

Improving Agriculture Data Research and Analysis

Talking Points and Rationale for the Agriculture Data Act of 2018

- There is a need for accessible data and analysis that quantifies the risk reduction benefits of conservation practices. We believe this analysis will help farmers reduce risks, increase profitability and inform their understanding about which practices do and do not yield beneficial results.
- USDA already manages and stores valuable producer data as part of its mandate. We believe this data should be better utilized to inform producer understanding about which conservation practices reduce risk and improve profitability.
- Currently, certain restrictions prevent trusted researchers from translating raw data into meaningful information for America's farmers. This bill would give qualified researchers at the land-grant universities that farmers know and trust the ability to analyze aggregate data and connect the dots between conservation practices, crop yields, soil health, and risk.
- In addition to securing cost-savings for America's farmers, we believe that improved data research, analysis, and dissemination will strengthen the crop insurance program and ensure that it remains defensible.
- We support establishing a conservation and farm productivity data warehouse. This confidential, secure data warehouse would collect, aggregate, and transform data to enable innovative research and analysis.
- These recommendations are closely aligned with USDA's broader reorganization efforts and will enable NRCS, RMA and other agencies to analyze agricultural data with increased efficiency and precision.
- Producer privacy is a priority. The integrity and confidentiality of producer data can be protected by upholding strict privacy protocols already in place at USDA and used by academic institutions and researchers.

About the Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force

The AGree Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force (CCITF) is a diverse group of experts including agricultural producers, researchers, former USDA leadership, and representatives from farmer-based and environmental and conservation NGOs, and the crop insurance industry – developing and pursuing innovative ways to drive broader adoption of conservation practices through opportunities in federal crop insurance and federal conservation programs. The CCITF is identifying and advocating for opportunities in the 2018 Farm Bill and in other venues to support increased adoption of conservation practices across U.S. working lands.

Members of the Conservation and Crop Insurance Task Force

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*Not involved in any lobbying activities related to the CCITF's data improvement recommendations.