



Farm Safety Net

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A functioning farm safety net is vital to wheat and other agricultural producers who face market and weather risks that are impossible to predict or control. The funding and functioning of 2008 Farm Bill programs, including crop insurance, are key priorities for NAWG and its member states.

Budget

The Obama Administration's FY2010 budget proposal included deep and devastating cuts to 2008 Farm Bill programs, crop insurance and research facilities funded through the Agricultural Research Service. While these concepts were promptly rejected by Members of Congress, the nation's fiscal situation continues to be perilous, and we recognize that farm programs will likely continue to be on the budget chopping block.

NAWG urges Congress to reject any proposed budget cuts to 2008 Farm Bill programs, crop insurance or agricultural research funding.

We encourage all Members to reject any efforts to open the 2008 Farm Bill before it expires in 2012. We ask all Members to defend a strong safety net, which helps to ensure wheat producers across the country can continue to produce the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world.

Farm Bill Implementation

NAWG is pleased that 2008 Farm Bill programs, including new programs SURE and ACRE, have been implemented. As USDA continues to tweak the way these programs are delivered to producers, we encourage Congressional oversight to ensure all changes are made with producers needs in mind and within the bounds of Congressional intent.

Crop Insurance

Crop insurance is one of the most critical components of the farm safety net for many wheat producers; according to the USDA's Risk Management Agency, more than three-quarters of wheat acres were covered by crop insurance in 2008.

NAWG is actively following the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) renegotiation between RMA and crop insurance providers. While this process will result in an agreement between those two parties, NAWG is seeking to ensure the final contract does not negatively affect program delivery to wheat producers. NAWG will also continue to advocate needed changes to crop insurance audit procedures through this process, as well as stress the importance of investing any savings back into crop insurance or farm safety net programs rather than diverting those funds to other programs.

Learn More

Much more information about farm bill programs is available at www.wheatworld.org/farmbill, and information about crop insurance is available at www.wheatworld.org/riskmanagement.

National Association of Wheat Growers

415 Second Street, NE, Suite 300 | Washington D.C. 20002 | www.wheatworld.org
Phone: 202-547-7800 | Fax: 202-546-2636