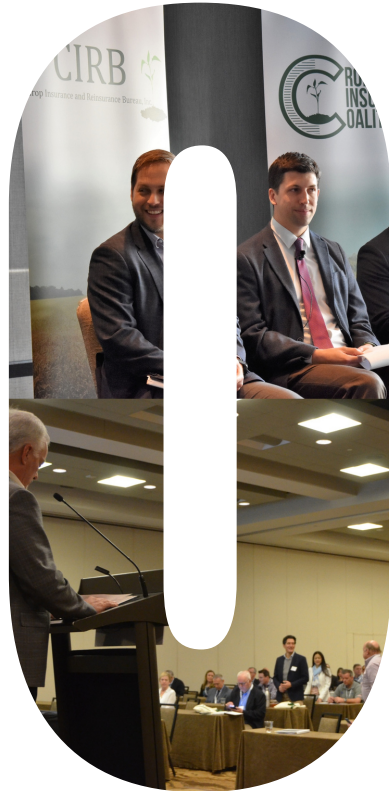


**CIRB**   
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
*60TH ANNIVERSARY*

**January 31 - February  
2, 2024**  
**THE WESTIN KIERLAND RESORT AND SPA  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ**



**2024 | PROGRAM BOOK**

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# CIRB

Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Inc.



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



A MESSAGE FROM  
**MICHAEL TORREY**

Welcome to the 2024 Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau annual meeting! On behalf of the CIRB team, we are glad that you could join us in Scottsdale for an exciting and productive meeting.

This year, our speaker lineup features a variety of industry experts who will share their insights on industry regulation, climate and agriculture, navigating the political landscape, and other important agriculture policy issues that will impact your business in the year ahead. We also look forward to extending the conversations past the meeting rooms into coffee breaks, evening receptions, and even the golf tournament.

We encourage you to engage with CIRB through social media throughout the meeting. The official hashtag for the annual meeting is #CELEBRATING60, and of course, #ProtectCropInsurance or #CropInsurance is a great way to engage online as well. In addition, make sure you follow the CIRB Twitter account @CIRBdc and tag us in all your updates about the conference.

We are grateful to all our sponsors, including Aon Reinsurance Solutions, AgriSompo North America, American Farm Bureau Insurance Services, Core Specialty, COUNTRY Financial, Farmers Mutual Hail, Great American Insurance Group, Guy Carpenter, Holborn, Hudson Crop, Munich Re, the National Corn Growers Association, Precision Risk Management, Shelter Reinsurance, RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences, Rural Community Insurance Services, and Sunstream Services. Without their support, this meeting would not be possible.

We are also delighted to extend a warm welcome to our 2023-2024 class of Emerging Leaders. We are proud to help prepare the next generation of leaders within the industry!

I would like to thank each of you for attending our annual meeting and bringing your expertise to this special gathering. You have the vision, knowledge, and experience to help us pave the way for the future of CIRB and our industry. We could not accomplish our goals without your leadership.

We want to ensure our events are valuable, productive, and enjoyable, so please talk to the CIRB staff if you have any feedback. We hope you enjoy your time in beautiful Scottsdale!

Sincerely,



Michael K. Torrey  
Executive Vice President



2023 CIRB ANNUAL MEETING  
**ANTITRUST STATEMENT**

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It is the intent of the Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Inc. (“CIRB”) to conduct all meetings well within the boundaries of discussion clearly permitted by Federal and State antitrust laws.

Although the business of insurance is granted some exemption from Federal law by the McCarran-Ferguson Act, the exemption is not total and exists only if state law governing the business of insurance is present in a given area of activity.

In addition, CIRB has obligations under Federal Antitrust law that must be met, primarily in avoiding the areas of price-fixing and bid-rigging.

The McCarran-Ferguson Act notwithstanding, all individuals in attendance at a CIRB meeting must avoid any discussion that may involve boycotts, intimidation or coercion.

In view of the above, any discussion at any meeting by any speaker, particularly on a non-legislative subject that dwells on the above subjects, or that suggests minimum pricing, standard underwriting criteria, or a market division plan in which a group of companies would participate, unless these are specifically covered by state law, must be avoided. If such a discussion occurs, individuals should exercise their right to object, have their objection noted in the minutes, and absent themselves during that part of the meeting that they deem objectionable.

“PRESERVING THE  
FARM SAFETY NET”



ANNUAL  
MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

**5:30 – 6:00 PM:** Emerging Leaders Program Alumni Welcome Reception (WHIPPLE SUITE)

*Sponsor: American Farm Bureau Insurance Services*

**6:00 – 8:00 PM:** Welcome Reception & Registration Pickup (NORTHERN SKY TERRACE)

*Sponsor: Farmers Mutual Hail*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**7:30 – 8:30 AM:** Breakfast for attendees and guests (GREENWAY)

*Sponsor: Rural Community Insurance Services*

**8:30 – 10:30 AM:** General Session (RAINMAKERS BALLROOM)

*Sponsor: Hudson Crop*

**8:30 – 8:40 AM:** Welcome from CIRB's Chairman – *Brian Young*

**8:40 – 8:45 AM:** Meeting Overview from CIRB's Executive Vice President – *Michael Torrey*

**8:45 – 9:45 AM:** "Current Key Topics in North American Agricultural Weather" – *Dr. Michael Dickinson, RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences;*  
*Moderator: James Long, RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences*

**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** Spouse and Guest Event off-site (AZ Botanical Garden/Lunch/Shopping)

**9:45 – 10:30 AM:** Legal Update – *Kurt Henke, CIRB Counsel, Henke-Bufkin*

**10:30 – 10:45 AM:** Break (RAINMAKERS FOYER)

*Sponsor: RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences*

**10:45 – 11:45 AM:** Market Outlook – *Steven Webersen, Conning* (RAINMAKERS BALLROOM)

**11:45 – 11:50 AM:** Message from RMA Administrator – *Marcia Bunger, RMA Administrator, USDA*

**11:50 AM – 12:00 PM:** Closing Remarks, Meeting Adjourns

**2:00 – 4:30 PM:** CIRB Board of Directors Meeting (GREENWAY)

**5:30 – 6:00 PM:** Emerging Leaders Program Networking Reception (MARIPOSA)

*Sponsor: American Farm Bureau Insurance Services*

**6:00 – 8:00 PM:** Evening Reception (MARIPOSA)

*Sponsor: Holborn*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**7:30 – 8:30 AM:** Breakfast for attendees and guests (GREENWAY)

**8:30 – 10:00 AM:** General Session (RAINMAKERS BALLROOM)

**8:30 – 8:35 AM:** Welcome from CIRB's Chairwoman – *Lindsey Rinkenberger*

**8:35 – 9:30 AM:** "Trends versus Cycles: Making Profits in Agriculture" – *Michael Swanson Ph.D, Wells Fargo & Company*

**9:30 – 10:15 AM:** RMA Update – *Under Secretary Robert Bonnie, USDA*

**10:15 AM – 10:30 AM:** Break (RAINMAKERS FOYER)

*Sponsor: COUNTRY Financial*

**10:30 – 11:30 AM:** 2024 Political Outlook – *Jim Wiesemeyer, Pro Farmer* (RAINMAKERS BALLROOM)

*Sponsor: Shelter Reinsurance*

**11:30 – 11:45 AM:** CIRB Awards Presentation – *Recipient: Ron Rutledge*

**11:45 – 11:50 AM:** Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjourns

**12:45 – 5:30 PM:** Golf Tournament Shotgun Start (IRONWOOD ACACIA)

*Sponsor: AgriSampo North America*

**6:30 – 9:00 PM:** Closing Reception (BRITTLEBUSH)

*Sponsor: Great American Insurance Group*

*\*Audio/Visual for general sessions sponsored by: Guy Carpenter*

THE WESTIN  
KIERLAND  
RESORT & SPA  
PHOENIX-SCOTTSDALE

WIFI: WK Conference

Passcode: CIRB2024

Sponsored by:



## SPONSORS

### PLATINUM



### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE



### SUPPORTER



### GENERAL



## 2024 EVENTS

### SPOUSE & GUEST EVENT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

CIRB spouses and guests will experience the Desert Botanical Garden which has 50,000 desert plants on display throughout five thematic trails that illustrate topics such as conservation, desert living, and the people and plants of the Sonoran Desert. Lunch at Olive and Ivy, plus shopping in Scottsdale to follow.

The coach bus will depart from the Kierland Resort at 9:00 a.m. Please meet in the hotel lobby at 8:15 a.m. Guests are expected to return to the hotel by 2:00 p.m.



### ANNUAL CIRB GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Join us for the annual CIRB golf tournament at the breathtaking Ironwood/Acacia Golf Courses, at the Kierland Golf Club.

The course is a five-minute walk from the hotel. Guests may request a ride to the course from the lobby.

Shotgun Start will begin at 12:45 p.m. Boxed lunches will be provided. Awards will be presented during the Friday reception, and prizes will be given for the 1st place - net, 1st place gross, longest drive, and closest to the pin.



## CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Established more than 30 years ago, the Chairman's Award is the highest honor presented by CIRB. Those who receive this prestigious award are dedicated to providing exceptional support of the farm safety net and making significant contributions toward achieving CIRB's goals and mission.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024 – Ron Rutledge	2006 – Jane Shey
2023 – Senator Debbie Stabenow	2005 – Shawn Simpsen
2023 – Mike Day	2004 – Steven C. Rutledge
2022 – Sam Scheef (Lifetime Achievement Award)	2003 – Roger K. Swartz
2022 – Tim Green & John Reinman	2002 – Oscar Olsen
2022 – Michael Zielin	2001 – Larry McKean
2020 – Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) (Lifetime Achievement Award)	2000 – Jack Clanton
2019 – Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN)	1999 – Fred Morgan
2019 - Jim Brost (Distinguished Service Reward)	1997 – Bill Rutledge
2018 – Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX)	1996 – Thomas A. Rudisill
2017 – Tara Smith	1995 – Larry L. Forrester
2017 – Brandon Willis (Distinguished Service Award)	1994 – Roger K. Swartz
2016 – Greg Mills	1993 – Perry Rutledge, O.L. Deardorff
2015 – Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)	1992 – Dave Rutledge (posthumously)
2014 – Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)	1991 – Earl Rae
2013 – Linda Vickers	1990 – Richard Bill
2012 – Sheri Bane	1989 – Jack Clanton
2011 – Paul Bleiberg	1988 – Glen Wistey
2008 – Richard Bill	1987 – Richard Bill
2007 – Kurt Henke	1986 – Bill Drey
	1985 – Connie J. Denzer
	1984 – Sparky Hefner

## EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

The Emerging Leaders Program is designed for crop insurance professionals seeking to increase their knowledge of the program and gain hands-on experience in advocacy. The program looks to help build the next generation of crop insurance leaders. Nominations for the next class open in June. If you would like to nominate someone for the 2024-2025 ELP class, please visit [www.cropinsurance.org](http://www.cropinsurance.org) for more information.

### PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- Enhance your leadership skills and knowledge of policy issues.
- Participate in CIRB meetings such as the Annual Meeting and seasonal fly-ins.
- Participate in networking events around the country with the CIRB Executive Committee members and leaders in the industry.
- Participate in CIRB webinars and policy updates on policy issues and future industry challenges.

### MEET THE CLASS OF 2023-2024

- Dustin Bourgois, American Farm Bureau Insurance Services
- Mara Garris, American Farm Bureau Insurance Services
- Carolyn Payne, AgriSompo North America
- Jake Chamness, AgriSompo North America
- Scott Barhorst, Aon
- Marin Bozic, Bozic LLC
- Brian Davis, COUNTRY Financial
- John Grant, COUNTRY Financial
- Kate Lewarne, Farmers Mutual Hail
- Rafeeq Shaik, Farmers Mutual Hail
- Trevor Robins, Farmers Mutual Hail
- Zach Hyland, Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Jon King, Gallagher Re
- Andy Anderson, Guy Carpenter
- Joe Voye, Hudson Crop
- Steve Milholland, Hudson Crop Insurance Services
- Matt Bledsoe, Rural Community Insurance Services
- Sam Arocho, Rural Community Insurance Services
- Weston Kimm, Watts and Associates

### ELP ACTIVITIES:

- Participation in CIRB hosted webinars that introduce the industry and the challenges that lie ahead in Washington.
- Attend the CIRB Executive Committee Meeting and fly-in meetings on Capitol Hill.
- Schedule Congressional visits with their elected officials.
- Travel to Kansas City for an industry networking trip, including meetings with the RMA team and NCIS.
- Attend the annual meeting to learn more about the future of the industry from engaging speakers and have the opportunity to network with industry leaders.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Dr. Michael Dickinson**

Senior Scientist  
*RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences*

Dr. Dickinson is a senior scientist responsible for leading research, development, and operational support focused on risk assessment and forecasting. Dr. Dickinson joined Renaissance Re Risk Sciences' predecessor organization as a senior research scientist in 2003. Dr. Dickinson is part of a team that provides expert analysis, risk assessment and real-time forecast guidance on tropical cyclones across the globe. Dr. Dickinson is also responsible for the generation of seasonal outlooks for California wildfire and provides real-time analysis during active events. He has also contributed to the evaluation and construction of wildfire risk assessment models for California and Australia. Dr. Dickinson has over 25 years of experience as a meteorologist including time as a post-doctoral research associate at the University at Albany. Dr. Dickinson holds a B.S. in Meteorology from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University at Albany / State University of New York.



**James Long**

Vice President of Portfolio Solutions  
*RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences*

James Long has been with RenaissanceRe Risk Sciences for 14+ years working on crop as well as corporate risk and portfolio management. Prior to Ren he was on the brokerage side as part of the broker teams at Collins and Guy Carpenter.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Kurt Henke**

CIRB Legal Counsel  
*Henke-Bufkin PA*

Kurt Henke has been CIRB's outside counsel since 1995. Mr. Henke is co-founder and principal of the law firm of Henke-Bufkin, P.A. in Lyon, MS. He was born in Berea, OH reared in Indianola, MS, and educated at Millsaps College, where he received a B.B.A., cum laude, in 1979. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi in 1981. Mr. Henke is widely regarded as one of the preeminent attorneys in the country in the field of crop insurance. He has an extensive background in crop insurance litigation, representing companies in crop insurance disputes throughout the nation since the mid-1980s. Mr. Henke has represented CIRB on various RMA/Industry Committees and has been actively involved in renegotiating the Standard Reinsurance Agreement.



**Steven Webersen**

Managing Director and Head of Insurance Research  
*Conning*

Steven Webersen is a Managing Director and Head of Insurance Research for Conning. Mr. Webersen joined Conning in May 2012 and was initially responsible for Conning's property-casualty research group. Before joining Conning, Mr. Webersen was a Managing Partner for SFRi LLC., an investment banking boutique serving the insurance industry. Mr. Webersen has over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, including as a managing director at Swiss Re in its capital partners group, the property-casualty rating division at A.M. Best Company, and equity research and corporate finance at Smith Barney. In addition, Mr. Webersen holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire.



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Administrator Marcia Bunger**

Risk Management Agency  
United States Department of  
Agriculture

On November 15, 2021, Marcia Bunger was named Administrator for the Risk Management Agency. She joins USDA RMA after serving as a County Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) for 18 years. In total, she has over 25 years of experience working for USDA in the Farm Service Agency. In her role as County Executive Director, Bunger worked closely with Pine Ridge Tribal Government leaders and personnel to administer FSA programs on the second-largest land-based Indian Reservation in the U.S. She served 15 years on the South Dakota Advisory Council to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She previously held positions at Farm Credit Services of America, including Crop Insurance Specialist and Crop Insurance Officer.



### **Michael Swanson, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice President,  
Agricultural Economist &  
Consultant  
Wells Fargo & Company

Michael Swanson is an agricultural economist and consultant for Wells Fargo, the largest commercial agricultural lender in the United States. Based in Minneapolis, his responsibilities include analyzing the impact of energy on agriculture, forecasting for key agricultural commodities, such as wheat, soybeans, corn, and cotton, and livestock sectors, such as cattle, dairy, and hogs. Additionally, he helps develop credit and risk strategies for Wells Fargo's customers, and performs macroeconomic and international analysis on agricultural production and agribusiness. Michael received undergraduate degrees in economics and business administration from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and both his master's and doctorate degrees in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Minnesota.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Under Secretary Robert Bonnie**

Under Secretary for Farm  
Production and Conservation  
United States Department of  
Agriculture

Under Secretary Robert Bonnie is one of the nation's foremost authorities and leaders on a working lands approach to conservation and is a champion for incentive-based climate and conservation practices for farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners. Prior to joining USDA, Bonnie was Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA from 2013 to 2017, and a senior advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack from 2009 to 2013. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands.



### **Jim Wiesemeyer**

Washington Analyst  
Pro Farmer

From his office near Washington, DC, Jim Wiesemeyer contributes to Pro Farmer and Farm Journal, providing members with the latest information on agricultural policy and trade developments. He also is a participant in Farm Journal's Agri-Talk radio program and publishes a weekly Farm Journal podcast called *Signal to Noise*.

## CIRB MEMBERS

### CIRB MEMBERS

#### 2023-2024 CIRB Members

Thank you to our CIRB members for your continued support throughout the year.

#### CIRB FULL MEMBERS



## CIRB MEMBERS

#### CIRB ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



#### CIRB INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS



## CIRB OFFICERS & STAFF

### 2023 CIRB OFFICERS



**Brian Young**  
Chair  
Great American Insurance  
Group



**Lindsey Rinkenberger**  
Vice Chair  
COUNTRY Financial



**Carmen Mescher**  
Treasurer  
Hudson Crop



**Ron Rutledge**  
Immediate Past Chair  
Farmers Mutual Hail

### CIRB STAFF



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**Ashley Smith**  
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**Tracy Boyle**  
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“OFFERING  
UNPARALLELED  
ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS, AND  
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TO THE CROP  
INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE  
COMMUNITY.”





**PROGRAM SPONSORED BY:**



**CIRB**



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