

WISCONSIN CORN NEWSLETTER



CALENDAR

**All dates & locations are current at the time of printing.*

June 19

Madison Mallards Event

July 13 - 16

July Corn Congress & Action
Teams Meetings
Washington D.C.

July 24

Madison Mallards Event

July 28

Summer Meetings
WCGA & WCP Board of Directors
Watertown office

July 29-31

U.S. Grains Council Summer Meeting
Milwaukee, Wis.

Wisconsin Corn Growers Warn of Iran Conflict Impacts on Fuel and Fertilizer

Wisconsin corn growers are raising concerns about the impact of the Iran conflict and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz on fuel and fertilizer costs as planting season begins.

Diesel prices have already increased sharply, adding immediate pressure for farmers who rely on fuel for planting and transportation. At the same time, fertilizer markets are tightening, with nitrogen prices rising and supply uncertainty growing during a critical time.

“Wisconsin corn growers are once again facing rising costs that are completely outside of their control,” said Paul Jarvis, President of the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association. “Higher fuel and fertilizer prices tied to global instability are hitting at the worst possible time—right as we head into planting.”

Wisconsin Corn Growers joined partners from Illinois and other state associations in Washington, D.C. for a joint fly-in, meeting with members of Congress, federal agencies, and key non-governmental organizations to discuss the challenges facing farmers.

During meetings on Capitol Hill, growers emphasized the urgent need for:

- Year-round E15 access to provide a stable, domestic fuel supply
- Strong trade agreements like USMCA to maintain critical export markets
- Continued investment in infrastructure through WRDA, including locks and dams
- A modern, effective Farm Bill that reflects today’s farm economy

[Read More...](#)

[Access the most recent “Ears in Washington” article from NCGA covering this topic.](#)



672 Johnson St STE 305
Watertown WI 53094-6212

Reach us at 262-372-3289!

Message from the President



The weather is telling us, quite loudly in some parts of the state, that spring is here. Farmers are itching to get into the fields and begin the 2026 growing season.

Some of the busiest times for our Wisconsin Corn growers are just ahead, but we have been busy working for you the past couple of months in state and federal policy.

In state policy, Wisconsin Corn is focusing on policies that directly impact farm profitability, infrastructure, and long-term sustainability. These policies include:

- Funding for the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program
- Conservation programs like watershed groups, nitrogen optimization, and cover crop incentives.
- Improving efficient grain transportation through increased weight limits, and strengthening rural workforce capacity through CDL training programs.
- Supporting livestock agriculture through veterinary workforce initiatives.

Through direct engagement in Washington, D.C.—including fly-ins, congressional meetings, and coalition efforts—Wisconsin Corn advocated for policies that expand demand and improve market access. Some of our focuses include:

- Securing year-round E15
- Trade policy
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue to stay plugged in to state and federal policy as well as consumer outreach to benefit our state's growers.

Good Luck this spring to all as planting season begins!

-Paul



Wisconsin Corn Special Event

LIMITED SPACE

June 19 & July 24

Contact Brenda for more details!

Wisconsin Corn Growers Held Annual Elections

The Wisconsin Corn Growers Association held its annual elections and board reorganization during the 2026 Corn•Soy Expo, with members casting ballots to determine leadership and board representation for the coming year.

As part of the organization's annual meeting, the WCGA Board of Directors also convened to reorganize officer positions. The board elected Paul Jarvis as President, Rick Gehrke as Vice President and Nick Felder as Secretary-Treasurer.

The following individuals were elected to serve on the WCGA Board of Directors:

Ben Augustine farms 2,600 acres of corn, soybeans and other row crops in Rusk County alongside his family, in addition to managing a dairy operation with 1,100 cows and operating a trucking business. He previously served on the WCGA Board, including four years as Vice President, and is currently a member of the National Corn Growers Association Resolutions Committee and an Advisory Team participant with the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council.

Don Lutz farms approximately 1,300 acres of corn and soybeans near Waupaca and Portage, including 500 irrigated acres. He brings more than 20 years of involvement with WCGA and extensive leadership experience with state and national soybean organizations, local cooperatives and the USDA, where he worked as an agricultural statistician for 35 years.

Hank Goessling is actively involved in his family's farming operation in Whitewater and their dump truck business. As a young producer, he brings a next-generation perspective to the board and is focused on learning, collaboration and supporting family farms across Wisconsin.

Kate Lonze was elected to serve as Affiliate Director. She has worked in crop insurance for more than a decade and has experience across multiple areas of agricultural production through her family's grain and agribusiness operations. She is also currently serving on a National Corn Growers Association Action Team.

Beukema Joins WI Corn as Program Manager

We are pleased to announce Haley Beukema, New Richmond, stepped into the role of Program Manager with her official duties beginning on April 13. In this role, Beukema will work to advance advocacy efforts, communications, membership engagement, grower programs and organizational operations. Beukema will also facilitate building meaningful relationships with members, supporting statewide outreach efforts and ensuring that Wisconsin Corn programs and events operate smoothly.

Beukema brings a unique skillset and background to this position. As a graduate of the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities with a degree in agricultural communication and marketing, Beukema understands the complexities of engagement and communications while valuing the impact of personal relationships and in-person interactions. “I am excited for the opportunity to work alongside growers from across Wisconsin to promote such a valuable commodity to our state,” said Beukema. “I look forward to interacting with growers as well as other Wisconsin agricultural entities to support the growth and success of Wisconsin Corn.

“We are excited to welcome Haley to the team at Wisconsin Corn,” said Brenda Damrow Gudex, Wisconsin Corn Executive Director. “With her passion for agriculture and strong attention to detail, we look forward to the impact that she will have on strengthening our organization.”



Haley's Contact Information:
haley@wicorn.org
262-372-3289

Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board Elects New Officers

The Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board (WCPB) announced the election of its officer team following board elections and reorganization held during its March 2026 board meetings.

Casey Kelleher of Whitewater was elected to serve as president of the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board. Shane Goplin of Osseo was elected vice president, and Zac Soltvedt was elected secretary/treasurer.

These officer elections follow the certification of recent board election results by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), which confirmed that Randall Woodruff (District 1), Shane Goplin (District 2), and Ken Rosenow (District 7) were reelected to the board to serve new three-year terms.

The officer team will help guide the strategic direction of the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board, overseeing investments of corn checkoff dollars to support research, market development, and education efforts that benefit Wisconsin corn growers.

The Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board is composed of farmer-leaders representing nine districts across the state. Through the corn checkoff program, the board manages approximately \$1.9 million annually to strengthen demand for Wisconsin corn and enhance profitability for growers.

The 2025–2026 legislative session wrapped up this spring, and throughout it, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association (WCGA) was at the Capitol making sure your voice was heard. From roads and transportation to new market opportunities and protecting your ability to farm, this session was about one thing—standing up for Wisconsin corn growers.

This biennial budget included real wins that will impact your day-to-day operation. A \$150 million investment in the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program will help improve rural roads, bridges, and culverts—making it easier and safer to move your grain, inputs, and equipment.

There was also continued support for conservation programs that many of you are already putting to work, including funding for nitrogen optimization, cover crops, and producer-led watershed groups. These programs help you stay productive while meeting growing expectations around water quality. Workforce challenges didn't go unnoticed either. New funding for commercial driver training and support for meat and dairy processors helps strengthen the entire supply chain that your corn feeds into.

WCGA pushed for—and saw progress on—policies that help you move grain more efficiently and build demand.

Legislation headed to the Governor includes:

- Increased weight limits for hauling grain, feed, and fertilizer
- Investments in short-line rail infrastructure
- Commercial driver training programs to address trucking shortages

At the same time, we continued pushing for new demand opportunities. A sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) tax credit—designed to create new markets for corn—didn't pass this session, but it remains a top priority moving forward.

Some of the biggest issues for growers are the ones that didn't quite get across the finish line—but we made progress. The sandhill crane legislation passed the Assembly but stalled in the Senate. We know the impact cranes are having in the field, and WCGA will continue pushing for solutions that give farmers tools to manage that damage. We also supported efforts around nutrient management and additional road funding flexibility—both of which remain important as we head into the next session.

Just as important, WCGA worked to stop proposals that would have created more red tape or limited your access to crop protection tools. Protecting your ability to make decisions on your farm remains a top priority.

With the session complete, the focus now shifts to elections and preparing for the next round of policy work. WCGA will also continue strengthening relationships in Madison and in Washington, D.C., making sure Wisconsin corn growers have a seat at the table.

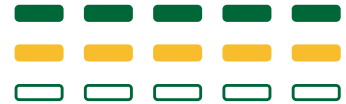
WI Corn in Action:

[Corn•Soy Expo Delivers Another Good Couple Days for Wisconsin Growers](#)

[Wisconsin Corn Represents Growers at Global Trade Meetings in Panama](#)



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Wisconsin Corn Growers Association Board of Directors

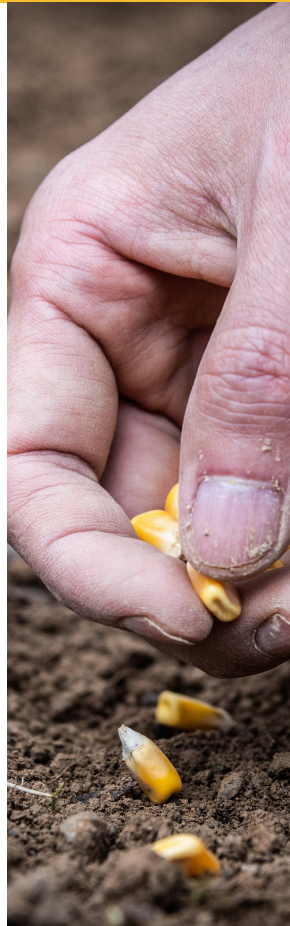
President: Paul Jarvis, Wautoma
Vice President: Rick Gehrke, Omro
Secretary/Treasurer: Nick Felder, Lancaster

Directors

Ben Augustine, Sheldon
James Giese, Alma Center
Hank Goessling, Whitewater
Don Lutz, Scandinavia
Grant Melms, Orfordville
Kyle Van Bogaert, Belmont
Brent Wink, Glenwood City

Associate Directors

Kate Lonze, Premier Insurance



Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board of Directors

President: Casey Kelleher (Dist. 8)
Vice President: Shane Goplin, Osseo
(Dist. 2)
Secretary/Treasurer: Zac Soltvedt,
Seymour (Dist. 3)

Directors

Randy Woodruff, Chippewa Falls – Dist. 1
Cal Dalton, Endeavor – Dist. 4
Mike Berget, Darlington – Dist. 5
Ryan Ripp, Lodi – Dist. 6
Ken Rosenow, Oconomowoc – Dist. 7
Randy Hughes, Janesville – Dist. 9

Ex-Officio Directors

Grace Howe, Wisconsin Agri-Business
Assn.
Garry Gard, Didion Ethanol