



2017 Wisconsin Corn Yield Contest Winners

Columbia County

1. Mark Schroeder, DeForest, DuPont Pioneer, 280.183 bu/acre
2. Joe Berger, Cambria, Jung Seeds, 279.671 bu/acre
3. Nate Braaksma, Cambria, Jung Seeds, 274.4857 bu/acre

Dodge/Fond du Lac Counties

1. Brett King, Brownsville, DEKALB, 294.4694 bu/acre
2. Rob King, Brownsville, DEKALB, 289.2769 bu/acre
3. Jerry Kreuziger, Juneau, DEKALB, 283.2426 bu/acre

Juneau/Adams/Marquette Counties

1. Richard Lucas, Hancock, 233.5626 bu/acre

Rock County

1. Nick Venable, Janesville, Jung Seeds, 284.4022 bu/acre

Southern Wisconsin

1. Mike Berget, Graitot, DEKALB, 314.2086 bu/acre
2. Meghan Saunders, Graitot, DEKALB, 298.5043 bu/acre
3. Schram Farms, Berlin, DEKALB, 257.6874 bu/acre

Northern Wisconsin

1. Jeff Laskowski, Plover, DEKALB, 317.6421 bu/acre
2. Barb Laskowski, Plover, DEKALB, 312.0567 bu/acre
3. Cletus Kurowski, Shawano, Legacy Seeds, 225.4259 bu/acre

CALENDAR

February 1-2

Corn/Soy Expo
Wisconsin Dells

February 12-14

U.S. Grains Council
Winter Meeting
Houston, TX

February 26-March 1

NCGA Corn Congress &
Commodity Classic
Anaheim, CA

March 11-14

WCGA Policy Meetings
Washington, D.C.

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Student Membership

The Wisconsin Corn Growers Association is creating networking and educational opportunities by offering student memberships in the WCGA. Casey Kelleher, WCGA president, said, “We are excited to offer this opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of how government can affect their farms or future agricultural plans.” Memberships cost \$25 a year. **To join, students can visit wicorn.org/join.**

Register for the 2018 Corn/Soy Expo



This year’s Corn/Soy Expo will once again be held in the Wisconsin Dells at the Kalahari Resort, February 1–2. Come and hear industry professionals speak on a wide variety of topics, learn about the latest products and equipment by walking through the tradeshow, then take the opportunity to meet fellow growers. For Expo schedule and to register, visit cornsoyexpo.org.



FEBRUARY 1–2, 2018

Kalahari Resort
Wisconsin Dells

REGISTER:
cornsoyexpo.org

Meet Shelia Harsdorf At The Corn Pac Breakfast

Shelia Harsdorf, recently appointed Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and will be attending the 2018 Corn Pac breakfast during Corn/Soy Expo. If you would like to attend and meet Secretary Harsdorf, tickets for the Corn Pac Breakfast are available at cornsoyexpo.org for \$40.



Policy Update—by The Welch Group

December 2017

2017 was a good year for WCGA and its lobbying efforts in Madison. In September, we had our very first Corn Day at the Capitol. Members attending met with about 40 of our state's Legislators. We educated a lot of policy makers about Atrazine, ethanol, and how our industry is using smart farming to sustainably increase yields. Please plan on joining us in 2018 – it's a great way to support corn growers and agriculture in general.

OTHER 2017 SUCCESSES INCLUDE:

— **Ag Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP)** – After many years of effort, WCGA succeeded in making some very major changes to this program. Our official policy has been to eliminate the program and the fees that support it. While the program survived, the number of underground pollution cleanup sites has significantly declined, and the costs associated with the program have also dropped. Reforms also transfer the majority of the funding away from farmers to the agribusinesses that actually utilize the program.

As a result, pesticide surcharge fees are completely eliminated and fertilizer fees are dramatically reduced. This results in a 95% reduction in fees paid by farmers.

Growers also pay fees to support the Agricultural Chemical Management Account, and those fees were also reduced nearly 50%.

A “Fee Holiday” provision was also approved. If the ACCP fund balance exceeds \$1,500,000 in any given year, the next year there will be no fees collected from farmers. Due to the large balance currently in the ACCP account, the first fee holiday should begin this July and could be in place for 2 years.

— **High Capacity Wells** – As reported in the last newsletter, WCGA supported the bill on high cap wells that has been signed into law. Your existing well is no longer subject to being restricted or closed by new regulations and you are free to maintain, repair, or replace it.

— **Ethanol** – Through efforts of the WCGA and our partners, Wisconsin BioFuels Association, Wisconsin received federal funds to promote the retail availability of E15 and E85. Kwik Trip and Jetz Convenience Centers are just two of a growing number of retailers offering E15 and higher blends. WCGA has committed over \$700,000 since 2015 to the promotion of this new fuel. By the end of 2018, we expect over 400 stations to offer this fuel choice.

— **Drainage Districts** – A bill was recently signed into law making major reforms to drainage district law, including making it easier to dredge or maintain ditches. The new law will exempt ditch maintenance projects from wetlands permits, floodplain ordinances, and the handling of the dredged materials. It also makes some significant changes to district governance and fiscal requirements.

In 2018, WCGA will continue to advocate for the interests of Wisconsin's corn growers. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join WCGA and to volunteer to assist with our advocacy efforts.

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WCGA Directors

Casey Kelleher, Whitewater (President)
Doug Rebout, Janesville (Sec./Treasurer)
Zeb Zuehls, Montello (Vice President)

Jay Acker, Bay City

Ben Augustine, Sheldon

Mike Berget, Darlington

Steve Duwe, Johnson Creek

Mark Hoffmann, Whitewater

Crystal Romanowski, Stanley

Joe Lauer, UW Extension Corn Specialist

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

Andy Grebner, BASF

Tommy Jackson, Syngenta

WCGA Member Benefits



Reduced price on dozens of Ford and Lincoln vehicles. Contact WCGA office at nicole@wicorn.org to get access to the Ford partner website.



Registration discount for WCGA members to meet with industry reps and attend seminars.



10% discount on purchase of gift cards. Contact NCGA office at 636-733-9004 to place order.



Direct access to race updates, exclusive access to NASCAR gadgets, gear, race tickets and more. Register at www.ncga.com/racing.