



# Kansas Corn Corps- Class 2

## *Young farmer program information*

### Program mission

Kansas Corn Corps is a program focused on providing information to young corn farmers with the tools, information and network, to enhance their corn farming operations and the industry across the state.

### Program objectives

- Provide information and opportunities for young corn farmers to learn information that will enhance their farming operations
- Create a network of Kansas corn farmers providing the platform for continued outreach and future relationships
- Build an opportunity for state-level engagement for corn farmers

### Program schedule- bold are required

- December 9-11, 2017- **Launch weekend, Session 1**
- February (dates TBD) 2018- **Session 2**
- Summer 2018- **Domestic agriculture trip**- Location set by participants
- Fall social 2018
- February (dates TBD) 2019- **Session 3**
- Feb. 28- March 2, 2019- Commodity Classic in Orlando, FL

### Program curriculum

The Kansas Corn Corps program is focused on providing participants the opportunity to learn new techniques, strategies and information they can take back to their farming operation. In addition, it is open to couples, as well as singles, to give both parties the time to come together in learning and bring multiple perspectives from the farm. Finally, the program is designed to provide areas for engagement to enhance the Kansas corn industry and networking opportunities with other corn farmers from across the state.

The Kansas Corn Corps Class 1 will have the opportunity to provide input and define the agendas for Session 2, Session 3 and the Domestic Agriculture Trip.

### Eligibility

- Participants must be either individuals or farming couples actively engaged in Kansas corn production
- Participants must be 45 years old or younger
- Men and women are encouraged to apply
- An applicant who is actively engaged in corn production, but is employed by an operation must have employer approval
- Member of Kansas Corn Growers Association

## **Application & reference forms**

- Incomplete or late applications will **not** be eligible for selection
- Applications must ask two references to complete the reference form and submit them to Kansas Corn by **September 15, 2017**
- Reference forms from an applicant's family member, including their father, mother, siblings or grandparents, will not be accepted
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm completed applications and reference forms have been received by Kansas Corn. Late reference forms will disqualify the applicant's application from selection eligibility
- Kansas Corn will send confirmation to each applicant once their application and two references are received.

## **Selection process**

Following the application deadline, all complete applications and references will be reviewed by a committee. The committee is comprised of a Kansas Corn Growers Association board member, a Kansas Corn Commission commissioner, corn industry professionals and a representative from the Kansas Corn office.

Class members will be notified by the Kansas Corn office by October 20, 2017. Class will be limited to 15 participants. Couples count as one participant.

Full consideration will be made to select a class, based on the applicant pool, which is representative of the Kansas corn industry, its diversity and rural community interests.

## **Application and selection schedule**

- January 1, 2017- Applications made available from Kansas Corn
- September 15, 2017- Applications are due to Kansas Corn
- October 20, 2017- Class members notified

## **Expectations**

Participants in Kansas Corn Corps Class 2 have been carefully selected based on desire to participate, networking interest and industry engagement potential. The program is a large investment by Kansas Corn and the corn industry, and by agreeing to participate in Kansas Corn Corps, each class member takes on the responsibility of future engagement back to the industry. Kansas Corn Corps participants are expected to attend the sessions, approaching each with an open mind, a willingness to learn and a commitment to serving the Kansas corn industry.

## **Time commitment**

The Kansas Corn Corps program will require a time commitment of 14 days over 16 months for the required events. The required events are the Launch Weekend/Session 1, Session 2, Session 3 and the Domestic Agriculture Trip.

## **Attendance**

Missed sessions cost both the participant and the program. It is also critically important for class members to participate entirely in each session. Late arrivals and early departures are not allowed. If participants are not able to attend any required session, you will be responsible for contacting Kansas Corn staff at least 10 days in advance. More than one absence from required events, may result in action from the Kansas Corn team. Potential examples of excused absences are:

- Immediate family illness or emergency
- Legitimate business emergency
- Illness
- Natural disaster
- Legal requirements

## **Code of conduct**

When participating in Kansas Corn Corps sessions and events, class members will be considered representatives of the Kansas corn industry and are asked to conduct themselves accordingly. Although we suggest participants use their best judgement to wisely represent the program, below are some guidelines:

- All Kansas Corn Corps participants should, at all times, maintain the utmost personal and professional standards
- Organizers understand the urgent requirements placed on each class member in various roles as business owner, manager, family member and community leader. However out of respect for presenters and other participants, cell phone use (including text and email) should be limited to scheduled breaks, unobligated travel time or non-program time whenever possible.

## **Expenses**

Kansas Corn staff will cover most program-related expenses for Kansas Corn Corps participants including travel, hotel, most meal, sessions and program materials. On occasion participants may have a meal on their own, the cost of which will be their responsibility of each participant. In order for spouses to be included in events, they must participate in sessions and be included in the application process.

## **Travel**

Kansas Corn staff is responsible for booking accommodations unless participants are notified otherwise. Participants will expense the cost of the room, however incidentals, such as movies, are the responsibility of the participant.

For the 2018 Commodity Classic and Domestic Agriculture Trip, Kansas Corn will have travel costs outlined prior to planning the trip.

## **Spouses**

Spousal support of Kansas Corn Corps class members is important, and they have the ability to participate in the program. In order to participate, spouses must be included in the application process and must attend all of the required events if they want to participate. Spouses who are not participating in the program, are invited to attend the fall social event and the recognition event in February 2019 of class completion. They can also attend the 2019 Commodity Classic, at their own expense.

## **Dress code**

Kansas Corn Corps will provide participants a variety of situations during the 16-month program, requiring varying levels of dress. The schedule will clearly state the attire that is appropriate. For field tours, please consider appropriate footwear.

Business attire

- Men- business suit, or sport coat, tie with slacks
- Women- professional dress or business suit

Business casual:

- Men- collared shirt with casual slacks or cotton trousers, i.e. khakis
- Women- casual slacks or skirt with blouse, sweater or similar

## **Evaluations**

Following the conclusion of each Kansas Corn Corps session, class members are asked to fill out evaluations provided by the Kansas Corn office. These evaluations play an important role in the continued success and future development of the Kansas Corn Corps program.

## **Thank you notes**

Thank you notes will be provided by the Kansas Corn office, and each participant is asked to send handwritten, personalized notes to speakers and sponsors.

## **Program contact**

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