

## 9/24/2003 Moran Subcommittee Explores Ways to Improve Crop Insurance

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Hearing in Washington, D.C. Third in Series to Improve Ag Insurance Industry

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran, Chair of the Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, today conducted a hearing to review crop insurance for program crop producers. The hearing focused on crops covered by commodity program provisions under the 2002 Farm Bill, such as corn, cotton, grain sorghum, soybeans and wheat.

"Producers have faced a variety of regional disasters in recent years, including persistent drought conditions in some areas of the country, flooding, hail, and most recently, damage from Hurricane Isabel," Moran said. "Crop insurance is critical to withstanding these challenges, and this series of hearings is helping to reveal improvements necessary to make the program a more effective risk management tool."

Two Kansans testified before Moran's Subcommittee. Leo Bindel of Sabetha testified on behalf of the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association, and John Thaemert of Sylvan Grove, president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, testified on behalf of the National Association of Wheat Growers. Also taking part were representatives from the National Cotton Council, National Corn Growers Association and American Soybean Association.

The hearing focused on the availability of insurance products and adequate coverage levels, changes that have been made as a result of the implementation of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act (ARPA) and improvements that could enhance the ability of crop insurance to better manage risk for producers.

This hearing is the third in a series of hearings to review crop insurance by commodity and region, with today's hearing providing an overview of the crop insurance program for commodity crops grown primarily in the midwest, southeast and southwest areas of the U.S. Next week, Moran will chair a hearing focusing on crop insurance for specialty crops.

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