

Meeting Program

Thursday, February 11

8:15 AM – Opening Speaker: Dennis Todey, President Elect, American Association of State Climatologist and Extension State Climatologist, South Dakota State University

It is difficult to attend a crop insurance industry meeting and not hear speculation about when the next big weather event will occur. Likewise, climate change is a topic on nearly every agriculture meeting agenda this winter. Our opening speaker knows weather and understands the impact weather events have on agriculture's bottom line. Join Dennis Todey as he discusses how weather patterns are changing, and the impact of those changes on agriculture.

9 AM – Washington Panel – Outlook for 2010: Mike Torrey, CIRB Federal Affairs Representative; Mary Kay Thatcher, Director, Public Policy, American Farm Bureau Federation; Representative Jerry Moran (R-KS), via video message; Senator John Thune (R-SD), via video message

One year ago, Democrats experienced overwhelming victories which resulted in an Obama Administration and significant majorities in Congress. In the last 12 months, Congress has engaged aggressively on climate change, health care, and financial regulatory reform. Meanwhile, the mood of the country has gone from hope to anger. Join CIRB favorite Mary Kay Thatcher along with Mike Torrey as they discuss the congressional and political outlook for 2010. AND, this year, for the first time, (assuming technology works) participants will also have the opportunity to hear directly from two Members of Congress! Senator John Thune of South Dakota and Representative Jerry Moran of Kansas will share their views on the state of play in Washington via video.

10:15 AM – Reinsurance Panel: John Reinman (moderator), Managing Director, Guy Carpenter & Company LLC; Jim Aldeman, Chairman, CIRB Executive Committee and Vice President and General Manager, American Agricultural Insurance Company; Michael Dicker, Senior Vice President – Agriculture, Max Re Ltd.; Bill Totsch, President, Totsch Enterprises; Mike Zielin, Senior Vice President, Partner Re Insurance Corporation of America

Consistently rated as one of the top panels, John Reinman of Guy Carpenter & Company LLC will lead a discussion on the current challenges and issues facing the reinsurance industry. There is no shortage of material for this distinguished panel to discuss. Participants will reflect on the current reinsurance market for crop insurance, but also provide insights on what the latest SRA proposal will mean for both reinsurers and AIP's. One only needs to look at the list of panelists to know this will be a thought provoking discussion.

11:15 AM – Legal Challenges Facing the Crop Insurance Industry: Kurt Henke, CIRB Legal Counsel, Henke-Bufkin, P.A.

CIRB is proud to be affiliated with Kurt Henke, one of the most respected legal minds in the crop insurance industry. In this forum, Henke will provide a comprehensive update on the current and anticipated legal issues to facing crop insurers, reinsurers, and other industry stakeholders. Be sure to attend this important meeting with our legal expert!

Friday, February 12

8 AM – Keynote Speaker: America’s Agricultural Economy, the Media Perspective: Jim Wiesemeyer, Senior Vice President, Informa Economics

Back by popular demand, Jim will provide meeting participants with keen analysis and insight on the major issues and developments within America’s agricultural economy. Based out of Washington, DC, Wiesemeyer will bring to the discussion his years of experience conversing with key policy-makers, including former Presidents and Secretaries of Agriculture. Wiesemeyer has been celebrated each year that he’s been on our program, so don’t miss out on this discussion!

9 AM – America’s Agricultural Economy, the Government Perspective: Joe Glauber, Chief Economist, USDA and Chairman, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors

This year, we are pleased to welcome Joe Glauber, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Chief Economist, to speak to the CIRB Annual Meeting. If there is a crisis within agriculture, Dr. Glauber can be found close by. His portfolio is far ranging and he is called upon often for his quick analysis and insight. Glauber, who also serves as the Chairman of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors, will provide insight into the economic trends facing both the U.S. and world agriculture economy in addition to the future of risk management. Glauber’s service in multiple Administrations makes him the right person to facilitate a comprehensive discussion on the state of American agriculture!

10:15 AM – Report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement: Bill Murphy, Administrator, Risk Management Agency

Surprise and disbelief best describe the crop insurance industry’s reaction when they reviewed USDA’s SRA proposal in mid-December 2009. Since then, RMA Administrator Bill Murphy has been at the heart of discussions with crop insurance companies, reinsurers, producer organizations, Congress, and the general public. CIRB is pleased to have Mr. Murphy join us to discuss the latest developments in the SRA discussions. This is sure to be an informative and thoughtful discussion.