

Is Crop Insurance Important to You?

-Nicole Harrod, Sales Team member of ADM Crop Risk and Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau Emerging Leaders Program Class of 2015-2016

Not many people understand the significant impact crop insurance has on their lives. Roughly 298 million acres of land in our country are insured. Crop insurance is the primary safety net that our farmers rely on in times of weather related issues and problems. Even still, last October Congress proposed cuts to crop insurance funding which would have had lasting effects for many families, including my own, who have been farming for three generations on our land. Without crop insurance, many farmers would not be able to obtain the necessary operating loans for their farms. These cuts could have forced smaller farms like ours out of business.

Without government provided funding, farmers would not have the necessary money for seeds or the equipment needed to plant, harvest, and maintain their crops. This would result in the U.S. having fewer farmers producing food, and create a downward spiraling effect of the entire rural economy as well.

Should it happen that less farmers are farming due to such cuts, our country could be at risk for stunted economic growth, as well as other countries around the world that depend on our agricultural exports. It is estimated by the Food and Agricultural Organization that by 2050, the demand for food will rise by at least 70 percent ("How to Feed the World in 2015." *FAO.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Oct. 2016.).

We need to make sure we have a sound crop insurance program that allows farmers to continue farming and providing the world with a safe and affordable food supply.

This past year, I had the privilege of participating in the Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau's (CIRB) Emerging Leaders Program, which was designed to introduce professionals to the importance of advocating for crop insurance. Through this program I had the opportunity to participate in meetings with both Congressional leaders and crop insurance advocates. It is through the efforts of organizations like CIRB that our decision makers learn about the far-reaching impact that crop insurance has on farmers, rural America, and our economy.

Nicole Harrod grew up on grain farm in western Ohio. She currently resides in Columbus, Ohio with her husband.