

Senator Tuberville's Farm Board Act of 2025

Background:

- The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) is a government-owned corporation that finances the federal crop insurance program's (FCIP's) operations.
- The FCIC is managed by a Board of Directors that is statutorily mandated and composed of ten members. Current [FCIC makeup](#) is below and at the hyperlink.
- Of the ten members, four must be active producers who are crop insurance policy holders from different geographic areas of the U.S., and represent a cross-section of agricultural commodities grown in the United States, including at least one specialty crop producer.

Purpose:

- The bill amends the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) ten-member board of directors to designate one of the four farmer seats as one for a producer of both livestock and crops.
- Considering the newer livestock related products that are now offered, we believe it makes sense to have a livestock producer on the FCIC board. However, we want the individuals to be well rounded with a practical view of the program for all U.S. farmers and ranchers, so we added that they must also produce crops.

Bill Specifics:

- Currently, there are four seats for agricultural producers on the FCIC Board, of which one must be a producer of specialty crops – as designated by the [2000 Farm Bill](#).
- This bill designates one of the remaining three open seats for farmers on the Board as a producer of both livestock and crops, leaving the two other seats open and unspecified.
 - The bill uses the existing definition of livestock producer (from [7 USC 1471](#)), which states, “ A person who is actively engaged in farming and receives a substantial amount of total income from the production of grain or livestock.”
- This bill will not necessarily change the current makeup of the Board, as there is already a producer of both livestock and crops present.
- However, this will ensure representation in the future for when Board Members [begin to cycle off May 1, 2027](#).

Current FCIC Board - 2025:

- USDA Under Secretary that oversees the FCIP - Vacant;
- Under Secretary, Vacant;
- USDA Chief Economist - Dr. Seth Meyer;
- FCIC Manager (non-voting) – Patricia Swanson, RMA Administrator;
- An individual involved in insurance (often an agent), Donna King;
- An individual knowledgeable about reinsurance or regulation, Brandon Willis
- Four farmers, one of whom grows specialty crops;
 - Nicole Berg – specialty crop and row crop producer from Washington that serves as the VP of the National Association of Wheat Growers;
 - Ryan Lankford – row crop and livestock producer from Montana that is a U.S. Army veteran and member of the Aaniiih Nation Indian tribe;
 - Chris Bardenhagen – specialty crop producer from Michigan with extensive research experience;
 - Howard James – specialty crop producer from Georgia that serves on the National Black Growers Council.