Entries now being accepted for 2018 Corn Yield Contest

Entries are now being accepted for the annual Wisconsin Corn Yield Contest. Organized to encourage the development of new and innovative management practices, the contest highlights the importance of using sound agronomic practices in Wisconsin corn production systems.

To be eligible, entrants must be a WCGA member in good standing and the contest entry must be from a field of corn 10 or more acres in size of one variety. The contest area may be any shape, but the contest plot must be a total of 1.25 or more harvested acres.

To enter this year’s contest, visit www.wicorn.org/growers/corn-yield-contest.

Winners will be selected from six geographical divisions – the Northern and Southern divisions plus four county-specific divisions. The county-specific divisions are based on active county corn grower associations and include: Columbia County, Dodge-Fond Du Lac, Juneau-Adams-Marquette and Rock. In total, there are six eligible divisions that will award cash prizes to the first ($500), second ($250) and third ($100) place winners. The winning entry will have the highest corn yield based on bushels per acre. In the event of a tie, both entrants will be recognized as co-winners.

A supervisor is still required to oversee all computations and field measurements during harvest, weighing (gross and tare), and moisture testing; although, the supervisor eligibility requirements have been expanded per the official contest rules. The supervisor will require the entrant to run their combine and any transfer augers to be certain they are empty prior to harvesting the contest area. Additionally, all wagons or trucks will be checked to make certain they are empty.

Measuring wheels will be allowed for all measurements this year. New for 2019, active county organizations will only be able to have winners announced if they have had at least two meetings during the calendar year.

The entrant is responsible for mailing the information and must be postmarked, emailed or faxed by Dec. 31, 2018, to be eligible for this contest. No late entries will be accepted. There is no entry fee for this contest. Completed forms may be emailed to nicole@wicorn.org, faxed to (262) 372-3289 or mailed to Wisconsin Corn Growers Association at W226 N5956 Lynwood Dr., Lisbon, WI 53089. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting during Corn/Soy Expo.
Save the Date! 2019 WI Corn/Soy Expo: Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Annual event to feature new silent auction to benefit Wisconsin CORN PAC fund

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo, Jan. 31 – Feb. 1 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This year’s event will once again feature educational programming, a trade show and the Wisconsin Pork Association’s Taste of Elegance.

New this year will be a Wisconsin Corn silent auction, featuring everything from athletic tickets to bourbon and gift baskets. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Wisconsin CORN PAC – a political action committee designed to directly aid in protecting and promoting the corn industry in Wisconsin.

To learn more or to make a personal donation to the silent auction contact Nicole Wagner, Executive Director, at (262) 372-3289 or nicole@wicorn.org.

Additional information about the 2019 Corn/Soy Expo will be made available in coming weeks at https://cornsoyexpo.org/

Wisconsin Corn well-represented at Leadership at its Best

In early August, WCGA Board Members Mark Hoffmann (Whitewater) and Mike Berget (Darlington) and Sara Schoenborn, Wisconsin Corn Communications Director, joined 17 corn growers from across the country at the 2018-19 NCGA Leadership Academy, a part of Syngenta’s Leadership at its Best (LAIB) program.

The week-long training, in Raleigh, N.C. featured a variety of topics including: Understanding Your Personality and Leadership Styles; Media Training: How to communicate with media, develop relationships and “sell a story;” Policy Briefings; and Q & A with Syngenta seed and crop protection staff.

According to NCGA, “preparing these corn association and checkoff leaders to deliver the high level of service necessary for corn associations to achieve their goals and for the corn sector to lead American agriculture is vital for our association.

“For 2019, Syngenta redesigned LAIB to be a cross-commodity leadership program bringing together a diverse group of farmers across all the commodity programs they support. The program is designed to provide state corn grower leaders with advanced leadership training and the necessary communication skills to make a difference in American agriculture while advancing into leadership positions on a national level.”

Participants will travel to Washington D.C. in January for more in-depth workshops on Developing a Personal Advocacy Plan; Lobbying 201; Congressional meetings with your representative and senators; Role of social media advocacy; and Hosting successful field days.

For more information about leadership training opportunities with Wisconsin Corn, contact Nicole Wagner, at (262) 372-3289 or nicole@wicorn.org.
Policy Update | The Welch Group

As the 2018 harvest season is underway there are still several things to report on how the WCGA has been advocating for Wisconsin corn.

**Ethanol** – Because of efforts by WCGA to promote higher ethanol blends and to cost share in new pump installations, Wisconsin now has over 200 stations offering E15 to consumers as Unleaded 88. Over half of all Kwik Trip stations in Wisconsin now offer E15, as well as E85. Select Cenex, Jetz, and several other “unbranded” stations have also added the new mid-grade fuel. We expect Kwik Trip to continue to add E15 to all its stations and we also expect a number of cooperatively-owned stations to adopt the new fuel as well.

**Wetlands** – Recently enacted wetland permitting reforms are now in place for those seeking to make improvements around the farm. The reforms, which WCGA supported, remove state wetlands regulations from artificial wetlands and non-Federal wetlands. There are also some other provisions of the reforms that specifically apply to farm property owners. Feel free to call us if you are looking for information in advance of a project.

**Atrazine** – Wisconsin remains the only state in the country to have areas in which all Atrazine use is banned. Many of those areas were created over 20 years ago and have been clear of any Atrazine in tests for many years. WCGA is working to provide for limited use of Atrazine in selected areas. With herbicide resistance on the rise, growers need access to products with different modes of action.

WCGA will continue to stand up for Wisconsin’s corn growers with all our government officials. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join WCGA and to volunteer to assist with our advocacy efforts.

Reminder: Download the NCGA Action App today!

The free NCGA Action mobile app provides supporters with tools and information to educate and inform others about corn and the top issues confronting our nation’s corn growers. The application enables users to take action from a smartphone, providing access to:

- Talking points on key legislative and regulatory issues
- A Take Action Center for voicing support on important legislation before Congress
- Live-sharing of multimedia on social media networks
- Live Twitter updates
- Congressional and state legislative directories
- A “mini-app” for state corn associations to share state news and legislative issues
- A membership benefits and application area

Digital tools like this are being used more by farmers and are critical when we need to make our voices heard on critical legislation. Farmers know the importance of being connected to the issues – especially during planting and harvest – and being able to take action anywhere and anytime, within minutes, can help us protect our members’ freedom to operate and defend and expand important markets for our corn.

NCGA Action is available for both Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

For best use of this app, it is recommended users select to receive push notifications when downloading and setting it up.

– NCGA
USGC Summer Meeting focuses on international trade and market opportunities

The 58th Annual Board of Delegates meeting of the U.S. Grains Council was held in early August, with seven WCGA members and staff attending on behalf of Wisconsin corn growers.

“We gather at this meeting to discuss the dynamic and developing environment for global grains trade as well as demand opportunities for feed grains and their co-products around the world,” said Deb Keller, USGC chairman and farmer from Iowa. “Our goal is always to better understand agriculture’s role in world trade and how to maintain good working relationships with our international trading partners while we explore new export frontiers.”

Meeting sessions focused heavily on trade challenges and emerging markets. WCGA was represented by Jim Birchman, Tom Gillis, Ken Rosenow, Randy Woodruff, Jim Zimmerman, Nicole Wagner and Sara Schoenborn.

2018 NCGA Corn Congress highlights grower action, impact

A delegation of WCGA members, directors and staff traveled to Washington D.C. in July to attend the NCGA’s Corn Congress and Action Team and Committee Meetings. WCGA was represented on the Market Access Action Team by Bill Hoffman and on the Stewardship Action Team by Randy Woodruff.

Wisconsin’s voting delegates included: Mike Berget, Casey Kelleher, Doug Rebout and Bill Rohloff.

As part of the proceedings, the delegation made visits on the Hill with the following elected officials, or their staff: Speaker Ryan, Representatives Pocan, Grothman, Gallagher, Duffy, Moore, Sensenbrenner and Kind, and Senators Johnson and Baldwin. Issues discussed included year-round ethanol, international trade and waterways.

In addition to general business, delegates elected the following to serve as new members of the NCGA Board of Directors: Deb Gangwish of Nebraska, Dennis Maple of Indiana and Harold Wolle, Jr. of Minnesota. Current board members Bruce Rohwer of Iowa and Jeff Sandborn of Michigan were re-elected. Gangwish, Maple, Rohwer and Wolle were elected to three-year terms. Sandborn will serve the unexpired one-year term left open by Kevin Ross, NCGA’s first vice president elect for Fiscal Year 2019.

Wisconsin Corn representatives on the Hill during NCGA’s Corn Congress. Pictured (left to right) back row: Luke Goessling, Casey Kelleher, Bill Hoffman, Randy Woodruff, Doug Rebout, Cal Dalton and Bob Welch; front row: Bill and Rhonda Rohloff, Julia Hoffman, Ashley Kelleher, Nicole Wagner, Julie Woodruff, Brandi Goessling and Mike Berget.

Image courtesy of USGC

Jim Zimmerman attends a USGC general session.

Image courtesy of USGC
Wisconsin Corn celebrates Corn Grower Night at the Races

On Sept. 1, the Wisconsin Corn program hosted 45 WCGA members and guests at the annual Ethanol Night at the Races. The event, which combines an evening of comradery and fun with an exciting sporting event, aims to also highlight the importance of ethanol to the corn industry and its use in the automotive and racing industries.

Nearly one-third of the corn harvested in Wisconsin in 2017 (510 million bushels on 2.93 million acres), was used for the production of ethanol.

“Wisconsin Corn Night at the Races is a great way to give something back to our growers and encourage members to meet other members from throughout the state,” says Nicole Wagner, Executive Director.

At the September event, Casey Johnson earned 14th place, with John Beale placing 18th.

Since the event, Johnson won the TUNDRA Super Late Model Series Championship and Beale finished second for the year overall. To learn more about Beale Racing, visit https://www.bealeracing.com/
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