

W. R. Berkley Corporation Names Michael Ekiss President of Berkley Agribusiness Risk Specialists

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GREENWICH, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE:WRB)** today announced that Michael Ekiss has been named president of Berkley Agribusiness Risk Specialists (BARS). The appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Ekiss has nearly 30 years of experience in the insurance industry, with a particular focus on agribusiness. Most recently, he served in leadership roles for the Midwest region of a leading U.S. insurer. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Nebraska and holds the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU[®]) and Associate in Commercial Underwriting (AU[™]) professional designations.

William R. Berkley, chairman and chief executive officer of W. R. Berkley Corporation, commented on the appointment: "Mike brings a wealth of knowledge and practical experience in all aspects of agribusiness insurance. Since its inception in 2009, the exceptional team at BARS has generated strong growth and profitability. We are confident that Mike's leadership will enable the unit to further expand nationally while developing their strong differentiation from competitors."

For further info about products and services available from Berkley Agribusiness Risk Specialists, visit www.berkleyag.com.

Founded in 1967, W. R. Berkley Corporation is an insurance holding company that is among the largest commercial lines writers in the United States and operates in three segments of the property casualty insurance business: Insurance-Domestic, Insurance-International and Reinsurance-Global.

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