

Deductibles

Raising your deductible is a quick way to lower your insurance premium. There is an easy calculation to see if this is a good idea.

1. With your current insurance policy, find your yearly premium and your deductible.
2. Ask your agent to give you the premium cost difference if you change your deductible.
3. Divide the premium cost difference into the difference between the deductibles.

This is the length of time required to realize the cost savings if you have no insurable losses.

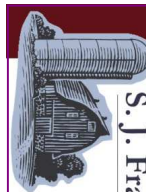
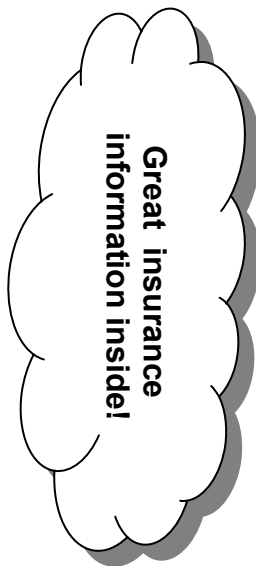
- Example: changing from a \$500 deductible to a \$1000 deductible saves you \$150 in premium per year. To make up the additional \$500 deductible you would pay in the event of a loss, you would need to be without a loss for $(500/150=3.33)$ or 3 years and 4 months.

This may be a reasonable time period.

- Another Example: changing from a \$500 deductible to a \$1000 deductible saves you \$50 in premium per year. To make up the additional \$500 deductible you would pay in the event of a loss, you would need to be without a loss for $(500/50=10)$ or 10 years.

Depending on your patience, this may be too long to justify the deductible change.

Please contact us to discuss your deductible options. Matching your risk tolerance with your financial situation is a part of customizing your insurance policy to fit your needs.



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Not Sure You Need Insurance For Your ATV?

Here are a few things you need to keep in mind:

- ATVs have a high theft rate.
- Your homeowner's insurance may not cover your ATV if you ride it off your property or if you trailer your ATV to another location.
- If you use your ATV in a state-owned or public park, ATV insurance may be required.

Here is a rundown of the coverages available on an ATV policy:

- Collision coverage – pays for covered damage to your ATV when it hits, or is hit by, another vehicle or other object. This coverage is available with a deductible starting at \$100.
- Property damage liability coverage – insures you against certain damages caused to someone else's property while operating your ATV and provides you with a legal defense for such claims if another party files a lawsuit against you.
- Bodily injury liability coverage – insures you against certain damages if you injure or kill someone while operating your ATV and also provides you with a legal defense if another party in the accident files a lawsuit against you.
- Comprehensive physical damage coverage – pays for covered losses resulting from incidents other than collision - such as theft, fire or vandalism. This coverage is available with a deductible starting at \$100 and is limited to damage that affects the structure or safe operation of the vehicle.
- Medical payments coverage – in most states you can select medical coverage for yourself and your passengers.
- Uninsured/Underinsured motorists coverage – insures you against certain damages in the event of an accident that occurs on a public road or highway where you are struck by someone with no insurance coverage or limits that are lower than yours. The uninsured vehicle must be a vehicle that is designed to be insured and registered for use on a public road or highway (such as a car, truck, or motorcycle).



See us for your ATV/Motorcycle/Scooter/Snowmobile/
Personal Watercraft and Golf Cart insurance coverage.



CRITICAL Crop Insurance Dates

- Sept 30 Wheat sales closing and '09 yields
Oct 20 Final plant date, wheat
Dec 1 Can we have your '09 production?
Jan 15 Revenue claims MUST be in!
Jan 20 Check website for '10 Webinars



Crop Insurance Stuff to Know!

- The **producer** is responsible for maintaining THREE years of production records to prove yields in an RMA APH audit.
- Adjusters are required to verify your social security number or federal ID number prior to opening a claim. Be ready with an ORIGINAL document showing your number.
- If you have either a pipeline or windmill project affecting your growing crops, call BEFORE work is started so the adjuster can visit and document what was there.
- According to RMA, corn is "mature" at 40% moisture—if you choose to not harvest it, your total guarantee may be reduced by 50%!
- Does the "entity" on your MPCII policy match what the FSA office has?
- A Power-of-Attorney can be executed between landlord and tenant to ease the reporting process—ask Steve!

Visit our Website

www.sifrancisinsurance.com

Besides crop insurance, you will find links to many of your insurance questions. Our independent insurance agency represents Assurant Health, Hartford Personal and Business lines, Progressive, Titan Business, Haggerty (collectible & antique vehicles), Foremost (vacant homes & mobile homes), as well as, Farmers Pioneer, Farmers Union and Carthage Mutual Insurance for farm policies!



Wheat Contracts due Sept 30

Sales closing date for wheat is September 30, 2009 with a final plant date of October 20 in Will and Kankakee counties. The APH price has been set at \$5.20 and CRC is in discovery until Sept 14—go to our website to see the current price estimate (\$5.37 as of 9/4/09). The RMA is subsidizing CRC heavily. The CRC investment is about \$.60 per bushel vs. \$.30 for yield protection only. As of Sept 4, a \$5.30 strike price has about a \$.30 difference between a put and a call. Therefore, you can add revenue protection through CRC for about the cost of an "in the money" option. Maximum wheat coverage is 75% under CRC and APH. Call Steve to get a quote under both scenarios!

Check your own CLUE report here:

You can find details on your past claims (past 7 years) by getting CLUE (Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange) reports from www.choicetrust.com. One auto and home report is free each year. Accuracy is important as errors on these reports may result in higher insurance premiums.

See our website at

www.sifrancisinsurance.com

for even more information. A digital version of the newsletter is available in PDF format and additional links for more insurance information and forms are included.

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Home Based Business Insurance

Millions of Americans are operating full or part-time businesses from the comfort of their homes. One of the secrets to running a successful home-based business is being able to separate your business activity from your home life.

To safeguard against the risks, you need to be aware that your homeowners insurance policy offers limited or no protection for your business while it is being operated from your home. If you rely on your homeowners policy as your only means of insurance protection, you may find your business underinsured or uninsured in the event of a loss.

Homeowners Insurance policies were never intended to cover business exposures. Consequently, coverage for the items you use in your business such as computers, fax machines, filing cabinets, tools and inventory are limited to \$2,500 in your home and \$250 away from home under most policies. And your homeowners coverage provides no liability insurance for your home-based business.

Home Based Business Insurance coverage generally falls into two categories:

- Property Coverage--Your business structures and possessions are covered against loss or damage caused by certain covered risks such as fire and theft.
- Liability Coverage--This means that if you become legally obligated to pay money to another person for bodily injury or property damage caused by your business, your insurance company will cover those costs (up to the maximum indicated in your policy), including the costs of defending your business in the lawsuit. This liability coverage extends to medical payments for injured parties, for which you may be held responsible.

Of course, every business has its own special requirements. There are many specific insurance coverages available to address the needs of your in-home business. Contact us to discuss your insurance needs.

Article condensed from TrustedChoice.com.