

Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau 2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Founded in 1964 and headquartered on Capitol Hill, CIRB offers unparalleled advocacy, support and membership services to the crop insurance and reinsurance community. CIRB members provide a vital component of the farm safety net, writing policies in every state and providing valuable risk management tools to the nation's farmers and ranchers. CIRB is governed by a board of directors and executive committee. Membership includes AIPs, reinsurance companies and brokerage groups.

CIRB's Executive Committee led the development of a strategic plan that guides the organization's work. The plan is built on four "pillars": The Capital Voice, D.C. Information Source, Membership Services, and Collaboration. Achievements in each of these areas are highlighted in this document. CIRB is dedicated to continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of its members.

THE CAPITAL VOICE

CIRB monitors, advocates and communicates to influence government decisions and preserve the farm safety net.

- Supported bipartisan candidates with CIRB PAC funds.
- Met with more than 125 House and Senate offices, many who have not been engaged on crop insurance issues or who have not been traditional allies.
- Continued outreach to allied organizations to grow the crop insurance coalition of over 100 diverse groups that actively engage to protect crop insurance.
- Monitored budget processes and relevant hearings on Capitol Hill, providing timely updates to membership.
- Positioned industry for farm bill success.

D.C. INFORMATION SOURCE

CIRB is the leading legislative resource for the industry, media, and decision makers.

- Designed and launched the weekly #ProtectCropInsurance campaign, sharing 42 toolkits that empowered CIRB members and coalition partners to share positive messages on social media based on CIRB's "Myths vs. Facts" resource guide.
- Created and promoted state profiles, showcasing the value of crop insurance in each state's economy.
- Continued to provide weekly newsletters, quarterly federal affairs updates, and timely website updates with enhanced capabilities.
- Provided key messages and resources for CIRB members to utilize during the D.C. fly-in, including easy to read issue backgrounders and social media posts targeting lawmakers.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Farm Bill Hearing

CIRB Chairman Ron Rutledge (FMH) testified on behalf of the crop insurance industry during a July 2017 hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill before the Senate Ag Committee.



Chairman's Award

Past Chair Sheri Bane (COUNTRY) presented Tara Smith (CIRB Vice President of Federal Affairs) with the Chairman's Award. Smith was recognized for her leadership when the industry effectively fought back against \$3 billion in surprise budget cuts in 2015.



Distinguished Service Award

CIRB Chairman Ron Rutledge recognized Former USDA RMA Administrator Brandon Willis for his service to the industry.



#ProtectCropInsurance

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

CIRB provides exemplary membership benefits and continues to expand its membership base.

- Coordinated curriculum for the 2016-2017 Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) class, which included 11 participants, double the size of the first class.
- Held two webinars for CIRB members: an introductory industry webinar for ELP participants and a “CIRB 101” overview of the organization’s growth.
- Organized an industry networking event for the ELP class in Kansas City, meeting with RMA staff, the NCIS team, and coalition partners.
- Hosted the 2017 Annual Meeting in Bonita Springs, FL which brought together more than 125 crop insurance leaders.
- Continued outreach to AIPs and reinsurers to expand membership and amplify the industry’s voice.

COLLABORATION

CIRB works cooperatively with all insurance & reinsurance organizations, agents, customers, lenders and others in the agriculture value chain.

- Hosted coalition partners during the Annual Meeting and D.C. fly-in, including networking with CIRB ELP participants.
- Presented policy updates at CIRB member, coalition partner and stakeholder events throughout the country.
- Worked to build the coalition’s diversity by reaching out to new allies such as conservation groups.



2017 CIRB Executive Committee (left to right): Mark Raymie (AmTrust Ag), Vice Chairman Zane Vaughn, (ARMtech), Brian Young (CRS), Chairman Ron Rutledge (FMH), Mike Zielin (Partner Re), John Reinman (Guy Carpenter), Past-Chair Sheri Bane (COUNTRY), Jim Brost (Holborn), Treasurer Tim Green (AFBIS), and Mike Day (RCIS).

Annual Meeting

The 53rd CIRB Annual Meeting featured expert speakers on topics such as the agricultural economy, farm bill outlook, and the impact of the 2016 elections. Speakers (below) included Senate Ag Committee Majority Staff Director James Glueck and Minority Staff Director Joe Shultz.



D.C. Spring and Fall Fly-Ins

CIRB hosted D.C. fly-ins in the spring and fall of 2017 sharing educational updates, organizing a Congressional Reception and coordinating visits with more than 70 Capitol Hill offices.



Emerging Leaders Program

CIRB’s second class of Emerging Leaders graduated with the largest number of participants to date. ELPs took part in activities ranging from social media engagement to receiving advocacy training from CIRB staff in Washington.



Pictured left to right: Curtis Swain (FMH), Jeff Hawn (Holborn), Max Channon (Guy Carpenter), Ryan Benes (FMH), Travis Trueblood (ADM), Chock Hefner (FMH), Nicholle Renshaw (RCIS), Lindsey Rinkenberger (COUNTRY), Brian McIntyre (ARMtech), Brian Wiggins (ADM). Not pictured: Jody Bauer (AFBIS)

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