

Farm Insurance: Covering Your Assets

A law bulletin series on the importance of protecting the farm with insurance.

A Discussion with Your Farm Insurance Agent

Robert Moore, Attorney, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program

Samantha Capaldo, Attorney, National Agricultural Law Center

Jeff Lewis, Attorney, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program

The success of your farm hinges on many factors, and robust insurance coverage is a crucial one. A regular conversation with your farm insurance agent ensures your policy reflects your evolving needs. Here is a list of questions to ask your insurance agent to make that discussion productive.

General Questions

- Does the insurance company underwriting the policy specialize in farm insurance?
 - Experience in this specific area is vital for optimal coverage.
- How do you file a claim if an unfortunate event occurs?
 - Understanding the process beforehand streamlines the experience during a stressful time.
- How often should you review your policy coverages and asset lists?
 - Regular reviews ensure your insurance stays aligned with your farm's current situation.

Liability Insurance Questions

- How much liability coverage do you currently have?
 - This determines your financial protection in case someone is injured or property is damaged due to farm activities.
- How much would it cost to increase your liability coverage?
 - Adequate liability protection is crucial, so consider the cost-benefit of higher limits.
- Are there any special activities on your farm not covered by the current policy?
 - If needed, endorsements can be added to extend coverage to specific situations.



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- How much would an umbrella policy cost?
 - Understanding the cost helps you decide if it's a good fit for your farm's needs.
- What situations or activities are excluded from your liability coverage?
- Does your liability coverage extend to all locations associated with your farm operations?
- Do you have or need environmental liability coverage and what does it cover?

Property Insurance Questions

- Does your policy cover all your personal and farm property across all locations, including buildings, equipment, livestock, and personal belongings?
- What type of coverage do you have - Basic, Broad, or Special?
 - Special coverage offers the most protection but comes at a higher cost. Some assets might have different coverage levels within the same policy.
- Which assets have replacement value coverage, and which have actual cash value?
 - Replacement value coverage typically offers higher payouts but costs more, and some assets may not qualify for replacement value.
- Is your inventory of insured assets up to date?
 - An outdated list can lead to coverage gaps.
- Are the insured values for your buildings, equipment, and personal property accurate?
 - Undervaluing assets can result in reduced claim payouts.
- What co-insurance percentage does the policy have, and are you adequately insured to meet that requirement?
 - Co-insurance dictates the percentage of the rebuilding cost you share in the event of a claim.
- What specific situations or assets are excluded from the policy?
 - Identifying these exclusions helps you determine if additional coverage is needed.
- Are there any unique farm assets not covered by your current policy?
 - Discuss these with your agent to explore coverage options.

Auto Insurance Questions

- Do your farm vehicles require insurance?
 - Vehicles used on public roads need at least state minimum coverage, but these limits might be insufficient.
- Does your farm vehicle insurance offer liability coverage only or does it also include physical damage coverage?
 - Physical damage coverage provides financial protection in case of vehicle damage.
- What situations or circumstances are excluded from the vehicle insurance policy?

By having this list of questions in mind, you can ensure a fruitful conversation with your farm insurance agent. Remember, your agent is there to guide you – don't hesitate to ask for clarification on anything that is unclear.

For more information on farm insurance, see the following bulletins available at farmoffice.osu.edu:

Farm Insurance: Covering Your Assets

Farm Liability Insurance: Examining Your Covered Activities and Assets