

The background of the cover is a photograph of a vast field of green soybean plants in neat rows, stretching towards a horizon under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. A large, dark green, downward-pointing arrow shape is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

CIRB

Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Sixty years ago on July 1, 1964, a group of 18 crop insurance companies formed the Crop Insurance Research Bureau. Their mission was to inform the public about the availability of crop insurance through the private insurance industry. Over the years, much has changed. CIRB changed its name to reflect the growing role of the reinsurance industry. Once an organization for mutual insurance companies only, the membership was opened up to include stock held companies, brokers, and others who want to protect, preserve, and improve the program.

A common theme through all of the years is the membership focus on innovation and forward thinking. As a result, CIRB membership has grown, shareholders look to CIRB's collective voice to guide strategy, and a new generation of leadership is being prepared to tackle challenges that lie ahead.

In our nation's Capital, influence is best achieved through coalitions – collective groups, sharing a unified message. That is exactly what the CIRB-led Crop Insurance Coalition has done since its inception in 2012. Now over 100 members strong, the Coalition is a powerful group that has influenced lawmakers in critical policy decisions, from farm bills to the President's budget. In addition to activating quickly during legislative process, the Coalition has worked to share proactive messaging regarding the federal budget and appropriations process, as well as positive messaging around the importance of protecting and preserving crop insurance in the upcoming Farm Bill.

In addition, the CIRB Board understands that for CIRB to remain a trusted information source for the next 60 years, the organization must help prepare the leaders of the future. This year, CIRB welcomed the eighth class of Emerging Leaders Program. Already, program participants have had the opportunity to learn about the legislative process and advocate for crop insurance on Capitol Hill. While we are proud of what this program has done, we are even more excited for the future as we continue to find ways to provide meaningful educational experiences and help participants build the foundation that will ultimately allow them to lead the industry in years to come.

When the forefathers of CIRB met to create this organization, do you think they realized what it would become all these years later? Like you, my hope is they would be proud of all that CIRB has accomplished. So, as we celebrate 60 years, let's raise a glass to what has been accomplished, and look toward the future with anticipation, motivation, and confidence that CIRB will continue to adapt to meet the new challenges of the day.

Looking forward to 70!

Sincerely,



Michael Torrey
Executive Vice President

OUR LEADERSHIP

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*

STAFF



Michael Torrey
Executive Vice
President



Tara Smith
Deputy Executive
Vice President



Kurt Henke
Legal Counsel



Danielle Nelson
Director



Ashley Smith
Director



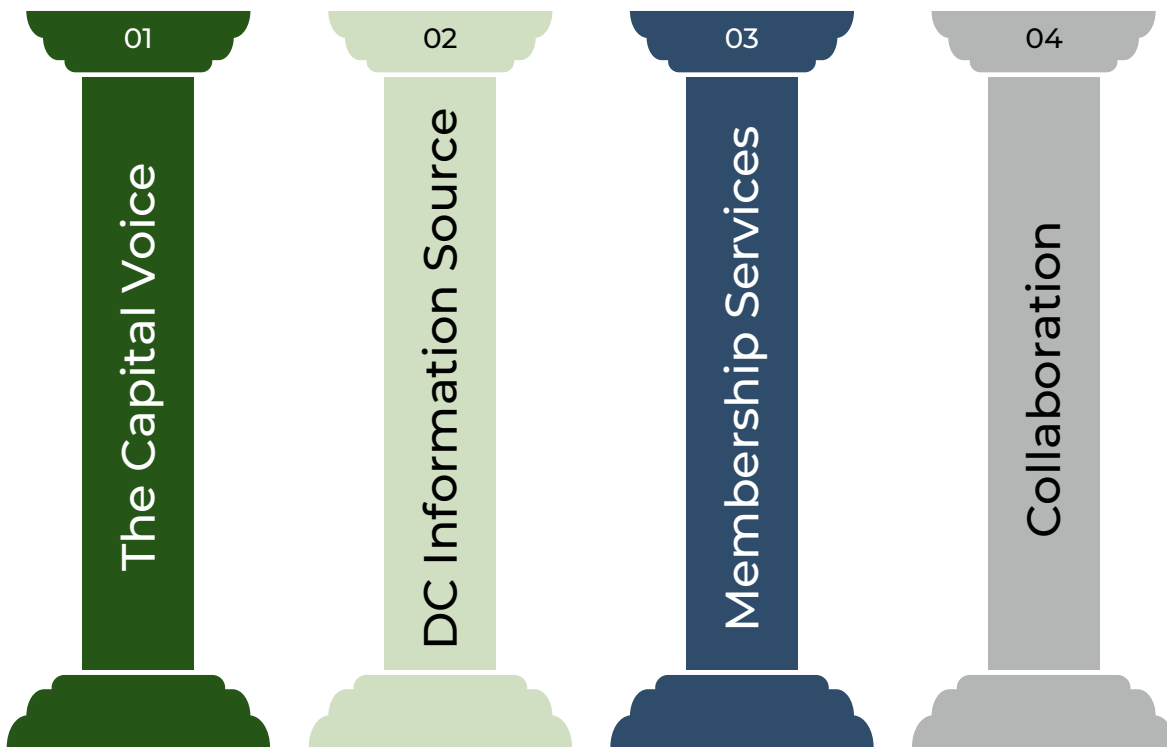
Tracy Boyle
Director of
Operations

OUR MISSION AND CORE PILLARS

MISSION

To continuously improve crop insurance through unity and leadership.

CORE PILLARS



01

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

02

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

03

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

04

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

POLICY CONFERENCE AND FLY-INS

As a non-election year, CIRB was excited to host not just one fly-in, but two in 2023! The fly-in and policy conference in April kicked off with a fundraiser for Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA-8), who is the Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

The following day, fly-in participants had the unique opportunity to have breakfast with House Agriculture Committee member Tracey Mann (R-KS-1), who provided the group with a state of play on the 2023 Farm Bill and talked about the importance of crop insurance to his Kansas communities. Other Speakers included Crop Insurance Coalition members and Food and Ag Climate Alliance (FACA) partners from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Environmental Defense Fund. The group rounded out the morning with fan-favorite and Coalition partner Mary Kay Thatcher with Syngenta.

Throughout the event, CIRB met with several members of Congress, including Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD), Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN-7), Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS), Rep. Cindy Axne (D-IA-3), and Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA).

During non-election years, CIRB also hosts an October fly-in, where we focused on meeting with new faces in Congress. In particular, we visited with Members of Congress who are not on the Ag Committee, may be new to Congress and the Farm Bill, and have less familiarity with crop insurance. The group also heard from staff members from the House and Senate Agriculture Committee Majority and Minority staff, or the four corners, as part of a farm bill panel. The staff discussed their Members' farm bill priorities and provided an update.



Left: Members of the Executive Committee and the Emerging Leaders Program had the opportunity to discuss crop insurance policies with members on the Hill at the 2023 Spring Fly-In.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS

In May 2023, CIRB member Jason Meador testified in front of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management and Trade on the importance of crop insurance and the vital role it plays in providing risk management to farmers and ranchers across the country. Meador, the head of Rural Community Insurance Services, talked about the importance of protecting, preserving and improving crop insurance in the 2023 Farm Bill.



Jason Meador, Head of RCIS for Zurich North America speaks to Sen. Boozman (R-AR)



Above: Lindsey Rinkenberger at Republican Conference briefing

In July 2023, CIRB Vice Chairman Lindsey Rinkenberger had the opportunity to participate in a briefing with the Republican Conference to discuss crop insurance. The briefing also included Coalition partners from the agent sector and a soybean farmer. Rinkenberger was able to educate participants on the changes and growth in the program over the years as well as the benefits of private sector delivery of the program.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Throughout the year, CIRB staff were invited to speak at numerous conferences and events to discuss the current political climate in D.C. and its impact on crop insurance. This past year, staff spoke at more than 10 events, including the Agri-Pulse Summit and numerous events hosted by CIRB members.



Above: Tara Smith speaking at Agri-Pulse Summit

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

ANNUAL MEETING

CIRB was thrilled to host the 2023 annual meeting in sunny Bonita Springs, Florida as the area worked to recover from Hurricane Ian. The meeting started with a welcome reception for the Emerging Leaders Program participants and alumni and was followed by a reception for the larger group of attendees.

Thursday morning kicked off with opening remarks from CIRB Chairman, Brian Young with Great American Insurance Group (formerly Crop Risk Services), and CIRB Executive Vice President, Michael Torrey.

The day focused on issues that are in the news every day and tied them back to the crop insurance sector, including climate and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Always an annual meeting favorite, CIRB General Counsel Kurt Henke also provided the group with an update on the legal lay of the land for the industry.

The last day of the conference turned towards DC with an update from RMA Associate Administrator Keith Gray and a presentation by Jim Wiesemeyer. To kick off the 2023 Farm Bill season, the group also heard from two seasoned farm hands – former Staff Director for Senator Stabenow (D-MI), Joe Schultz, and former Staff Director for Senator Roberts (R-KS), James Glueck – about what to watch out for as the year unfolds.

CIRB also took a moment to honor Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow with our Chairman’s Award for her service in helping to protect, preserve and improve the crop insurance program over the years. A second Chairman’s Award was given to Mike Day upon his retirement from RCIS for his years of service to both the industry and to CIRB.

CIRB attendees then took to the links for the annual golf tournament and topped off the night with a reception under the stars.



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 for the farm safety net and making significant contributions toward achieving CIRB's goals and mission.

Senator Debbie Stabenow
Chairman's Award



Mike Day
Chairman's Award



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

CIRB is proud to announce the graduates of the 8th Emerging Leaders Program class. Seventeen up and coming crop insurance leaders completed the program this year. Please visit cropinsurance.org/emerging-leaders-program/ for more information.



Elizabeth Mauch
*American Farm
Bureau Insurance
Services, Inc*



Kaia Peterson
*American Agricultural
Insurance Company*



Crista Luebke
*AgriSomp North
America*



Ryan Johnston
*AgriSomp North
America*



Kyle Simpser
COUNTRY Financial



Matt Miller
COUNTRY Financial



Jessica Carter
Crop Risk Services



Sara Wall
Crop Risk Services



Travis Krinkie
Crop Risk Services



Landon Shafer
*Farmers Mutual
Hail*



Molly Eastman
*Farmers Mutual
Hail*



Blaine Hanf
*Hudson Crop
Services Inc.*



Adam Livers
Hudson Crop



Laura Stodola
*Rural Community
Insurance Services*



Meghan Yandell
*Rural Community
Insurance Services*



Serena Navarro
*Rural Community
Insurance Services*



John Kuhling
*Watts and
Associates*

COMMODITY CLASSIC

CIRB staff attended the 2023 Commodity Classic in Orlando, FL, and collected testimonials from farmers about why they support crop insurance.

Commodity Classic is the annual meeting of several Crop Insurance Coalition partners, including the National Corn Growers Association, the American Soybean Association, the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Sorghum Producers, and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.



At the event, CIRB hosted a Crop Insurance Coalition dinner for coalition partners that were attending Commodity Classic.

FACA WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIR

CIRB joined the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA) in 2022. FACA was founded to develop climate-related policy recommendations for the upcoming Farm Bill that farm groups, environmental organizations, and others in the agriculture and food value chain could support. CIRB co-chaired the government relations and communications working group on crop insurance, commodities, and credit with the Environmental Defense Fund. Final recommendations included opposition to AGI limits, general support for the crop insurance program, and the need for additional studies on the impact of climate-smart agriculture practices on crop insurance. CIRB has continued as an active member of FACA.



Left: FACA releases their upcoming Farm Bill recommendations at a briefing on Capitol Hill.

CROP INSURANCE COALITION

The Crop Insurance Coalition was established in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill by CIRB. Today, CIRB provides intel, analysis, and communications support to coalition partners.



DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP

The Coalition includes more than 100 organizations, including lenders, farm organizations, key voices in the conservation community, agent organizations, and several ag input providers.

UNIFIED VOICE

The Coalition collaborates on messaging to ensure a unified voice in efforts to protect and preserve farmers' access to affordable crop insurance across the U.S.

EDUCATE & DEFEND

The Coalition works together to educate members of Congress and defend against attacks on the effective public-private partnership that protects our nation's food supply.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Drafted, circulated, and sent a letter to the Administration, and the House and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees in support of protecting crop insurance during the FY23 budget process. Over 60 Coalition partners signed the letter.
- Shared updated Myth v. Fact documents with Coalition partners for use during the spring fly-in season.
- Developed and shared farm bill messaging tool kits with Coalition partners to use on social media and in member communications.
- Provided Coalition partners with Congressional and Administration updates.

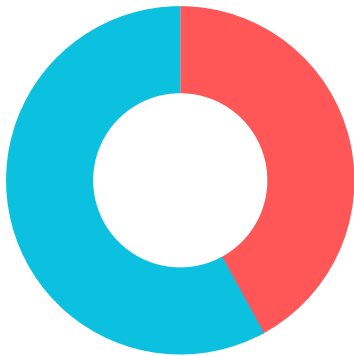
CIRB POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CIRB PAC is a Political Action Committee (PAC) that allows CIRB supporters to pool personal, voluntary contributions for candidates who support a strong crop insurance program and are influential in protecting and promoting crop insurance as a critical component of the farm safety net. The bipartisan CIRB PAC helps develop new champions in Congress for crop insurance through education.

PLANNED GIVING

Political giving during the 118th Congress (2022-2023)

CIRB hosted a variety of fundraisers for Members of Congress. Some of the fundraisers were for House Ag Committee Chair David Scott (D-GA-13), Ranking Member G.T. Thompson (R-PA-15), Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR).



Bipartisan Political Giving

58% DEMOCRATS

42% REPUBLICANS

THE MEMBERS WE'VE CONTRIBUTED TO



Rep. Sanford Bishop
(D-GA-2)



Rep. Nikki Budzinski
(D-IL-13)



Rep. Shontel Brown
(D-OH-11)



Rep. Dusty Johnson
(R-SD-AL)



Rep. Kevin McCarthy
(R-CA-20)



Rep. David Scott
(D-GA-13)



Rep. Austin Scott
(R-GA-8)



Rep. Eric Sorensen
(D-IL-17)



Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)

OUR MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 2023

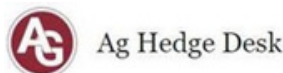
FULL MEMBERS



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS





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