

# **Texas Farm Bureau Health Plans: FAQ**

**For more than 80 years Texas Farm Bureau has existed to serve its members. Texas Farm Bureau has a long history of working to address member needs across all of our state’s 254 counties. These initiatives have often required bold, innovative steps that create unique solutions to address unique issues. Affordable health care has long been a challenge for a large segment of our membership.**

**Texas Farm Bureau is pursuing options that allow for a competitive and innovative alternative for our members who do not easily fit ACA health insurance plans or face limited options in the part of the state they live in. To accomplish this objective, Texas Farm Bureau is seeking legislative authority to offer our members another option for healthcare coverage.**

## **Q: Why should Texas Farm Bureau be granted this authority? \_\_\_\_\_**

For more than 80 years, Texas Farm Bureau has been taking bold steps to address the needs of its members. Texas Farm Bureau’s purpose is to advocate for and serve our agricultural and rural members and in doing so, contribute to a better quality of life for them.

Texas Farm Bureau has members in all 254 counties, and has an organizational structure and physical presence in 214 counties. Sales and distribution will be supported by this infrastructure. Farm Bureau is uniquely positioned to provide an innovative solution for our members who do not easily fit ACA health insurance plans. We cannot think of another organization with the network and resources to accomplish this endeavor.

The resources and structure of state Farm Bureaus have proven to be successful in providing health plans to Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureaus in Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Tennessee currently offer these plans, and South Dakota Farm Bureau will begin offering these plans in January 2022. Tennessee Farm Bureau in particular has more than 70 years of successful experience and technological advancements, and partners with several other state Farm Bureaus to present quality, affordable, health products to their members. The precedent set by Tennessee Farm Bureau has provided a successful model for other farm bureaus to pursue.

## **Q: Is this option insurance? \_\_\_\_\_**

No. This legislation would allow Texas Farm Bureau to offer its members health coverage not considered insurance. Because these plans will not be insurance, Texas Farm Bureau will be able to consider the health situation of each individual and develop plans to suit their needs.

Plans will be supported by contractual obligations to pay, the resources of Texas Farm Bureau and affiliated companies, and reinsurance. The plans will be backed by a third-party administrator who is authorized to conduct business in Texas. Coverage is backed by contractual obligations and will have an expansive national network of providers.

## **Q: How does the plan achieve cost savings OR will people be denied coverage? —————**

Each applicant will be individually rated based on their medical history. This will allow Texas Farm Bureau to offer coverage for significantly less than similar coverage under the ACA. To achieve those savings, some applicants may not receive coverage, although the goal will be to cover as many members as possible. Some may have waiting periods for conditions diagnosed prior to obtaining coverage under a health care benefit plan. Again, the goal will be to cover as many as possible. Even though there are no guarantees of coverage, the experience in Tennessee is that nearly 9 out of 10 applicants receive coverage.

If an individual does not qualify, other current options remain in place. The Texas Farm Bureau options add choice and will ultimately cover more lives in Texas.

## **Q: What happens if a member gets sick? Will I lose my coverage if I get sick? —————**

Once Texas Farm Bureau members are accepted and pay their premiums they will not be denied coverage as long as they continue to be a member. Coverage is available without threat of cancellation for health conditions. Premiums may increase as the performance of the pool of a particular plan changes or as the individual ages.

## **Q: What would Texas Farm Bureau Health Plans cover? —————**

Texas Farm Bureau Health Plans, through a third-party administrator, will offer plans that will feature many essential health benefits including office visits, hospitalization and telemedicine; prescription drug benefits; preventive, routine and wellness services; maternity, newborn and pediatric care; mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment; emergency room services; dental and vision coverage; outpatient services; rehabilitative services and devices; and laboratory services, just to name a few. Texas Farm Bureau Health Plans will offer quality health benefits backed by contractual obligations with the member.

Incorporated into the contracts will be a grievance process equivalent to the process required by the ACA. In addition, any person feeling aggrieved may file a complaint with the Attorney General.

## **Q: Who will benefit from Texas Farm Bureau's health benefits plans? —————**

Those who stand to gain the most are Texas Farm Bureau members in all 254 counties who don't have access to group insurance plans or work somewhere primarily for the health benefits. These would largely be farmers, those who work on farms, agribusiness people and rural entrepreneurs with fewer than 2 employees or who do not qualify for significant ACA subsidies. The plan should also reduce the number of uninsured individuals, support rural hospitals, and enhance the quality of life in rural communities.

## **More Questions?**

For more details, please contact:

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