



Greg Krissek, CEO  
Kansas Corn

## Fall Brings Opportunities, Challenges to Corn Farmers

### A Heartfelt Thank You

Kansas Corn and other ag groups reached out to you at meetings, in newsletters, emails, advertisements and even text messages to encourage you to comment on the atrazine draft risk assessment. The comment period ended on Oct. 5 and we're happy to report that Kansans submitted thousands of comments telling EPA about the importance of atrazine to Kansas, and insisting that EPA use credible science in their decisions about atrazine. We'd like to thank each one of you who took the time to submit comments. What's next? Learn more on Page 2.

### Record Corn Crop. Now What?

The October USDA/NASS crop production estimates have pegged the 2016 Kansas corn crop at a record 713 million bushels. That's 24 percent higher than last year's big crop and 19 percent higher than the record 2009 crop. Whether you believe the accuracy of the October estimate or not, one thing is certain—the 2016 Kansas corn crop will set a new record when the final production number is released in January. With low prices and large grain crops in the U.S., we feel the urgency of our commitment to build and protect markets for corn. Live-stock, ethanol and export markets are all critical to Kansas farmers. This fall we've focused on the value of exports and needed growth in the export sector

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## Kansas Corn Corps Accepts Eleven Young Corn Farmers

Eleven young Kansas farmers were selected to participate in the Kansas Corn Corps, a newly-created young farmer program sponsored by Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Corn Commission. Kansas Corn Corps was developed to allow young growers to come together to learn and to take multiple perspectives back to the farm.



### The Kansas Corn Corps participants are:

Coby Baalman, Menlo  
Geoffrey Burgess, Sterling  
JD Hanna, Silver Lake  
Brandon Heier, Grainfield  
Tanner McNinch, Ness City  
Lowell & Krystale Neitzel, Lawrence  
Kelsey Pagel, Wetmore  
Matt & Janna Splitter, Lyons  
Dallin Willis, Garden City

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South American Trade Team Visits  
Kansas Farms and Agribusiness.

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## Opportunities, Challenges

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for corn and corn products. While the association works on the legislative level to build trade opportunities with other countries, the commission is busy supporting the efforts of foreign market development organizations like the US Grains Council and the US Meat Export Federation. In Kansas, we support K-State's International Grains Program that educates foreign grain buyers about our corn, soybeans, wheat and sorghum.

### Guests to Kansas

In October, Kansas farm groups welcomed U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commissioner Chris Giancarlo as he visited Kansas to get first-hand knowledge at Kansas farms and agribusinesses. The opportunity for our corn farmers to share their insights with him was invaluable. We also had the opportunity to host a team of South American grain buyers in October and Egyptian grain inspectors in September. There is a growing interest in Kansas corn and Kansas agriculture, and that's great for our industry!

### Kansas Corn Events Across Kansas

We learned a lot from this summer's Shed Tour when we went to all nine crop reporting districts to share a meal and conversation with growers, sharing information and listening to growers' interests and concerns. Plans are underway for another tour in 2017 as well as other opportunities to not only talk to but listen to our Kansas corn farmers.

This fall and winter, we're looking forward to seeing growers and friends in the agriculture industry at meetings and farm shows. We're excited about our third year of Kansas Corn Schools in partnership with K-State Research and Extension. The turnout and positive feedback from growers for these corn schools has exceeded our expectations in the first two years. We expect big crowds at our schools in January in Wichita, Oakley and Olathe. Read about it on Page 4. Please stop and visit if you see me or our staff at the many winter meetings, conventions and farm shows including the KLA Convention, Topeka Farm Show, No Till on the Plains, Cover Your Acres and other events.

## Thousands of Kansas Atrazine Comments Reach EPA

Thousands of Kansas corn farmers wrote comments, signed cards at meetings and field days, mailed letters, and signed online petitions telling EPA its draft ecological risk assessment on atrazine was not based on credible science. The Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA) worked with several state and national groups to inform growers about EPA's draft risk assessment for atrazine that uses questionable science and data errors that would result in a de facto ban of atrazine. Farmers in Kansas and across the nation told EPA an atrazine ban would have financial, agronomic and environmental consequences. The comment period closed Oct. 5. The ecological draft risk assessment is only one part of the registration review of the triazine herbicides, which began in 2013.

"We are excited about the number of comments we received," KCGA CEO Greg Krissek said. "However, our work is not done. This is part of a larger registration review. What happens next could easily stretch into 2019." EPA is expected to convene a scientific advisory panel in 2017. A human health risk assessment is also expected in 2017. In 2018 or 2019, the final findings of the registration review process are expected to be released along with another comment period. Kansas Corn and the Triazine Network will continue to closely follow this process.

## Corn Corps Class Announced

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"We're excited to see this new young grower program take shape. Corn Corps focuses on business aspects of farming. Our goal is to provide participants with a strong network and help them explore new opportunities to bring back new ideas for innovation on their farms and in their communities," according to Stacy Mayo, Director of Industry Relations. Three sessions and a domestic agriculture trip will be held over a 16-month time frame launching in December 2016. Kansas Corn will release information in early 2017 for applications to participate in the second Kansas Corn Corps class. For more information, visit [kscorn.com](http://kscorn.com).

## KCGA Thanks These Industry Partners



T&O Farms, Garden City



Western Plains Energy, Oakley



# Fjell, Thielen Join Kansas Corn Staff

**Dale Fjell**

**Director of Research and Stewardship**



Dale Fjell, Ph.D., has begun a new career as Director of Research and Stewardship for Kansas Corn. Fjell, who was a former K-State Extension Crop Production Specialist and more recently, the Northeast Area Extension Director, retired from K-State in September.

“Dale’s experience in research, agronomy and extension, coupled with his familiarity with corn growers across the state, made him a perfect fit for this position,” Kansas Corn CEO Greg Krissek said. “Kansas Corn has worked with Dale for years, and he knows our challenges and opportunities well.

Corn farmers are part of an increased focus on stewardship and sustainability, and Dale is well-suited to guide Kansas Corn in those areas. His expertise in agronomy and extension will also be a valuable asset for the Kansas Corn Commission when it considers future research projects, Krissek said.

**Sharon Thielen**

**Educational Curriculum Manager**



Sharon Thielen, Ph.D., has joined Kansas Corn as Educational Curriculum Manager. In early September, Thielen left Kansas State University after serving as Assistant Dean of Academic Programs in the College of

Agriculture. She will now split time between two jobs: one with Kansas Corn and the other at home raising four young daughters. She and her husband, Kevin, also are active on their family farm.

“Sharon is exactly what we were looking for in an educational curriculum manager. The focus of her graduate degrees coupled with her work experience at the K-State College of Agriculture will help us continue to develop and advance and our portfolio of education efforts,” Krissek said.

# Corn Schools Coming to Wichita, Oakley, Olathe in January

A series of three K-State Corn Production Management Schools will be offered Jan. 9 in Wichita; Jan. 11 in Oakley and Jan. 13 in Olathe. The one-day schools will cover specific corn topics including drought tolerant hybrids, high-yielding corn factors, weed control, soil fertility, price and market perspectives. The schools are sponsored by DuPont Pioneer and Kansas Corn.



**Trade Teams Visit Kansas**—This trade team of South American grain buyers stopped at the farm of Mike Brzon, Courtland in October as part of the Export Exchange, hosted by US Grains Council and Renewable Fuels Association. The team also visited East Kansas Agri Energy, Garnett; the DeLong Co., Edgerton; Tiffany Feeders, Herington and Bestifor Farms, Belleville.

# Ethanol Blender Pumps Adding Fuel Choice for Kansas Motorists, Supported by Grant



Several organizations joined to celebrate new ethanol blender pumps at the Wichita Jump Start stations in September.

Kansas Corn and its partners in the Kansas Better Blends Initiative (KBBI) are adding fuel choices for drivers at stations in Kansas. Several Kansas groups provided matching funds to receive a USDA Biofuels Infrastructure Grant, creating a Kansas ethanol blender pump program with over \$2 million in funds to offer higher ethanol blends at high-volume fuel stations. A grand opening in September celebrated higher ethanol blends at three Jump Start stations in Wichita. Sandra’s Quick Stop in Garnett is holding a grand opening in November. Other stations will add blender pumps soon. Some grant money is still available for retailers who want to add ethanol blender pumps. Call Kansas Corn at 785-448-6922 for information.



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## KCGA Revs Up Membership Incentives [DOWNLOAD A MEMBERSHIP FORM AT KSCORN.COM/JOIN](https://kscorn.com/join) **Free Seed Deal More than Pays for Your Membership**

Don't forget about our Free Seed deal. New three-year members receive a free bag of corn seed, and renewing three-year members get a free bag of corn seed with the purchase of a bag from our seed sponsors who see the value of membership in KCGA. Download the latest membership form at [KScorn.com/join](https://kscorn.com/join)

### **Pork Promotion for New or Renewing Members in November and December**

Kansas Corn has teamed up with Kansas pork farmers to give back to our members and support corn-fed pork. New members or current members renewing in November and December will receive a \$10 coupon that can be used for fresh pork products at your local grocery store.

### **Warming Up Kansas Corn Recruiters this Winter**

November through January, we are giving our members an incentive to recruit other farmers to join the Kansas Corn Growers Association. For every 10 members you recruit now through January, you'll receive a warm winter gift valued at \$30. Make sure the members list your name as the recruiter on their form to get credit. Want a packet of membership forms to get your recruiting started? Email Stacy at [smayo@ksgrains.com](mailto:smayo@ksgrains.com). The top recruiter will win a surprise gift at the KCGA Annual Meeting held before the Kansas Commodity Classic, Feb. 8 in Manhattan.

## Upcoming Kansas Corn Events

*KCGA Members, stop by our booth at these events—we have a gift for you!*

Nov. 14-15	Governor's Conference on the Future of Water, Manhattan
Nov. 16-17	Kansas Agri Business Expo, Wichita
Nov. 20-22	Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Wichita
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Kansas Livestock Association Convention, Wichita
Dec. 5-6	Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Manhattan
Jan 10-12	Topeka Farm Show, Topeka, KS

**Save the Date: FEB 8—KANSAS COMMODITY CLASSIC, MANHATTAN**

### **2017 K-STATE CORN SCHOOLS**

**Jan. 9** Wichita, Drury Plaza Hotel

**Jan. 11** Oakley – Buffalo Bill  
Cultural Center

**Jan. 13** Olathe – John Deere Ag  
Marketing Center

*K-State Corn Schools Sponsored by:  
Kansas Corn and DuPont Pioneer*