

KANSAS CORN | MEMBER UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter of Kansas Corn

Winter Update 2017



Kansas Corn leader Kent Moore (fifth from right) testified at the US Senate Ag Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill in Manhattan on Feb. 23.



Greg Kissek
Kansas Corn CEO

After Harvest Season and Before Planting Season . . .

The Fourth Season Is Meeting Season

It's hard to believe we are already heading toward spring and planting season. "Meeting season" for Kansas agriculture is starting to wind down. This winter, we've enjoyed opportunities to talk to growers, legislators and consumers from across Kansas at farm shows, conventions, events, corn schools and our Kansas Corn listening tour. The topic on the minds of many is the 2018 Farm Bill. Input from you, our farmers, is extremely important as we work to make sure Kansas corn farmer voices are heard. We hope you've stopped by to talk to us at a farm show or meeting in the past few months, and have filled out our Kansas Corn Farm Bill Survey. Or fill out the online survey at kscorn.com/survey

The Kansas Corn Growers Association was invited to provide testimony to the Senate Ag Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill held in Manhattan on Feb. 23. We are fortunate to have Senator Pat Roberts as chairman of that committee, and Congressman Roger Marshall serving on the House Agriculture Committee. Kent Moore, Iuka, spoke on behalf of KCGA. He underlined the importance of a strong crop insurance program as well as the ARC and PLC programs. He advocated for improved implementation of the ARC program to correct problems in data on the county level which have caused inequities in the program in Kansas and other states. Moore also emphasized the importance of trade, and urged the committee to increase funding of the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development programs. Many checkoffs, other ag organizations and companies support the efforts of groups like the US Grains Council and US Meat Export Federation. The MAP and FMD programs bolster those investments and make those programs effective. Export markets are key to corn, ethanol, DDGS and agriculture in general. They represent the greatest opportunity for market growth especially in these times of low prices.

Kansas Corn has started its 2017 Listening Tour, with stops in each of the nine crop reporting districts planned through the year. In February, we held dinners in east central, north central and southwest Kansas. We want to share information about the activities of the association as well as the Kansas Corn Commission, but more importantly, we want to listen to growers and learn about your concerns and issues. As we move forward with the next Farm Bill and other programs under the new administration, we want as much input as possible from Kansas corn farmers.

I hope you'll take a minute to read about some of the great things that are happening at Kansas Corn—our efforts in the state legislature; Corn Corps, our young grower program; our innovative education programs bringing ethanol and biotechnology curriculum to school science labs, along with the efforts I've mentioned above. Please keep in touch with Kansas Corn. We are proud of the work you are doing and we hope you have a safe planting season.



KCGA Presents Testimony at Senate Ag Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill

Below are excerpts from Kent Moore's KCGA testimony. Visit kscorn.com to read the complete testimony.

Crop Insurance The crop insurance program will be attacked by special interest groups during the farm bill process. I wonder if anyone understands the need for a solid crop insurance program more than the Kansas farmer. Drought, hail, wind and floods can ravage farms and sometimes Kansas farmers can experience all of these disasters in the same year. Unlike car insurance, crop insurance protects us against systemic risk. Every year, we hope we don't collect a crop insurance payment, but when we do have a loss, crop insurance provides critical support to farmers and the rural communities that serve agriculture.

ARC and PLC Programs Kansas farmers benefit from the revenue protection programs, ARC and PLC, in the current farm bill. In times of high crop prices, we saved the government billions of dollars in farm program payments. We won't get credit for that. When prices are low, critics are quick to point out the cost of these safety nets. While our groups work to build domestic and export markets to increase the value of our crops, commodity pricing remains virtually out of our control. The ARC program in particular has been an excellent tool for Kansas farmers, and we'd like to see it continued and improved. Some Kansas farmers who chose the ARC program have been hurt financially due to data gaps. We believe these inequities could be fixed in the current farm bill, without reopening it, by allowing the state FSA more flexibility in yield data. As we look to the 2018 farm bill, we support continuation of revenue-based programs and improved implementation of those programs.

Trade Programs The growth potential for ag exports is greater than any other demand sector today. We believe it is time to increase our efforts to provide access to these growing markets around the world. We've produced bumper crops, and we need the ability to aggressively pursue trade to sell American grains and American meat to other countries. Programs like MAP and FMD are critical in building export markets for our ag products, but

these two programs have had stagnant funding levels for a number of years. We support the efforts of the agriculture trade community to increase funding for MAP and FMD. Over the years, the effective spending power of these programs has decreased by over 40% due to factors like sequestration, administrative costs and inflation. Our farmers, through their checkoff, support the US Grains Council to develop exports of corn, ethanol and DDGS. Our checkoff dollars also support efforts to build export markets for red meat through the US Meat Export Federation. The MAP and FMD programs make our farmers' investment of checkoff funds for foreign market development efficient and effective.

Kansas Legislative Update

Truck Weights, Water, Taxes Top KCGA Issues in Topeka

KCGA is representing corn farmers in the Kansas legislature on many issues including bills on truck weights, water and the implementation and funding of the Governor's Water Vision, guarding against any efforts to increase ag property taxes and working against any efforts to eliminate ag sales tax exemptions, or create additional fees to growers.

HB2095 Truck Weights Bill: The House passed HB 2095 by a vote of 77-48. This bill would allow trucks with 6 axles to weigh up to 90,000 pounds on all state highways in Kansas through the issuance of a special permit. KCGA supports this bill. It now moves to the Senate.

Water: The Senate passed SB 46 by a vote of 40-0. SB 46 adds flexibility to the current Water Conservation Area law. KCGA supported this measure. SB 48 also passed by a vote of 37-3. SB 48 is the bill that streamlining the impairment process by requiring water right holders to exhaust their administrative remedies regarding impairment of water rights prior to pursuing legal action in the courts. It is important to note that the bill also requires DWR to complete their impairment decision within 12 months of the complaint being made. KCGA also supported this bill.



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Kansas Corn & Renew Kansas Bring Ethanol to Kansas School Science Labs



Kansas Corn's Sharon Thielen brought lab equipment to Brian Nelson at Hadley Middle School, Wichita.

High school science and agricultural teachers across the state received new lab equipment thanks to an initiative started by the Kansas Corn Commission and Renew Kansas, the state's ethanol association. The funding from Renew Kansas, an organization that represents individual ethanol producers across the state, provided lab kits for Seed to STEM teachers and Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) teachers. Jeanie Wege, agricultural science teacher at Onaga High School said the lab materials are needed in her school. *"By receiving these items, my students will get to participate in hands-on lab experiments," Wege said. "I currently teach short units on ethanol in my Agriscience class and will be able to expand their awareness of production within our state. I will also be able to use the materials in our horticulture curriculum."*

Kansas Corn Corps Young Farmer Program Accepting Applications for Class 2



Kansas Corn is accepting applications to the second class of the Kansas Corn Corps, a program for young farmers. This 16-month program provides learning and networking opportunities for young corn farmers and is sponsored by Kansas Corn. The program provides participants the opportunity to learn new techniques, strategies and information they can take back to their farms. Kansas Corn will take applications from farmers 45 and younger to participate in Class 2 of Kansas Corn Corps until September 15, 2017. Each Corn Corps class provides the opportunity for up to 15 farms to build a network of progressive young farmers from across Kansas. The class will participate in three sessions and a domestic trip. The program is free to young corn farmers. For more information call Kansas Corn at 785-448-6922 or kscorn.com/corncorps

Kansas Commodity Classic Focuses on Policy with Speakers and a Survey



Farmers joined an interactive cell phone survey at Kansas Commodity Classic

The 2018 Farm Bill was the focus of the 2017 Kansas Commodity Classic, the annual convention of Kansas Corn, Wheat and Grain Sorghum associations, held in Manhattan on Feb. 8. Participants listened to a panel featuring Jon Doggett, Executive Vice President of National Corn Growers Association; Daniel Atkisson, Vice Chairman of National Sorghum Producers and Chandler Goule, CEO of National Association of Wheat Growers. The keynote speaker was Senate Ag Committee Staff Director Joel Leftwich. Growers used their cell phones to join in a live, interactive survey which allowed participants to answer survey questions about their priorities for the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill and other policy issues. *"It's good to hear from the policy leaders, but it's just as important to hear from our growers who are actually using these farm bill programs," KCGA CEO Greg Krissek said.*

Science Teachers Encouraged to Sign Up for Kansas Corn's Seed to STEM Workshop



The Kansas Corn Commission is doubling its popular Seed to STEM summer workshops for science teachers in 2017. Two summer workshops will give more middle and high school teachers the opportunity to learn the science behind corn, focusing on biotechnology and ethanol. The workshops will be held June 8-9 at Lawrence High School and June 12-13 at Maize South High School. In addition to lessons and lab experiments about biotechnology and ethanol, participants will tour a farm and an ethanol plant and each participant will walk away with \$500 in lab materials. Signups for first-time Seed to STEM participants began in February. Each location is capped at 35 participants and Kansas Corn Commission Educational Curriculum Manager Sharon Thielen encourages teachers to sign up early at seed2stem.org.



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**Included Inside—
The Kansas Corn Annual Report**



Ken McCauley
KCGA President

ASSOCIATION NEWS:

KCGA Board Elects Officers

Ken McCauley, White Cloud, was elected president of the Kansas Corn Growers Association by the KCGA board. The election of officers occurred at the KCGA board reorganizational meeting following the annual meeting on Feb. 8. McCauley replaced outgoing president Bob Timmons, Fredonia, who had served as KCGA president since 2008. Timmons remains on the board. McCauley has been a corn leader for several years, and is past president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). The remainder of the officer team was reelected: Roger Pine, Lawrence, Vice President; Harvey Heier, Grainfield, Secretary, and Charles Foltz, Garnett, Treasurer.

Kansas Corn Kernels



Collegiate Programs—Did you know Kansas Corn has started a collegiate program to introduce college students to careers in corn? We are working with industry professionals to mentor students; offering a scholarship and student memberships. Learn more at kscorn.com/careers.

Join or renew and do good—Through March, KCGA will donate \$5 to the statewide Neighbor to Neighbor food drive for each new and renewing membership. Also, all new 3-year members receive a free bag of seed, renewing 3-year members receive a free bag of seed with a seed purchase, and many other membership benefits from KCGA and NCGA. Learn more at kscorn.com/join

Kansas Corn Photo Contest!—Pull out those photo albums and dig out the old farming photos! Kansas corn has been around since Kansas became a state! Since 1861 Kansans have been farming and we want to tell all 156 years of that story. We want to tell the story of the advances Kansas corn farmers have made over the years and through the generations. Top photos will get a cash prize! Enter here: <http://woobox.com/u76sxj>

Visit us at the Great Bend Farm Show April 6-8! Find Kansas Corn, Grain Sorghum & Soybeans in Expo Building 2.