

Sense of the Board

While the Board supports the continuation of Federal crop insurance policies for trees in recognition of the more comprehensive coverage that tree growers can select under that program, the Board also supports prudent use of taxpayer support. In section 733 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Congress prohibited USDA from considering assistance received under the Tree Assistance Program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as the same loss for purposes of the prohibition on multiple benefits under the Federal crop insurance program. In light of the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget proposing the elimination of all Federal crop insurance policies covering trees, and to ensure prudent use of taxpayer funds, pursuant to the Board's broad authority to determine the character and necessity for its expenditures, (see 7 U.S.C. § 1506(i)), the Board directs RMA to work with FSA to examine whether the Tree Assistance Program and Federal crop insurance tree programs overcompensate tree growers for losses and to report to the Board potential policy changes, if needed, to avoid overcompensation.