



Washington Report December 11, 2009

CIRB News...

Reminder: Register for 2010 Annual Meeting. All registration materials for CIRB's 2010 "Meeting of the Year" are available on our website [here](#); the information has also been sent to all members by mail. The meeting will be held from February 10 – February 12, 2010 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront in San Diego, California. **Sponsorship opportunities still remain; for more information, please contact Jessica Hixson at jhixson@cropinsurance.org.**

SRA News...

RMA Briefs Industry on Proposed SRA. This week, the Risk Management Agency briefed industry representatives on their first draft of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement at a meeting in Kansas City. Mike Torrey and Kurt Henke attended on behalf of CIRB. Following RMA's briefing, industry participants worked in several groups to continue discussions, on which NCIS will issue a report. RMA's Power Point presentation on the SRA is attached to this Report.

SRA Side-By-Side Available Online. RMA has posted on its website a Side-by-Side document comparing the recently-released draft SRA to the current agreement. To view the document, click [here](#).

Congressional News...

Disaster Aid Legislation Could Be Added to Jobs Bill. Agri-Pulse reported this week that bicameral agriculture disaster aid legislation (S. 2810/H.R. 4177), which we reported on last week, could be included in legislation that Congress is likely to take up soon. Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln, an original cosponsor of the Senate measure, has been discussing with Democratic Leadership the possibility of attaching the legislation to a job creation bill.

House Outlook. The House is poised to pass **financial regulatory reform legislation**, with a final vote expected today. Next week, the chamber is likely to take up an **Appropriations bill** that includes the Defense Appropriations measure and a range of provisions intended to spur job creation. The House has already passed a **"minibus" spending bill** comprising the other six Appropriations measures that have not yet been signed into law.

Senate Outlook. The Senate continues to work on **healthcare reform legislation**, with Democrats coalescing around a compromise “national insurance” plan and seemingly creating a light at the end of the tunnel. Senators will take a brief break from the healthcare bill to vote this weekend on the “**minibus**” **package** that the House has already passed.

USDA News...

USDA Releases Soybean Loss Adjustment Standards Handbook. To view the handbook, click [here](#).

FCIC Releases Proposed Rule on Common Crop Insurance Policy. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation recently put forth a proposed rule to modify the Stonefruit Crop Insurance Provisions of the Common Crop Insurance Policy to allow coverage for plums and to make several clarifying changes. To view the proposed rule, click [here](#).

USDA Announces Creation of Advocacy and Outreach Office. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced this week the opening of the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach, which was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill in order to engage more closely with small farmers and ranchers. The OAO will work to improve access for farmers to USDA programs and enhance the viability of small farms. For more information, click [here](#).

Member News...

Farmers Mutual Hail Announces Staff Promotion. Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company recently announced the promotion of Jeff Lisk to Team Leader of the Architecture Team within the Information Services Department. Lisk had been serving as Senior Systems Architect for the Department.

Reinsurance Names Guy Carpenter “Broker of the Year.” Guy Carpenter & Company has been awarded the distinction of “Reinsurance Broker of the Year” in *Reinsurance* magazine’s Reader’s Awards 2009. The awards, which are chosen annually by *Reinsurance* readers and subscribers, recognize the reinsurance industry’s top-performing organizations. For more information, click [here](#).