

FIRST STATE INSURANCE AGENCY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2014

**Holiday Hours**

**Our office will be closed the following days to observe the upcoming holidays:**

**Nov. 27-28-Thanksgiving**

**Dec. 24-Christmas Eve, closing at noon**

**Dec. 25 Christmas**

**Jan. 1- New Years**



This Christmas imagine a child opening a gift with a small toy, something to make those eyes sparkle, also tucked inside a gift that doubles! Purchasing life insurance for a child guarantees that they will have lifetime coverage that they may not be able to buy when they're an adult. An Auto-Owners policy automatically increases by 50% at ages 18 and 25, without an increase in premium. Life insurance is a great gift for parents or grandparents to give for milestones such as their first holiday or birthday.

**CROP INSURANCE:**

Changes coming in crop insurance with the new 2014 Farm Bill. FSA offers Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC). Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) is an endorsement which will be available through your crop insurance agent with an underlying MPCI policy. Farmers can buy a SCO if they sign up for PLC. It will cover that gap between 86% of revenue and when individual insurance coverage kicks in. Farmers who buy SCO would pay 35% of the premium cost and USDA will subsidize the other 65%. Keep in mind there is no replant or Prevent Plant with SCO.



**Crop insurance** continues to be a farmers' safety net. Today crop insurance protects 90% of planted cropland in America.

**Production reports** were sent out in September. Please fill in the production, sign and return as quickly as possible, so we can begin the APH process to establish your coverage for 2014.

**\*Notice of Loss\***

If there is damage or loss of production call us as soon as possible to start a claim.

Notice must be provided within 72 hours of discovery of the damage or loss, but not later than 15 days after the end of insurance period. If the loss is because of revenue, notice must be provided no later than 45 days after the Harvest Price is released.

**Reasons to not let your auto insurance lapse:**

1. You could face serious penalties. Nearly all states require drivers to carry auto insurance. Let us know if you are going to drive (even for a minute) so we can get liability put on your vehicle.
2. Lapse in coverage means paying more for your premium. Auto insurance companies look at how long you have been continuously insured when calculating your rate.
3. Financial risk if you are in an accident or if a fire or theft occurs and your auto insurance is not current.

**GARAGING SUMMER VEHICLES:**

If you are taking one of your vehicles off the road and into your garage for the winter, there are a few things to be aware of. That valuable car that is parked for the cold months still should be insured against theft or damage that could occur when parked. Your comprehensive coverage should still be maintained.

**WINTER SAFE DRIVING TIPS:**

- Our snowplow operators work hard for the safety of drivers in the winter. Our weather conditions change fast in North Dakota. Here are a few tips when you get behind the wheel.
- ✓ Never use cruise control on icy roads.
  - ✓ Check the Travel information map or call 511.
  - ✓ Slow down and drive for the conditions.
  - ✓ Stay back at least five car lengths behind the plow; snowplow operators will turn off the sander, pull over, or raise the plow for better visibility when it is safe to do so to allow traffic to pass.

**WINTER TRAVEL TIPS:**

- ⇒ Leave with a full fuel tank.
- ⇒ Carry a cell phone.
- ⇒ Let someone know your route and expected time of arrival.
- ⇒ Dress for the weather and carry extra clothing and blankets.





### DATES & DEADLINES FOR HEALTHCARE:

*Nov. 15, 2014: Open enrollment starts.*

*Dec. 15, 2014: The last date to enroll for coverage that starts Jan. 1, 2015.*

*Jan. 1, 2015: The date 2015 coverage can start if you apply by Dec 15, 2014, or if you accept automatic enrollment in your 2014 plan or a similar plan.*

*Feb. 15, 2015: The last day to enroll in 2015 coverage. If you miss this deadline, you can't sign up for a health plan for the rest of 2015. The only exception is if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.*

*There is no limited enrollment period for Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or small business (SHOP) to enroll.*



Do you start **shaking** thinking of the doctors office? Find a Good doctor when your healthy! The best time to find a doctor is when you're not in a rush. Make an appointment with a primary care physician today, regular physical exams can prevent major problems.

### **REMINDER:**

When preparing for the Winter season, don't forget to call our office to insure your Winter toys (snowmobile, ice castle, etc.).

*"The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it in your pocket." ~W. Rogers*

### **INTERESTING THOUGHTS:**

- 1. When purchasing homeowners coverage, you are buying coverage based on a home's cost to reconstruct (materials and labor).*
- 2. Car color doesn't affect insurance rates.*
- 3. The Affordable Care Act requires almost all Americans to buy health insurance, it doesn't say where they must get it.*
- 4. The Affordable Care Act prohibits health insurers from basing rates on pre-existing conditions.*
- 5. Most car insurance companies offer multicar discounts so if you have a car you don't drive that often, it probably won't cost that much to insure it.*

### **\*MANAGERS COMMENTS\***

If you have chosen a health plan on the marketplace you will need to go back onto Healthcare.gov and update your financial information and review plan changes, or you may not be eligible for a subsidy. Be aware that deductibles and premiums are changing on your plans that you had last year and they will continue to change every year until 2016 when it will become a Federal Plan.

*"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."*

~W.T. Purkiser

Kevin - Patty - Evette - Brooke  
Linda - Morgan