



# IIABA and MIIAB Crop Insurance Accomplishments

2014 Farm Bill: The "Agriculture Act of 2014" (Farm Bill) which passed last February expanded and strengthened the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP) and recognized crop insurance as the central risk management tool for farmers and ranchers across the country. The Big "I" strongly advocated against any payment limits and cuts to the program and the bill guarantees that agents remain the sole sales force of the FCIP and ensures that crop insurance is readily available and accessible to all farmers. Below are some of the recent accomplishments of the Big "I" Crop Insurance Task Force in coordination with Big "I" crop insurance agents across the country:

## **Passage of 2014 Farm Bill**

- Engaged in grassroots outreach numerous times throughout the Farm Bill debate (spanning over two years) per requests from Members of Congress supportive of the FCIP and industry allies.
- Sole "agent only" group to have a live witness testify at all four Farm Bill hearings throughout the duration of the debate, including a field hearing in Iowa.
- Successfully opposed dozens of amendments attempting to cut A&O, cut baseline of program, institute a means test on subsidies, institute an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on subsidies, etc.
- Through strong grassroots outreach Big "I" played an integral role in preserving and expanding the FCIP and this key role was recognized by the crop companies.
- PIA was rarely involved in coalition Hill meetings or hearings during Farm Bill debate and never engaged in the type of extensive grassroots outreach that the Big "I" crop agents coordinated.

## **Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) Activities**

- Maintain ongoing extensive outreach with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to ensure that agents have a voice during the next RMA renegotiation.
- Currently working on an outreach initiative with our crop agents to garner AIP support for agent involvement in the next SRA renegotiation.
- Crop Task Force and Big "I" association worked extensively to repair and strengthen agent relationships with crop insurance companies after the SRA.

## **Big "I" Leadership on Crop Insurance**

- Several AIP's sponsor the Big "I" Legislative Conference and at that meeting our task force engages in detailed conversations about the SRA, agent/company relationships and ways to improve the FCIP.
- Brian McSherry the Big "I" Crop Task Force Chairman has made several presentations at state association conventions highlighting the successes of the task force and promoting the work that we are doing.
- Brian McSherry will also be making a presentation on crop insurance issues at the NAIC board meeting in August.

## **Big "I" Crop Agent Benefits**

- The Big "I" Agency E&O Risk Management Program along with Swiss Re has created a Crop Insurance E&O program that several AIP's praised at our conference and are using in their curriculum
- The Big "I" is in the process of creating a "crop insurance expert" database as a resource for seasoned and new crop insurance agents.