

# Organic Crop Insurance

## Senate 2012 Farm Bill Floor Debate

### Making the farm safety net work for organic farmers



Crop insurance is touted as the centerpiece of the new farm safety net, but it doesn't work for organic agriculture, one of the fastest growing sectors, creating jobs in rural America and economic opportunity for farmers. For most crops, USDA does not pay organic farmers at the organic price after a loss, even though organic farmers currently pay a higher premium for crop insurance than non-organic farmers. This added cost for less payout is one of the major reasons that organic farmers cite for not purchasing crop insurance. Addressing this barrier in the 2012 Farm Bill would make crop insurance more accessible to organic farmers and would be an important step in creating an appropriate safety net for organic producers.

### Amendment Basics – SA 2382

The 2012 Farm Bill should fix crop insurance so that it works for organic farmers by:

- Directing USDA's Risk Management Agency to complete development of the organic price series to allow organic policies to pay out at the organic price within 36 months of enactment of the 2012 Farm Bill.

### Why It Matters

- The farm safety net should work for diverse sectors of American agriculture, including emerging and growing sectors like organic.
- Organic farmers face unjustifiable barriers to participation in crop insurance. These barriers can and should be removed so that organic farmers can be part of the farm safety net that producers in other sectors enjoy.
- The 2008 Farm Bill took an important initial step in addressing these barriers, and the 2012 Farm Bill must take the next step by directing the USDA to develop and publish organic price elections.

**For More Information:** All Members are encouraged to co-sponsor and support the Organic Crop Insurance Amendment. Contact Adrian Deveny or Jordan Bice in Sen. Merkley's office at (202) 224-3753 or [adrian\\_deveny@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:adrian_deveny@merkley.senate.gov) or [jordan\\_bice@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:jordan_bice@merkley.senate.gov) for more information.



National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 209  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-547-5754

<http://www.sustainableagriculture.net>