where former employees, John Sheeley (ProAg) and Stephen Frerichs (Rain & Hail), gave an overview of their time at the association. They noted how AACI was formed in 1981 as the primary trade association for the crop insurance industry, and its



members were instrumental in encouraging FCIC to develop a short-term marketing agreement. They also explained the role AACI members played during critical legislative moments, such as the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994, the Agricultural Research Act of 1998, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, and the various farm bills. They also touched on how AACI's membership has expanded over the years, most notable when they added the agent division, which made AACI the only association that represents all facets of the private sector delivery system within crop insurance. Finally, both Sheeley and Frerichs hit on how important it is for AACI members to be engaged and participate in association activities.

Next, the leadership class heard from two people on the importance of trade associations. Speakers were Jen Daulby, currently Principle at Ogilvy Government Relations and a former Chief of Staff and Staff Director, and Jonathan Grella, a Public Affairs Professional and former Hill Staffer and Communications Director for LIV Golf and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Daulby and Grella said trade associations play a key role when it comes to writing legislation because Members and staff rely on experts within those groups to ensure bills don't negatively impact their constituents. They also explained how trade associations give their members a platform to discuss and debate policy priorities before going to Congress to ensure they are bringing forward the best policy solution. They also pointed to fly-ins as critical components of a trade association because it gets real people to DC to explain what they are experiencing at the ground level.

The next morning, the leadership class visited USDA where they met with individuals from the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), the Risk Management Agency (RMA), and the Economic Research Service (ERS). Most notably, USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer stopped into the meeting and explained the



role of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which he currently chairs. In addition, the other staffers reviewed the economics of the program, including overall participation and how certain policies have become more popular over time. They also showed data on the different coverage levels across the U.S. and how those change depending on the region and the crop. There was also information provided on the makeup of RMA and how staff works internally and with other agencies to effectively deliver the program and make improvements as needed.

Finally, the class visited the House Agriculture Committee, where they met with the staff person who is responsible for stakeholder outreach and coalitions. This individual started by going through the long list of farm bill listening sessions that have already taken place and a number of others that are planned in the coming weeks. She discussed how she works with DC representatives to ensure the appropriate stakeholders are present at the meetings and getting the appropriate questions. Looking ahead to the farm bill, she will be responsible for building coalitions to support certain issues, like crop insurance, which will be critical to ensure they can fend off any harmful attacks.



2023 Farm Bill

With the farm bill set to expire this year, we want to provide an overview of the work that has been done by both the Senate and House Agriculture Committee to date, as well as the outlook for reauthorization later in the year (or early 2024).

The House began their review of the current farm bill in February of 2022, and from February through September, the Committee held 18 hearings related to the farm bill. The House Ag Committee picked up their work in early March of this year and has already held eight additional farm bill hearings in 2023. Two of the hearings were directly related to crop insurance and members of AACI participated in both. In addition to their official hearings, the House Ag Committee has also held a number of stakeholder listening sessions to hear first-hand from producers around the country. To date, Committee Members have participated in over 20 listening sessions across the country, and the importance of crop insurance has been referenced in nearly every one.

The Senate has been a little bit slower in hosting their farm bill discussions. Their first official hearing was in April 2022, but the Committee only held five farm bills hearings of the course of last year. The

Senate's pace in 2023 has been similar to the House with the upper chamber already holding 11 farm bill hearings. In three of their hearings (one in 2022 & two in 2023), crop insurance was the main topic of discussion. The Senate has also been holding their own field listening sessions, but not at the same rate as the House.

With Congress now out of session until after Labor Day, Committee staff is expected to spend the next several weeks putting pen to paper to have a farm bill ready to go by the fall. House Agriculture Committee Chairman GT Thompson continues to say he plans to release their version of the farm bill in September, but the timeline in the Senate seems a bit later. However, even if both Committees have a bill ready to go when they return from August break, there are several other items Congress must address, such as appropriations, NDAA, FAA, and other items. Although most programs in the farm bill don't expire until the end of the calendar year, many experts believe Congress will still need to approve an extension of the current farm bill to give Congress enough time to negotiate and find adequate floor time.



Crop Insurance Marker Bills

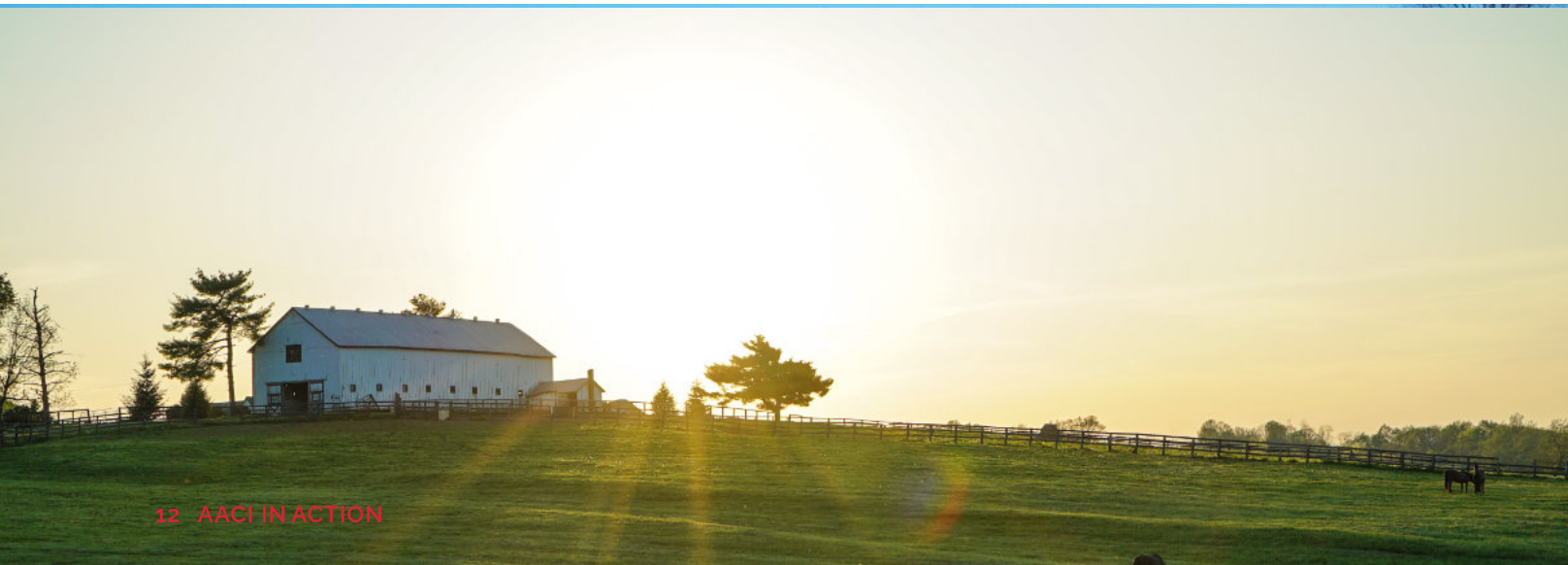
As farm bill negotiations heat up, Members of Congress have begun introducing various marker bills to spotlight their priorities. Of those marker bills, over 10 have been introduced that are directly related to the Federal crop insurance program. One bill that AACI public supports, is the one introduced by Rep. Feenstra (R-IA) and Rep. Craig (D-MN) called, the Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act. This bill aligns the crop insurance definition of a Beginning Farmer to match other programs (10 crop years or less), and premium subsidies would be slightly increased for Beginning and Veteran Farmers for the first 5 crop years.

As for the other bills, several require RMA to conduct research on additional insurance options for specialty crops, including wine grapes, mushrooms, and oilseed crops. There were other bills introduced that have a more direct impact on the program, such as one that would require FCIC to appoint both a livestock and an underserved producer to their Board of Directors. There were also bills introduced that direct RMA to make changes to specific policies and products, such as whole-farm revenue protection, enterprise units, cover crops, and the 1-

in-4 rule. AACI is currently combing through all the bill text to identify any harmful language, which will then be passed along to Committee staff for their awareness. If you want additional information on any of these bills, please contact Matt Valesko (matt@aacinsurers.com).

FY2024 Ag Approps

Regarding appropriations, the House has just 12 days in September to move the remaining 11 bills and work on disagreements with the Senate, which is marking up its spending bills at higher levels. To date, the full Senate has not approved any appropriations bills, but the Senate Subcommittees have completed work on all 12 measures. When lawmakers return in September, the House and Senate will very likely need a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open past the end of FY 2023 on Sept. 30. While that should be easy in the Senate, it's a different story in the House where GOP leaders must deal with requests from hardline conservatives. Note: The process and outcome of appropriations (and other key bills) will play a key role in the overall timing of farm bill negotiations and passage.



Feenstra and Craig Take Lead to Help Next Generation of Farmers



Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)

Congressman Randy Feenstra represents Iowa's 4th Congressional District in the House of Representatives, serving on both the House Ways and Means Committee

and the House Agriculture Committee. He, and his wife, Lynette, raised their four children in their hometown of Hull, Iowa, where they still reside today.

He also has deep roots in the insurance industry. He worked for Iowa State Bank in Hull for nine years and oversaw the insurance division across nine banks. Between crop insurance, property/casualty insurance, and health insurance, he acquired firsthand knowledge and real-world experience that he utilizes in policy discussions and committee hearings on Capitol Hill to advocate for the best interests of small insurance agencies and rural communities. His background in insurance has also allowed him to have honest and informative conversations with the communities he represents and key stakeholders about insurance policy and other economic priorities vital to Iowa's families, farmers, small businesses, and rural main streets.

Additionally, Congressman Feenstra has been a strong voice for a robust crop insurance program that protects American farmers and producers when severe weather strikes or economic conditions sour. He is also committed to helping the next generation of producers succeed and turn a profit to continue rural America's long tradition of agriculture.

Congressman Feenstra encourages anyone who has questions or policy ideas to contact his office at Feenstra.House.Gov.



Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)

Congresswoman Angie Craig represents Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District in the House of Representatives, and serves on both the House Energy and Commerce

Committee and House Agriculture Committee. She and her wife Cheryl live in Prior Lake and have four sons; three who graduated from college or tech school and one currently in college.

In the House, Craig has advocated for policies that reward hard working family farmers and small business owners. As a member of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, Craig has extensive experience with issues related to crop insurance. In 2019 and 2021, she cosponsored the FEEDD Act to provide crop insurance coverage for second crops planted as a result of prevented planting.

Congresswoman Craig welcomes questions or thoughts on legislation and may be contacted at Craig.House.Gov.

Bipartisan Support for Future Farmers Act

In 2023, Congressman Feenstra and Congresswoman Craig introduced the Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act, H.R. 3904 – to increase crop insurance protections from five years to ten years for new, beginning, and veteran producers. H.R. 3904 would help farmers, ranchers, and producers who grow field crops, specialty crops, or have federal livestock policies. This bill also provides a discount on crop insurance policies for new producers' first five years in business, protecting them during their most vulnerable time. By investing in the next generation of farmers, Congressman Feenstra and Congresswoman Craig know that we can secure the future of agriculture in the United States and keep American farmland in the hands of American farmers – where it rightfully belongs.



Updates from the USDA Risk Management Agency

USDA Expands Hurricane Insurance Protection to Include Certain Tropical Storms

February 14 – USDA expands its Hurricane Insurance Protection-Wind Index (HIP-WI) Endorsement with a Tropical Storm Option, which is offered for the 2023 crop year. HIP-WI was first available for purchase for the 2020 hurricane season and covers a portion of the deductible of the underlying crop insurance policy when the county, or an adjacent one, is hit with sustained hurricane-force winds from a named hurricane based on data from the National Hurricane Center at the NOAA.

RMA added the Tropical Storm Option to this endorsement for damage caused by strong weather systems not categorized as hurricanes. The option would cover named tropical storms, as reported by NOAA with maximum sustained winds exceeding 34 knots and precipitation exceeding six inches over a four-day period. Both the wind trigger and precipitation trigger must occur for an indemnity to be paid.

The HIP-WI endorsement, including the new Tropical Storm Option, are available in select counties in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia.

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USDA Invests \$2 Million to Provide Risk Management Training to Farmers, Ranchers

February 22 – USDA announced up to \$2 million is available for cooperative agreements for risk management education and training programs that support farmers and ranchers, including underserved producers, small-scale farmers, organic operations and climate-smart farm practices. RMA makes this funding available to provide the needed resources for organizations – such as universities, county cooperative extension offices, and nonprofit organizations – to develop education tools that help producers learn how to effectively manage long-term risks and challenges.

A broad range of risk management training activities are eligible for funding consideration, including training on crop insurance options, record keeping, financial management, non-insurance-based risk management tools and natural disaster preparedness among others. Partners can also train farmers at all levels on risk management options that help secure local food systems. In the past two years, RMA has invested roughly \$6.5 million into risk management education and outreach partnerships.

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USDA Offers Cooperative Agreement and Grant Application Support to Underserved Producers and Communities for Risk Management Education Projects

March 9 – USDA is offering a new service that assists entities serving underserved agricultural producers and communities with completing applications for funding opportunities. This includes a current funding opportunity for risk management education and outreach projects through USDA's Risk Management Agency



(RMA). RMA is contracting with Metaphase Consulting, LLC, to provide technical and writing assistance to organizations that serve underserved producers and communities with applying for grants.

This service is available to underserved communities, ag-related non-profits, Tribal colleges and universities, Tribal higher education programs, 1890 Land Grant Universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities.

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USDA Expands Margin Protection for Corn and Soybean Farmers

March 30 – USDA expands its Margin Protection insurance plan, adding more than a thousand counties to the insurance option that provides coverage against an unexpected decrease in operating margin for corn and soybean producers. This expansion, which is in direct response to growing interest among producers, will be available by June 30, 2023. Interested producers will need to purchase their coverage by Sept. 30, 2023, to be eligible for the 2024 crop year.

RMA's expansion of the Margin Protection plan will add 1,255 counties for soybeans and 1,729 counties for corn. This will add coverage in 22 states for soybeans with 34 states being covered in total. It will also make Margin Protection available for corn in the contiguous United States (see maps). The plan is available in select counties for rice (Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas), and wheat (Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota).

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USDA Announces Modifications to the Annual Forage and Rainfall Index Program

May 1 – USDA modifies the Annual Forage Insurance Program to make it more sustainable and to allow producers more flexibility. This includes allowing producers to choose the areas which they insure, rather than being required to insure all eligible acres. The changes will take effect for the 2024 crop year.

The Annual Forage insurance program is a rainfall index area-based plan that provides coverage to acreage planted each year and used as feed and fodder by livestock. The rainfall index does not directly measure an individual producer's annual forage production or loss. Rather, it measures the normal precipitation deviation that occurs in and around the insured area, which is correlated with forage production. The Annual Forage insurance program include all counties in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas.

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USDA Announces New Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board Members

May 17 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack appointed two new members of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors, which oversees the Federal crop insurance program available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Chris Bardenhagen and Howard James will serve four-year terms beginning this month on the board, which guides USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) on administering crop insurance.

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USDA Previews Emergency Relief Assistance for Agricultural Producers Who Incurred Losses Due to 2022 Natural Disaster Events

May 19 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced plans to roll out \$3.7 billion in Emergency Relief Program (ERP) and Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) assistance to crop and livestock producers who sustained losses due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar year 2022. USDA is sharing early information to allow producers time to gather documents in advance of program delivery. Through distribution of remaining funds, USDA is also concluding the 2021 ELRP program by sending payments in the amount of 20% of the initial ELRP payment to all existing recipients.

On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) that provides about \$3.7 billion in financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters occurring in calendar year 2022. Additionally, the Act specifically targets up to about \$500 million to livestock producers for losses incurred due to drought or wildfire in calendar year 2022.

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USDA Invites Input on Crop Insurance Coverage for Prevented Planting

May 23 – USDA published a Request for Information, announcing public listening sessions and soliciting public comments on possible changes to prevented planting crop insurance coverage. Coinciding with the public comment period, RMA held in-person and virtual listening sessions June through August. This included in-person listening sessions in Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas. Meanwhile, RMA will accept written comments through its request for information until September 1.

The request for information on prevented planting requests input on prevented planting topics to include: Harvest Price Option; "1 in 4" Rule; 10 percent additional coverage option; Contract price; General – Willingness to pay additional premium for expanded prevented planting benefits, recommendations on other prevented planting limitations, etc.

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USDA Announces Corrections to Emergency Relief Program Policy to More Accurately Reflect 2020 and 2021 Natural Disaster Impacts on Crops Intended for On-Farm Use

June 14 – USDA updated the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two to provide a method for valuing losses and accessing program benefits to eligible producers of certain crops, including grapes grown and used by the same producer for wine production or forage that is grown, stored and fed to livestock, that do not generate revenue directly from the sale of the crop. These updates ensure that ERP benefits are more reflective of these producers' actual crop losses resulting from 2020 and 2021 natural disaster events. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting ERP Phase Two applications from eligible wine grape and forage producers once this technical correction to ERP is published in the Federal Register and becomes effective, which it anticipates will be on Friday, June 16, 2023. The deadline to submit applications for ERP Phase Two is July 14.

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USDA Expands Risk Management Options with Greater Enterprise Unit Possibilities

July 6 – USDA expanded its insurance coverage options for specialty crops and other actual production history (APH) crop programs. RMA will expand the availability of enterprise units to crops where they were previously unavailable, giving agricultural producers greater options to manage their risk. An enterprise unit allows a producer to insure all acres of the insured crop in the county together, as opposed to other unit structures that separate the acreage for insurance.

Enterprise units are attractive to producers due to lower premium rates offered to recognize the lower risk associated with the geographic diversification. In general, the larger the enterprise unit, the lesser the risk, and the greater the enterprise unit discount. The following crops will have enterprise units available beginning with the 2024 crop year: Alfalfa seed, Cultivated wild rice, Forage production, Mint, Onions, and Potatoes (Enterprise units will be available in California for the 2025 crop year).

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Thank you to our 2023 AACI-PAC contributors who gave between January 1 - June 30.

How to Enter the AACI-PAC Raffle: You will receive one entry for the AACI-PAC raffle for each \$50 you contribute to AACI-PAC. Winners will be drawn before AACI's mid-year and end-of-year reports are published.

Congratulations to 2023 Mid-Year PAC Raffle Winner Rex Schumann of NAU!

PAC CHAMPION
\$5,000

Carothers, Dan

PAC LEADER
\$2,500 – \$4,999

Carothers, Douglas
Pearson, Bill

PAC TRAILBLAZER
\$1,500 – \$2,499

Davenport, Michael
Deal, Michael
Grimsley, Gene
Janicek, Kenneth
Korin, Jim
Larck, Shane
Leighton, Bradley
Svingen, Kevin

PAC PIONEER
\$500 – \$1,499

Allison, Mark
Arguelles, Josh
Arnold, Scott
Atkinson, Jordan
Backer, Adam
Bafia, Joseph
Bair, Liz
Biewer, Dennis
Bird, Daniel
Bird, Robert
Bird, Rick
Brallier, Andy
Chrystal, John
Copeland, Tim

Domer, Jay
Eslinger, Wade
Eversole, Craig
Floberg, Hope
Foster, Shannon
Frelich, Steve
Gaynier, Michael
Gonzales, Craig
Goodman, Andrew
Gugat, Brian
Hall, Hunter
Hardt, Phil
Hinders, Randy
James, Jon
Jansen, Jill
Jensen, Jared
Klein, Matthew
Lorimer, William
Love, Kale
Maus, Brock
Meyer, Jeff
Morrison, Brad
Morrison, Richard
Nesemeier, Chad
Norrish, Scott
Peachey, Sue
Peterson, Michael
Rieger, Mark
Rohling, Ron
Rosenthal, Mitch
Schmode, Anthony
Smith, Jason
Thomas, Randy
Trampel, Roger
Twomey, Robert
Wilson, William

PAC PATRON
\$250 – \$499

Althouse, Kyle
Anderson, Levi
Beeley, Robert
Blazel, Mike
Bogan, Ricky

Burghduff, Kenneth
Byrd, Jared
Corbett, Kellen
Covalt, Dallas
Crowley, Daniel
Cunningham, Carolyn
Currie, Mark
Dahlquist, Dalys
De Nooy, Jonathan
Downing, Troy
Emerson, Teresa
Erickson, Darrin
Finlayson, Jamie
Flemmer, Erin
Fransen, Shari
Froslee, Jeffrey
Funk, Mark
Gauer, Michael
Goldhahn, Lynn
Grefsrud, Rollin
Grout, Crystal
Hahn, Annette
Hanson, Michael
Hedrick, Brooke
Hoffman, Joe
Hudson, Rebecca
Humfeld, Randy
Isaackson, Clint
Kerber, Cory
Klais, Glen
Kluge, Chris
Krultz, Adam
Kvalevog, Shane
Lassey, Paul
Leibbrand, Richard
McGarvey, Matthew
McGrath, Phillip
Munoz, Kristina
Nedved, Monica
Peterson, Brady
Phillips, Toby
Ross, Nick
Rowekamp, Jason
Ryan, Kathryn

Sheeley, John
Sisk, Kyle
Throckmartin, Ryan
Tinnell, Clay
Treimer, Kerry
Umberger, Patrick
Van Weelden, Andrew
Veenstra, Bradley
Vinson, Robert
Witt, Eric

PAC SUSTAINER
\$25 – \$249

Abner, Andrew
Adams, Kane
Albrecht, Leland
Anderson, Dwight
Arnold, Mark
Backer, Jeff
Bailey, Ann
Baker, Nathan
Bausch, Rick
Beans, Terry
Begner, Elsie
Bendorf, Ivan
Bendura, Kyle
Berger, Vicki
Beutz, Lynn
Billington, Kent
Boone, Brandon
Briggs, Kristina
Brown, Jack
Bunting, Naomi
Capers, Zachary
Cardenas, Melissa
Carlson, Doug
Chamberlain, Melinda
Chase, Jason
Christensen, Dane
Chumley, Paul
Collins, Bridgette

Cormany, Brittany
Crouzer, Marthie
Dahl, Tayte
Dail, Steve
Davis, Julie
Dickeson, Alan
Domier, Mat
Dove, Elizabeth
Dylo, Mike
Emerson, Heidi
Erickson, Troy
Fiala, Ryan
Fiske, Daniel
Fjerstad, Jamey
Flemmer, Lynn
Franz, Tim
Frey, Michael
Gadsby, Tim
Gargulak, Mark
Gaworski, George
Gilbreath, Lynda
Gillett, Marie
Goodsell, Angela
Gothier, Pamela
Graeve, Katie
Gruner, Bradley
Hade, Thomas
Hamel, Megan
Hammer, Kodi
Hardt, Kay
Hartley, Gradie
Hayden, Jan
Hefner, Russell
Heinz, Mel
Henningsen, Blake
Hess, Craig
Holmes, Susan
Horky, Ryan
Hug, Nancy
Hulker, Jacob
Hunt, Dan
Inman, Jill
Jamison, Bill
Johnson, Camille

Johnson, Jay
Johnson, Danelle
Johnson, Alexis
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Miller, Jeff

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Wood, Ron
Zhang, Zhiwei

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Van Lieu, Heather
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