Crop Insurance & Conservation: Improving Productivity, Profitability & Environmental Outcomes

October 9, 2014
AGree’s Key Challenges

- Meet future demand for food
- Strengthen farms and communities to improve livelihoods
- Improve nutrition and public health
- Conserve and enhance water, soil, and habitat
Three Phases of AGree

1. Established a unique voice (diverse leaders and brand) and trusted platform for dialogue

2. Develop consensus recommendations
   - Identify advocacy and action priorities
   - Identify implementation partners, funders, and coalitions

3. Support and build out coalitions, and advocate for policy change
   - Catalyze and advance “proof of concept” projects
   - Serve as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovative thinking
Eight Integrated Initiatives

1. Achieving a Stable, Legal Workforce
2. **Achieving Productivity, Profitability, and Environmental Outcomes**
3. Improving Community Health through Food and Nutrition
4. Building a New Food Systems-Focused International Development Program
5. Strengthening the Public Sector Research, Education, and Extension System
6. Cultivating Local and Regional Food Systems
7. **Improving Agricultural Risk Management Tools for the 21st Century**
8. Attracting Young People to Careers in Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Natural Resource Management
AGree’s Conservation & Crop Insurance (CCI) Task Force
CCI Task Force

Ultimate Goals

1. Increase adoption of conservation practices
2. Provide adequate risk management tools for producers while conserving taxpayer dollars
CCI Task Force: Diverse Membership

- **Barry Barnett**: Mississippi State University
- **Sara Brodnax**: Environmental Defense Fund
- **Craig Cox**: Environmental Working Group
- **Kristin Weeks Duncanson**: Duncanson Growers
- **Viola Glenn**: Rural Advancement Foundation
- **Ferd Hoefner**: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
- **Bruce Knight**: Strategic Conservation Solutions, Former Chief of NRCS
- **Carl Mattson**: George Mattson Farms, Inc.
- **Stephanie Mercier**: Farm Journal Foundation, Former Chief Economist for the Senate Agriculture Committee
- **James Moseley**: AGree Co-Chair, Former Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **James Robinson**: Rural Advancement Foundation
- **Susan Schmidt**: Cargill Crop Insurance Agency
- **Ryan Stockwell**: National Wildlife Foundation
- **Paul Wolfe**: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
- **Fred Yoder**: Ohio Corn Growers Association
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Supported conservation compliance (AGree)

Examine ways of recognizing **risk reduction benefits of conservation practices** into federal crop insurance programs through a 508(h) submission to RMA?
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First Hurdle with a 508(h) submission = Data

Link conservation practices with:

– Yield
– Yield variability
– Crop resilience to extreme weather
– Soil health
– Other environmental indicators
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Next Steps

– USDA data integration and analysis

– Public/Private data integration

– “Farm Resiliency Rating”? 

– 508(h) and/or integration into crop insurance program

– Explore other uses for this data
CCI Task Force

Other Potential Uses for Data Integration Findings

- Business case for conservation practices
- Industry sustainability standards
- Carbon and ecosystem services markets

Will expand CCI Task Force’s work and membership moving forward
Questions