

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress and the United States
2 Department of Agriculture to change the way data is collected and used to form the basis
3 of some farm safety net payments.

4 WHEREAS, with the decline in farm commodity prices and market downturns,
5 farm safety net payments are important components of farm income and cash flow
6 projections for farmers; and

7 WHEREAS, the two farm safety net programs under the current Farm Bill, the
8 Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program,
9 this year will result in 51.2 million dollars being paid to Kentucky's farmers based on
10 2015 crop production numbers; and

11 WHEREAS, agriculture is an important part of Kentucky's economy, resulting in
12 cash receipts estimated at almost six billion dollars in 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, safety net payments to farmers are a part of the overall Kentucky
14 agriculture cash receipts picture; and

15 WHEREAS, the ARC safety net payments on crops are based on a county's crop
16 revenue per acre, and the PLC payments are based on national crop averages; and

17 WHEREAS, the current Farm Bill provides the National Agriculture Statistics
18 Service (NASS) with materials and methods for collecting available data on yields of
19 grain crops, including voluntary telephone and mail response surveys; and

20 WHEREAS, unfortunately, the NASS method can allow for inclusion of inaccurate
21 and undocumented crop averages in the county figures; and

22 WHEREAS, farmers in certain counties have not received ARC or PLC payments
23 because average crop yield data is inaccurate; and

24 WHEREAS, as an alternative, the federal Risk Management Agency (RMA), the
25 current crop insurance system, relies on documented evidence such as weigh tickets and
26 sales receipts to determine grain crop production; and

27 WHEREAS, the RMA's crop data would be better suited than NASS to be used as

1 the basis for determining the total amount of safety net funds or payments under the ARC
2 and PLC programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Congress has approved a tweak to the ARC safety net calculations
4 under a pilot program that gives state Farm Service Agency offices a role in fixing any
5 inaccuracies between comparable counties; and

6 WHEREAS, even though the current Farm Bill continues through 2018, work will
7 begin in Congress in the near future on the 2019 farm measure, giving Congress and the
8 United States Department of Agriculture ample opportunity to review the data collection
9 aspect of the farm safety net programs;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
12 *Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

13 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly calls upon Congress and the United States
14 Department of Agriculture to take a critical look at the way data is gathered and used as a
15 part of the farm safety net programs in the Farm Bill.

16 ➔Section 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to each member of the
17 Kentucky Congressional delegation and to the United States Secretary of Agriculture.