

# KANSAS CORN | MEMBER UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter of Kansas Corn

Summer Update 2017



Ken McCauley

## Corn Farmers Make a Difference in DC— Key Takeaways from Corn Congress

Commentary by Ken McCauley, KCGA President

Trade, farm bill, ethanol, regulatory relief and infrastructure were the hot topics at this summer's Corn Congress in Washington DC. I was part of a group of seven Kansas Corn leaders who participated in Corn Congress, which is the delegate session of the National Corn Growers Association. But there's a lot more that happens on this week. NCGA action teams meet on Monday and Tuesday of Corn Congress week. These teams do the detail work on the issues and activities of the corn growers. The rest of the week is filled with two delegate sessions for Corn Congress, where we set the direction for NCGA. We also go on hill visits, where we talk to our senators and representatives and their staff. The action team meetings, delegate sessions and hill visits are packed into four very full days.

Corn Congress gives us an opportunity to discuss the issues and how NCGA should proceed. The 2018 Farm Bill was discussed and a lot of ideas were voiced. I came away knowing we, as corn farmers need to be looking at what we want the next farm bill to look like.

**I'd like each of you to ask yourself:** how are the current farm bill programs working for me? What do I think the future will look like and what kind of programs will work for me in the future? I think a lot of us who signed up for ARC are now thinking in hindsight the PLC program would have been a better deal. Is a better PLC program with a higher target price the way to go? Can we fix the ARC program and the problems we've been facing with discrepancies on county-level data (and payments)? I'd like to add that Kansas and other states have been working closely with NCGA to find a solution to the ARC county issue. On crop insurance, we came away from our discussions with the feeling that there is good support to

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Kansas Corn District Listening Tour to Make Six Stops in August

All corn growers are invited to join us for a breakfast or dinner meeting to talk about Corn Commission checkoff investments, discuss the association's legislative priorities and more. Please RSVP for meal counts at [kscom.com/events](http://kscom.com/events), or call 785-448-6922.

**Aug. 14 at 7 am**— 4-H Centennial Hall, 2000 N Poplar St., Hutchinson

**Aug. 14 at 6 pm**— Fulton Valley Farms, 5079 SW Fulton Rd., Towanda

**Aug. 15 at 7 am**— Atchison Event Center, 710 S. 9th Street, Atchison

**Aug. 21 at 7 am**— SureFire Ag, 9904 Highway 25, Atwood

**Aug. 21 at 6 pm**— 4-H Building, 608 N Fairground Rd, Scott City

**Aug. 22 at 7 am**— Carrico Implement, 1104 E 8th St., Ellsworth



Senate Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts sat down with our group and discussed several issues related to ag. It was at the end of our day, well after 5 p.m., but the Senator was on his way to more meetings. Pictured here left to right: Senator Roberts; Pat Ross, Lawrence; Randy Small, Neodesha, and Brian Baalman, Menlo.

## Comments from Ken—

# Kansas Corn Farmers Make a Difference in DC

(Continued from page 1)

keep a strong crop insurance program like it is today, but we also know there will be efforts to cut its funding. There is also talk of increasing acres in the CRP program, and we need to think about the positive and negative effects that could have on farmers. What do you think? KCGA's Farm Bill Survey is still available on our website and we are still seeking input from farmers at [kscorn.com](http://kscorn.com).

**Trade Talk**—Mexican Ambassador Geronimo Gutierrez spoke to us at Corn Congress about trade between the US and Mexico. We see Mexico as a valuable trading partner and the #1 export buyer of US corn. Ambassador Gutierrez said Mexico feels the same way about trade with the U.S. but they have to keep their options open and are looking into building relationships with other countries. Corn growers have been telling the administration to “do no harm” to our ag trade in NAFTA talks. Ambassador Gutierrez said the same thing—do no harm to trade between our countries.

**Hill Visits**—I thought our hill visits went great. We visited the offices of our four representatives and two senators, and it is gratifying to have our entire delegation on-board with our agriculture issues. We are lucky to have a strong Kansas congressional delegation that will work for us. I don't have room here, but you can read about the issues we discussed on the hill visits on our website at [kscorn.com](http://kscorn.com).

We also visited some offices of non-corn-state Senators from Montana, Maine and Pennsylvania. I was in the Montana and Maine offices and was surprised and encouraged at how ag-friendly they were. We discussed with them issues ranging from farm bill, ethanol and trade. We found a lot in common especially talking about trade and farm bill. Sometimes we forget a state like Maine has agriculture—think blueberries and potatoes! And Canada is their top trading partner—so they share our strong interest to preserve ag trade in NAFTA and build up our trade programs, the Foreign Market Development and Market Access Program (FMD and MAP).

This month, your senators and representatives will be in the state, and if they come to your area, I challenge you to attend a town hall meeting and speak up for agriculture, ask an ag question and thank them for their work for agriculture. Health care is the main topic they are hearing about. That's an important issue, but so is agriculture and they really appreciate the opportunity to talk about more than one issue.



*We ran into Congressman Marshall, who is a member of the House Ag Committee, on our way for an appointment with him. He was on his way to vote so he said, “follow me!” We walked through back hallways of the Capitol and visited with him outside the chamber. We appreciated the extra effort he made to visit with us. (Left to right: Greg Krissek, KCGA CEO; Roger Pine Lawrence; Bob Timmons; Fredonia; Brian Baalman, Menlo; Congressman Marshall; Pat Ross, Lawrence; Ken McCauley, White Cloud; Randy Small, Neodesha)*

KANSAS  
CORN

August 2017 newsletter of the  
Kansas Corn Growers Association  
PO Box 446, Garnett, KS 66032

Phone: 785-448-6922 [www.kscorn.com](http://www.kscorn.com)

Thanks to our

**Kansas Corn Industry Sponsors**

GOLD SPONSORS

**Mycogen**<sup>®</sup>  
SEEDS



GREEN SPONSOR



# Kansas Corn Education Programs— Providing Tools to Teach the Science Behind Corn

The Kansas Corn Commission's commitment to support science education is growing to include curriculum for kindergarten through high school classes.

"All of our programs and the curriculum we are developing meet the Kansas Next Generation Science Standards. These programs are developed and implemented by educators. We want to make sure we are creating programs that teachers will use," said Sharon Thielen, PhD, Educational Curriculum Manager for Kansas Corn.

**Seed to STEM Workshops**—64 middle and high school science teachers completed 2017 Seed to STEM, a science educators workshop sponsored by the Kansas Corn Commission. The Seed to STEM workshop provided the teachers with lessons and lab exercises to teach about biotechnology and ethanol. The teachers also toured an ethanol plant and a corn farm.

Each teacher also received a kit with science lab materials valued at \$500. In its second year, more than 90 teachers are taking Seed to STEM curriculum back to their classrooms.

**Elementary Teacher Training**—Kansas Corn partners with the Kansas Soybean Commission, K-State, and Fort Hays State University to provide summer workshops for teachers. The Soybean Science Institute, followed by the Ear to Ear Mentors and Inquiry Ambassadors, all aim to help educators use inquiry-based learning methods to teach about science with corn and soybeans.

Elementary school teachers participating in Kansas Corn's Ear to Ear Mentors program learned how to mentor other teachers to use inquiry-based learning techniques with crops. Four teachers were selected from last year's Ear to Ear Mentors to be Inquiry Ambassadors, who will provide inquiry-based science instruction at in-service days at school districts. The Kansas Corn Commission will give the teachers at the participating schools materials to help them carry out the lessons in their classrooms.

**Educators Provide Guidance for Kansas Corn Education Programs:** Kansas Corn relies on educators to build and evaluate their programs. The Kansas Corn Curriculum Development team is completing work to develop new K-6 science curriculum that incorporates lessons about corn and agriculture. The Teacher Advisory Board evaluates Kansas Corn educational programs and includes educators from across the state.

**Ethanol Lab Supplies**—Kansas Corn partners with Renew Kansas, the state's ethanol association, to provide lab materials to Seed to STEM teachers and CASE certified ag teachers to conduct ethanol experiments in their classes.

**Kansas Corn's Partners in Education**—Kansas Corn partners with many groups including Kansas State University; Renew Kansas; Pioneer; Fort Hays State University; Kansas Soybean Association and Kansas Pork in educational programs.

## TEACHERS: Curriculum and Materials Available

**High School and Middle School Educators**—Teachers who didn't participate in the workshops can still benefit from the Seed to STEM curriculum. Lessons are available online at [seed2stem.org](http://seed2stem.org).

**K-6 Educators**—The K-6 science curriculum will be available online in September. Teachers who want to use the units can also request the materials to use in their classrooms, so they can implement these lessons at no cost.



**Pictured above left:** Seed to STEM teachers learned classroom lab experiments to teach the science behind biotechnology and ethanol.

**Right:** These Ear to Ear Mentors will mentor other teachers to use inquiry-based learning techniques using corn.

**Bottom left:** Seed to STEM teachers received \$500 worth of lab materials to use at their schools.





PO Box 446  
Garnett KS 66032

## KANSAS CORN KERNELS



### Kansas Corn Commission Invests in Water Technology Research

The Kansas Corn Commission is strongly committed to supporting research to improve irrigation practices through water technology projects in Kansas. The commission has committed \$80,500 in funding for water technology farms and research projects. The water technology project funding is listed below:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| K-State KANSched project: \$10,200                      | Pawnee County Water Technology Farm: \$12,000     |
| Garden City Company Water Technology Farm: \$13,300     | Seward Co. Water Technology Farm: \$15,000        |
| Scott and Lane Counties Water Technology Farm: \$10,000 | Northwest Kansas Water Technology Farms: \$15,000 |
| Upper Smoky Wichita Co. Water Technology Farm: \$5,000  |   |



**Deadline for Corn Corps, young growers program is Sept. 15**—Apply for Class 2 of Kansas Corn’s innovative Corn Corps, a professional development and networking program for young corn farmers. The program is offered free to participants and applications for Class Two are due Sept. 15, 2017. Learn more about the program and what Class 1 participants are saying about Corn Corps at [kscorn.com/corncorps](http://kscorn.com/corncorps).

### Federal Comment Periods Open for WOTUS and Ethanol Volume Obligation (RVO)

**WOTUS:** The Trump Administration has proposed and is seeking comments on a rulemaking that rescinds the onerous Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule issued in 2015, and reverts to the rules that were adopted in the late 1980’s. Comment at [ncga.com/wotus](http://ncga.com/wotus).

**Ethanol RVO:** The good news is that EPA proposed the 2018 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) for corn-based ethanol at the level intended by Congress. However, we are concerned about the agency’s decision to lower the total RVO, as well as the cellulosic and advanced volumes, below the final volumes set for 2017. We need to keep a strong Renewable Fuel Standard! Comment at [ncga.com/rfs](http://ncga.com/rfs). We’ll also collect comments for both issues at the upcoming Kansas Corn District Listening Tour stops this month (see page 1 for schedule).

### GET SOCIAL WITH US!

