



W226N5956 Lynwood Drive
Lisbon, WI 53089

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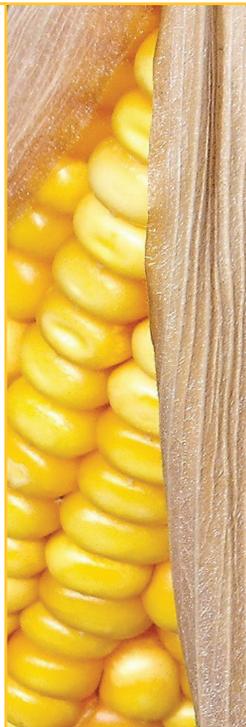
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Tom Bressner, Wisconsin Agri-Business Assn.
Dale Drachenberg, Didion Ethanol



WCGA to host Grassroots Workshop April 16-17

The Wisconsin Corn Growers Association (WCGA) was recently awarded a Reaching for Excellence Seed Grant from the National Corn Growers Association, to support a Grassroots Workshop in conjunction with the organization's annual Corn Day at the Capitol in Madison.

The Grassroots Workshop, which will be held April 16-17, will be designed to educate Wisconsin Corn Growers Association members as to the importance of WCGA, the impact they can have individually on their local, state and national governments and potentially highlight future board member candidates.

"We are excited to be able to help a new group of corn growers understand the value their voices have in Madison and help our elected officials understand the how their decisions can help or hurt the agricultural community," says Nicole Wagner, Wisconsin Corn Executive Director.

Tentative Schedule

April 16

11 a.m.	Registration
Noon	Lunch
1 p.m.	Lobbying 101 with Steve Uram (NCGA)
2:30 p.m.	Federal Issues with NCGA's Washington, D.C. Staff
3:00 p.m.	Media Interview Training
5 to 6:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner at Tornado Steakhouse

April 17

7 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Social Media Strategies with Steve Uram (NCGA)
10 a.m.	State Issues with Shawn Pfaff
Noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Corn Day at the Capitol
2:30 p.m.	Legislative Visits
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.	Reception

Those interested in learning more about the Grassroots Workshop or how to get involved with member committees may contact Nicole Wagner at nicole@wicorn.org or (262) 372-3289.

CALENDAR

March 21
WI Corn Board Meetings
Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

April 16 - 17
Grassroots Workshop
Madison, Wis.

April 17
Corn Day at the Capitol
Madison, Wis.

June 10 - 13
Wisconsin FFA Convention
Madison, Wis.



WI Corn Staff

Nicole Wagner
Executive Director
(262) 372-3289
nicole@wicorn.org

Sara Schoenborn
Communications Director
(608) 223-1111
sara@wicorn.org

Wisconsin Corn program unveils Wisconsin Corn Foundation, Inc.

The Wisconsin Corn Program is proud to announce the founding of its sister organization – the Wisconsin Corn Foundation, Inc.

The new foundation has been established with the goal of providing scholarships as well as funding for students to attend educational events such as Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo and Commodity Classic.

The inaugural board of directors consists of: Mark Hoffmann – President, Casey Kelleher – Vice President, Ryan Ripp – Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Berget, Jim Birchman, Luke Goessling, Bill Rohloff, Randy Woodruff



and ex-officio members Andy Grebner and Joe Lauer.

“The Wisconsin Corn program has always been dedicated to educating consumers, legislators and producers as to the value of Wisconsin corn,” says Mark Hoffmann, Wisconsin Corn Foundation President. “The Wisconsin Corn Foundation was the next logical step as we look to support and invest in the next generation of Wisconsin corn growers.”

The Wisconsin Corn Foundation was introduced at the 2019 Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo in the Wisconsin Dells.

2018 Corn Yield Contest winners

At the Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo, WCGA named the 2018 Wisconsin Corn Yield Contest winners.

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.

Winners were selected from six geographical divisions – the Northern and Southern divisions plus four county-specific divisions. The county-specific divisions were based on active county corn grower associations and included: Columbia, Dodge-Fond Du Lac, Juneau-Adams-Marquette and Rock. In total, there were six eligible divisions that were awarded cash prizes to the first (\$500), second (\$250) and third (\$100) place winners, where applicable. The winning entries had the highest corn yield based on bushels per acre.

The 2018 winners were:

Columbia County Corn Growers

Joe Berger, Cambria – 213.6785 bu/acre

Dodge/Fond du Lac County Corn Growers

David McArthur, Rosendale – 281.1734 bu/acre

Dennis Pinch, Rosendale – 277.3096 bu/acre
Jerry Kreuziger, Juneau – 252.2141 bu/acre

Juneau/Adams/Marquette County Corn Growers

Richard Lucas, Hancock – 237.6681 bu/acre
Jody Lucas, Hancock – 222.9555 bu/acre

Rock County Corn Growers

Nick Venable, Janesville – 278.5834 bu/acre
Arndt Farms, Janesville – 274.4595 bu/acre

Southern Wisconsin

Betty Steiger, Bloomington – 304.2245 bu/acre
Gene Steiger, Bloomington – 297.2032 bu/acre
Caleb Wolters, Cuba City – 283.0722 bu/acre

Northern Wisconsin

Jeff Laskowski, Plover – 294.1373 bu/acre
Barb Laskowski, Plover – 289.1996 bu/acre
Zac Soltvedt, Seymour – 284.2579 bu/acre

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.



Policy Update | WCGA's Key Priorities for 2019

The Resolutions Committee met in January to review WCGA's Resolutions and set priorities for the coming year. The key issues identified include:

1. Trade Agreements

- a. We support the elimination of existing tariffs and non-tariff barriers and the expansion of trade agreements.
- b. We support maintaining access to Mexican and Canadian markets through strong trade agreements and ratification of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA).
- c. We support the expedited renewal of negotiations bilaterally or multilaterally within the Pacific Rim countries based on the framework established in TPP.

2. Groundwater

We support common sense practices to maintain or improve groundwater quality and quantity that are science-based.

3. Responsible Nutrient Management

We support the intent of current nonpoint pollution regulations and continued enforcement with rules based on a common-sense approach to maintaining and increasing Wisconsin's livestock industry. Nutrient management rules should be reasonable, allow for field level decisions, and include farmer input in development and implementation. We support efforts to coordinate federal, state and local regulations to eliminate conflicting rules.

4. Transportation

We support adequate funding of the state and federal transportation budgets. We support reasonable rules and regulations regarding implements of husbandry that recognize the importance of modern agricultural equipment. We oppose charging farmers for the use, maintenance or upgrade of local roads not designed and/or maintained for modern agricultural equipment. We oppose improper application of road damage statutes. We support maintaining the current system of permits for overweight containers and harvest exemptions.

We support improving and replacing parts of the aging Mississippi River lock and dam system.

5. Use Value Assessment of Farmland

We support efforts to protect Use Value Assessment of agricultural lands as vital to the economic viability of Wisconsin agriculture.

6. Wetlands

Wisconsin farmers should be allowed to maintain existing drainage structures and make repairs and improvements to drainage systems as necessary.

7. Renewable Fuels in Wisconsin

We support higher blends of ethanol in Wisconsin, national efforts to use 15% ethanol blends in automobiles and ongoing promotion of E-85. We strongly support the Renewable Fuel Standard for biofuels and support the statutory RVO levels of RFS 2. We support the removal of regulatory market barriers, such as Reid Vapor Pressure rules, on the use of higher blends of ethanol. We support the education of consumers on the environmental benefits from increased use of higher octane motor fuel.

8. Atrazine

Atrazine has been used and tested for over 60 years and has been proven to be a safe and effective herbicide. Wisconsin rules need to be changed so that they no longer put our state growers at a disadvantage to growers in other states. Based on sound science, farmland should be released from prohibition areas.

9. DNR Board

Because farmers own much of Wisconsin's land and are greatly impacted by DNR actions, we support the requirement that at least one member of the DNR Board be an active farmer, who earns a majority of their income from production agriculture.

Corn/Soy Expo boasts record attendance despite weather

The 2019 Corn/Soy Expo was held Jan. 31 through Feb. 1 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Nearly 1,200 attendees and exhibitors battled the “polar vortex” to be a part of the annual event.

Attendees were able to attend the Wisconsin Corn Program Annual Meetings (learn more about the two newly-elected WCGA board members below) as well as a host of educational breakout sessions focused on topics ranging from mental health to water hemp and cover crops to succession planning in a down economy.

Paul Mitchell provided the Grand Opening and special guest Keni Thomas, member of the infamous “Black Hawk Down” mission, gave an inspiring speech on leadership and motivation to close the conference.

New this year was the Corn PAC and Foundation Silent Auctions, which raised an impressive \$5,050 and \$1,325, respectively. If you or your organization are interested

in donating an item to the auction(s) next year, please contact Sara at sara@wicorn.org.

To see PowerPoint Presentations from the 2019 Corn/Soy Expo, visit <https://cornsoyexpo.org>. Save the date for next year’s event: Feb. 6-7, 2020.

WCGA responds to NFL Super Bowl ad

“We are disappointed with Bud Light’s decision to use the world’s largest stage to promote a misleading message that is damaging to the reputation of corn,” says Doug Rebut, WCGA President. “Today, more than ever, our members are struggling with low prices, uncertain markets and the spreading of misinformation about our practices and our products. While trying to boost sales, Bud Light has forgotten the importance of the people who provide this country with food, fiber and fuel. If the public wants to see what farmers value – what they strive to accomplish every day – then the Super Bowl commercial they should watch is Ram Truck’s 2013 ad: ‘Farmer.’”

WCGA Board of Directors welcomes Giese and Knoebel



Wisconsin Corn Growers Association Board

James Giese

Giese Farms
Alma Center, Wis.

Corn Acres: 1,700
Soybean Acres: 1,500
Dairy: 140 head

Industry/Community Organizations: Jackson County Fair; Limited Pro Stock Tractor Pulling; Jackson County Farm Bureau

“I look forward to learning more about grassroots advocacy and being a representative for Wisconsin’s corn growers.”



Wisconsin Corn Growers Association Board

Steve Knoebel

Maple Mound Farms
Helenville, Wis.

Corn Acres: 1,300
Soybean Acres: 800

Industry/Community Organizations: Chairman, United Ethanol Board of Directors; Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; Town of Farmington Land Use Plan Committee

“I joined the WI Corn Growers Board to increase my knowledge of corn marketing and to network with other corn producers.”

Leadership at its Best participants complete DC program

Corn farmers from across the country traveled to Washington in January to take part in the second phase of the annual leadership development programs co-sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association and Syngenta. Wisconsin’s participants included Mike Berget, Mark Hoffmann and Sara Schoenborn.

The Leadership At Its Best class received briefings on the issues facing America’s farmers in the coming year followed by presentations from lobbyist and Hill staffer panels explaining how the lobbying process functions in Washington, D.C. to get the best result from interaction with members of Congress and their staff. They then had the opportunity to see the process in action during a series of visits with congressional leaders. Additionally, the group participated in parliamentary procedure training with NCGA Parliamentarian Chris Dickey.



Leadership at its Best participants in front of the White House.

Phase one of Leadership At Its Best took place in August and included sessions on media training, public speaking, advocacy and meeting management.

Conference highlights “When Trade Works, The World Wins”

The 16th International Marketing Conference and 59th Annual Membership Meeting was held Feb. 11-13 in Cartagena, Colombia. A Caribbean hub for container shipping, Colombia is a free trade agreement partner and an important consumer of feed grains that support a thriving swine and poultry industry. Currently, Colombia is the #4 U.S. corn market, #10 U.S. ethanol market and #7 market for U.S. corn gluten feed and meal.

In addition to learning about the relationship between the U.S. and Colombia, Wisconsin’s attendees participated in advisory team, sector and Board of Delegates meetings. A few also toured a nearby palm oil extraction mill and plantation.

