



# What's Happening at NCIS

May 14, 2012

## Topics this week:

- Crop Insurance Website Has New Look!
- Data Mining Steering Committee Meeting
- NCIS Presentation at Crop Insurance Professionals Association Meeting



Another active week at NCIS. With many new and important developments taking place in our industry, we bring you a “round-up” of NCIS activities, meetings, projects and progress. A list of future events will also be included in each edition.

We welcome your comments and look forward to sharing this update with you.

## Crop Insurance Website Has New Look!

In early May, the Crop Insurance Keeps America Growing website received a face lift. As before, the website provides information on the crop insurance program, but it is now more visually engaging and more easily accessible for producers, decision-makers and other key program stakeholders. Changes to design, usability and functionality greatly improve the site, including optimization for mobile devices and tablets, as well as improved integration of NCIS' social media channels ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)).

The website provides a range of current information and resources, including [background on crop insurance](#) and how it works; [video testimonials](#) from producers who have experience with the program; [an interactive map](#) with information on the 15 private companies that provide coverage; [“What's Cropping Up” newsletters](#) on farm policy and current events; and news stories, press releases, reports and data, and Congressional testimony. In addition, the website will encourage visitors to [show their support](#) for the crop insurance program and tell others about the importance of maintaining the Federal crop insurance program for years to come.

To view the website go to [www.CropInsuranceInAmerica.com](http://www.CropInsuranceInAmerica.com). We would appreciate it if you could help spread the word among your employees, agents and adjusters. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laurie Langstraat at [lauriel@ag-risk.org](mailto:lauriel@ag-risk.org) or 800-951-6247.

Contact us:

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**Questions/Comments/  
Membership Info**

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**NCIS Website**

[www.ag-risk.org](http://www.ag-risk.org)

**Crop Insurance in America Website**

[www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org](http://www.cropinsuranceinamerica.org)

**Twitter**

@USCropInsurance

**Facebook**

CropInsuranceInAmerica

**Data Mining Steering Committee Meeting**

Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs), NCIS and RMA members of the Data Mining Steering Committee participated in a meeting with the staff from the Center for Agribusiness Excellence (CAE) of Tarleton State University, held in Stephenville, Texas this past week. CAE operates RMA's data mining initiatives. Data mining incorporates the latest advances in database technology into a single, centralized "data warehouse" of all the crop insurance-related data in RMA databases, and allows it to be compared to FSA acreage and entity records, as well as weather, soils, flood, hurricane and other spatial data. RMA and industry formed the Data Mining Steering Committee in response to the changes in Appendix IV of the 2011 SRA, which calls for a greater use of data mining to target the quality reviews being conducted by AIPs. CAE demonstrated their latest data analysis techniques, reviewed the data they maintain to support their analysis, and overviewed data mining products they have in development which will facilitate greater cooperation between RMA and the AIPs.

**NCIS Presentation at Crop Insurance Professional Association (CIPA) Meeting**

NCIS President, Tom Zacharias, participated in a presentation at the Crop Insurance Professional Association (CIPA) meeting Monday, May 7 held in Kansas City. *"CIPA is a national organization of agents – spanning from Florida to California and from North Dakota to Texas – who are committed to maintaining and strengthening the safety net for the American farmer and rancher through a strong Federal Crop Insurance Program."* The NCIS presentation included an industry update, along with a discussion of RMA's actuarial methodology revision, a brief farm bill overview, and highlights from the Senate testimony.

## Future Meetings and Events Calendar

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>
<b>2012 Meetings</b>	
NCIS Program Development Committee	May 15 & 16
Federal Crop Insurance Partnership Meeting	June 21
NCIS Board of Directors Meeting	June 25 & 26
NCIS Fall Update Conference	July 24 & 25
FCIC Board Meeting	August 7-9
NAIC Meeting	August 11-14
FCIC Board Meeting	September 18-20
NCIS Board of Directors Meeting	September 19 & 20
FCIC Board Meeting	November 6-8
NCIS Spring Update Conference	November 7 & 8
Federal Crop Insurance Partnership Meeting	November 27 & 28
NAIC Meeting	Nov 29 – Dec 2
NCIS Board of Directors Meeting	December 13 & 14
<b>2013 Meetings</b>	
NCIS Claims Managers Conference	January 23 & 24
Crop Insurance Industry Annual Convention	February 10-13
Commodity Classic	Feb 28 – March 2
NCIS Fall Update Conference	July 16 & 17
NCIS Spring Update Conference	November 6 & 7