

Agriculture Farmers Place Their Bets

In 2014, Congress eliminated \$4.5 billion in annual crop subsidies. Farmers had to choose between a program that guarantees revenue in bad harvests and another that pays when prices fall. On June 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported how many farmers sought protection from market forces, and how many from acts of God, including floods and drought. — Alan Bjerga



There's been more rain this year:

April 6 to June 15, 2015

15.27 Inches

April 7 to June 16, 2014

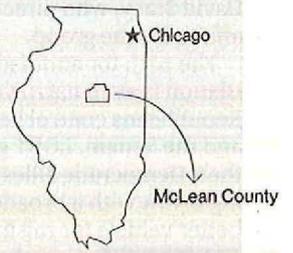
11.36 Inches

The Decision

Like 91 percent of corn farmers, Bidner signed up for the program that insures him against poor harvests. He expects corn and soybean prices to rise as demand for U.S. crops goes up, but he's worried about extreme weather cutting his yields.

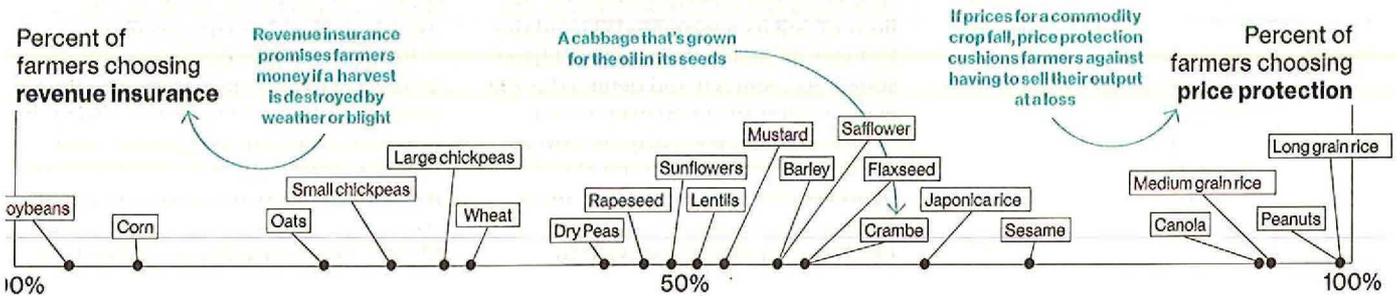


"Rain makes grain,
 and that's true.
 But this is getting
 excessive."
 — J. Gordon
 Bidner has been
 growing corn in
 McLean County, Ill.,
 since the 1970s



1,760,345 farmers signed up for the new subsidies

DATA: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



◀ want to hold out for the ideal," says David Stacy, who directs government affairs for the group.

The path for antidiscrimination legislation is even narrower now that Republicans control both the House and the Senate. LGBT groups and their Democratic allies say replacing ENDA with a broader bill offers a better vehicle for raising public aware-

"We have, over time, taken a strategy of saying, 'Let's chip away at discrimination.'"

—Oregon Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley

ness about the scope of discrimination experienced by gays, lesbians, and transgender people. It also creates a vehicle for putting pressure on Republicans ahead of an election year. "They are going to squirm," says California

Representative Xavier Becerra, the House Democratic Caucus chairman. "They are in a soup that they cooked, and the flame is getting higher."

Conservatives who support anti-discrimination legislation say Democrats are politicizing the issue at the expense of getting anything passed. "Democrats are obsessed with exclusively owning this issue and deliberately excluding Republicans," says Gregory Angelo, executive director of the gay conservative group Log Cabin Republicans. Any broader anti-discrimination bill needs the buy-in of Republicans, he says, "before it is introduced, not after."

Republicans in Congress who have opposed anti-discrimination bills in the past say they just want to make sure any legislation adequately balances civil rights against other concerns. "I'm certainly very much in favor of not discriminating against anybody," says Arkansas Republican Senator John Boozman. "My problem is that you don't want to give special rights, OK, and make it such that somebody that's gay can't be fired

even if they're not doing their job."

If Republicans do offer a compromise, Democrats pushing the comprehensive approach will face pressure to abandon it. "Any insistence that this bill has to be passed as a giant bill and can't be dealt with in pieces would be suicidal," says Frank. Still, Rhode Island Democratic Representative David Cicilline, who will spearhead the anti-discrimination bill in the House, says he's not planning to back down. "We should be demanding and fighting for full equality," he says. —Josh Eidelson

The bottom line LGBT supporters are pushing for broader antidiscrimination laws despite an uncertain path through Congress.

Number of States With Antidiscrimination Laws

