

2012 Farm Bill Hearing

October 11, 2010

Re: Scott Backes
Talking points

1. Federal crop as a tool in farming:
 - a. Began seeding on April 18, 2010. We seeded approx 1500 acres of wheat and then it began raining.
 - b. From April 28 to July 1 we received 15 inches of rain
 - c. Approximately 1000 acres that were 50% - 60% under water
 - d. We seeded 2 quarters to wheat that should have been PP. Because those 2 quarters were @ 60 % under water, both quarters failed to produce a viable crop.
 - e. We used PP as a risk management tool in farming.
 - f. July was fairly dry. August 2 – Sept 28 we received another 15 inches of rain.
 - g. Combining was almost impossible and crops suffered quality issues because of all the rain.
 - h. Had to hire custom combiners to pull crop off between rain storms resulting in an additional \$35 per acre and 21 cents per bushel drying expense at the elevator.
 - i. September 15 began spiking stubble to dry out the land. We haven't done this for 5 years.
 - j. Have had to hire aircraft to spray PP on two occasions because it was too wet to do myself.

2. Prior to this year, following are some examples of how the Federal Crop Program has allowed our operation stay viable:
 - a. 1988 – severe drought resulted in very low yields for all crops seeded.
 - b. 1991 – lost sunflowers due to drought
 - c. 1996 – entire durum crop valued at .60 due to scab
 - d. 1997 – entire durum crop valued at .90 due to scab. At this point, planned never to seed it again.
 - e. 1999 – excessive moisture prevented most of the crop from getting seeded.
 - f. 2002 - August 26, 2002 severe hail storm destroyed all of our wheat and canola crops.
 - g. 2009 – excessive moisture resulted in ¼ of our land not getting seeded.
 - h. 2010 - ?? (not over yet)