



# COMMITTED TO FIGHTING FOR SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE

*Agriculture is South Dakota's Top Industry and Employs One in Five South Dakotans*

As a former member of the House Agriculture Committee and current member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Thune has helped author four farm bills. Sen. Thune continues to support South Dakota farmers and ranchers who provide a safe and abundant food supply for our country and the world.

## Highlights of Sen. Thune's Commitment to Agriculture

### Commodity Programs

- In addition to Sen. Thune's strong support of crop insurance, he has worked to improve the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs that play a critical role in supporting South Dakota farmers.
- In the 2018 farm bill, Sen. Thune [secured](#) provisions to improve the accuracy of ARC by requiring payments to be calculated using the physical location of each farm's tract of land instead of the previous policy, which used a farm's administrative county to determine payments. Sen. Thune also secured improvements to ARC's safety net potential by expanding the yield data sources used to calculate payments and by including procedures that would adjust payments to allow for quality losses.
- In order to give producers flexibility, Sen. Thune also secured a provision to allow producers to change enrollment between ARC and PLC throughout the farm bill's authorization.

### Livestock Programs

- Sen. Thune is a strong supporter of the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), both of which provide assistance to producers who are affected by weather events, including drought and snow storms.
- In the 2018 farm bill, Sen. Thune [secured](#) provisions to greatly improve the approval rate of LIP applications for death losses due to weather-related diseases by allowing Farm Service Agency county committees to determine if an eligible adverse weather event directly caused the death of livestock.
- After hearing from South Dakotans about a coverage gap in ELAP during the 2021 drought, Sen. Thune [led](#) a letter requesting that costs incurred by moving livestock to feed during drought conditions also be covered, and he continues working with USDA to address this issue.