

KANSAS  
CORN  
COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2023 REVIEW | FY2024 OUTLOOK

“The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer.”

WILL ROGERS



**KENT MOORE**  
Kansas Corn Commission Chair  
Farmer, Optimist



**JOSH ROE**  
Kansas Corn Commission CEO  
Farmer, Optimist

**KENT** Like most farmers, I am pretty good at listing off the things that have gone wrong. 2023 is no exception with a lot of areas having poor corn production due to drought and hail. But let's look at the things that went right for corn growers and for the Kansas Corn Commission. Our STEM education program reached over 100,000 students last school year. We're building long-term demand for corn and corn products in the U.S. and around the world. Just look at what we've done in Kansas--it's a lot easier to fill up with E15 fuel and higher ethanol blends across the state. E15/Unleaded 88 is a higher octane fuel made with local, renewable ethanol, and the price is right.

**JOSH** The Kansas Corn Commission continues to help fuel retailers add E15 and other ethanol blends at pumps, and we're leveraging our efforts with federal grants through the USDA's higher blends infrastructure program (HBIIP). You might think, those ethanol efforts are fine, but is it making a difference? Yes! Now other stations are adding E15 to keep up with their competition and because they recognize they can offer a higher octane, higher quality fuel to their customers at a lower price. Customers are asking for higher ethanol blends and they're giving their business to stations that carry it.

**KENT** We were on the ground floor of ethanol production in Kansas in the early 2000s, assisting growers wanting to build ethanol plants, and today our state's ethanol plants are economic drivers in their communities and valuable markets for our growers' corn. That's why we continue to work to make sure demand for ethanol, DDGS and corn remain strong. When I look at what Kansas Corn is accomplishing in market development, education and promotion, and research, it makes me optimistic for the future.

**JOSH** I hope people will read this annual report and find out how Kansas growers are building domestic and foreign demand for corn and corn products; supporting STEM education in our schools, not only to teach about corn, ethanol and other corn topics, but to help build a future workforce with strong STEM skills and also have a strong understanding of the value of agriculture; funding innovative researchers who are finding new uses for corn and better ways to grow environmentally and financially sustainable corn crops; and reaching consumers, influencers and decision-makers with factual information about how we grow feed, fuel and food on our family farms.

# KANSAS CORN COMMISSION FUNDING SUMMARY

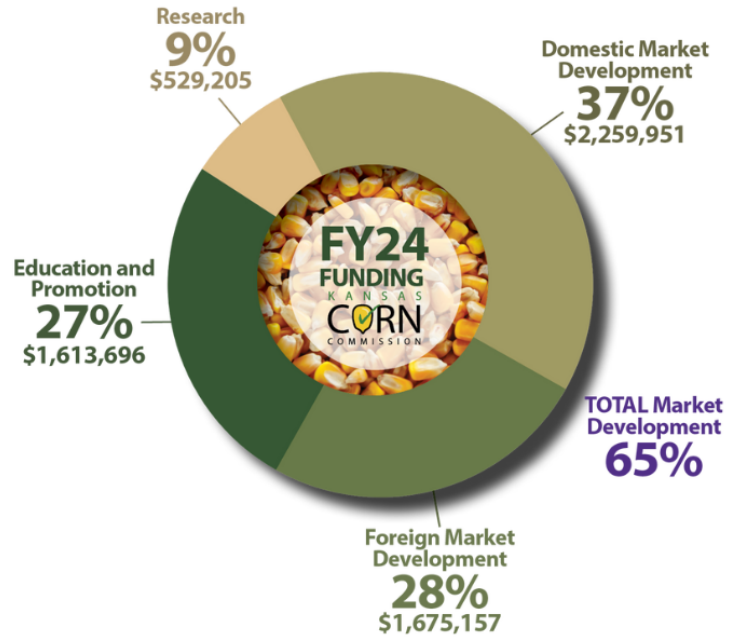
The Kansas Corn Commission funds projects in the areas of market development, research, education and promotion. This information outlines funding for FY2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).

**65% Market Development**—The Kansas Corn Commission’s top priority is market development with 65% percent of total project funding (37% domestic market development and 28% foreign market development). We strive to build markets in the U.S. and around the world for corn and corn products to increase profitability for farmers.

**27% Education and Promotion**—Our nationally-recognized Kansas Corn STEM education program continues to grow, reaching over 101,550 K-12 students and teachers across the state in the 2022-23 school year. Our collegiate and young farmer programs are building the future of Kansas Corn. We actively support state and national efforts that build trust with decision-makers, consumers, and influencers.

**9% Research**—Our research efforts are looking to the future with support of cutting-edge new uses research and production research with K-State Research and Extension focusing on building sustainability and profitability.

## KANSAS CORN COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2024 FUNDING



**ABOUT THE KANSAS CORN CHECKOFF**—The Kansas Corn Commission determines how the one-cent-per-bushel corn checkoff is invested to benefit corn producers. Created in 1977 by the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Department of Agriculture collects the checkoff from first purchasers. Corn producers may request refunds. The Commission is made up of nine corn producers elected by growers to represent the nine crop reporting districts. Kansas Corn Commission meetings are open to the public.

## KANSAS CORN COMMISSIONERS

### Northwest

Brian Baalman, Menlo

### West Central

Dennis McNinch, Utica

### Southwest

Paige Clawson, Satanta | Vice Chair

### North Central

Mike Brzon, Courtland | Secretary

### Central

Derek Belton, Tampa

### South Central

Kent Moore, Iuka | Chair

### Northeast

Griff Howard, Hiawatha | Treasurer

### East Central

Krystale Neitzel, Lawrence

### Southeast

Randy Small, Neodesha

# Trade Efforts Bring Real Value

Our work with the US Grains Council in countries around the world is the best way to help develop export trade. The Kansas Corn Commission was instrumental in the opening of the USGC office in India in early 2023, which will serve India and other countries in the region. India has huge market potential with a population that recently outnumbered that of China. KCC also continues it's long-term support of the U.S. Meat Export Federation including funding for USMEF retail projects in South Korea and Mexico to build demand for high quality U.S. beef. Through the year we host trade teams that visit Kansas farms, ethanol plants and other ag industries.

PHOTOS—Top right going clockwise: Ethanol trade team from Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia at Kansas Ethanol, Lyons; A group from Uzbekistan with Kansas Corn leader Emma Jenks at JD Hanna's Silver Lake farm; CEO Josh Roe at high-level ethanol meetings in Chile; Greg Krissek at the USGC India office opening in New Dehli; a key trade team with buyers from Mexico at the Nunemaker Ross Farm at Lawrence.



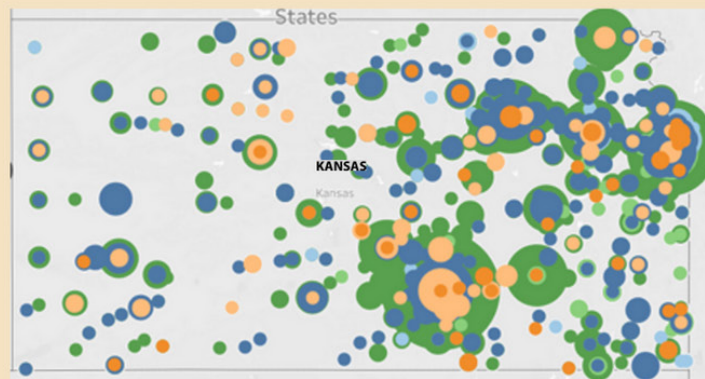
## Kansas Corn STEM Expands Reach

Our Kansas Corn STEM education program reached 2,613 Kansas educators and over 100,000 students with lessons, labs, classroom materials, professional development, and other STEM learning opportunities. Our message is spreading as we work with North Dakota Corn to share our corn reader program with their schools.

In 2023, we added PreK and homeschool programs with lessons and materials. See the map below the see where Kansas Corn STEM is reaching across our state! Learn more at [kansascornstem.com](http://kansascornstem.com).



Provided lessons, labs and training to **2,613 educators** in the 2022-23 school year, reaching **101,541 students**



- AG DAYS
- SEED TO STEM
- CORN READERS
- SUMMER SCIENTIST
- GUEST SPEAKER
- ELEMENTARY KIT

# Ethanol Leads Market Development Efforts



Ethanol is a top customer for corn and Kansas Corn works to build market opportunities for ethanol and distillers grains. The state's 12 ethanol plants produce 610 million gallons of renewable, clean burning ethanol fuel and distillers grains, a high nutrient livestock feed, creating a market for 217 million bushels of corn and other grains. Distillers grains are sold wet as WDGS to nearby livestock feeders, or they are dried to make DDGS that can be sold to more distant markets or exported to other states or other countries. The Kansas Corn Commission supports efforts by the U.S. Grains Council to expand export sales of both ethanol and DDGS.

While the Kansas Corn Growers Association works through legislative and regulatory channels to allow year-round sales of E15 fuel, the Kansas Corn Commission is building infrastructure for E15/Unleaded 88 and higher blends, working with fuel retailers and helping them apply for funding through USDA's HBIIP program. In 2023, Kansas Corn was again successful in helping to secure HBIIP funding for fuel retailers to add E15 and higher blends to their stations. With over 130 stations across the state that carry E15 and higher blends, drivers can buy a higher octane fuel at a lower price. Larger retailers adopting higher ethanol blends include Casey's, 24/7, JumpStart and Love's.

California is a strong market for Kansas-made ethanol. The Kansas Corn Commission has teamed up with Nebraska Corn and Missouri Corn to help build E85 infrastructure in that state. Thanks to our efforts with a major fuel retailer, E85 sales in California have ballooned in the past few years.

## Research Efforts Have Results-Oriented Focus



The Kansas Corn Commission supports innovative, responsive researchers whose projects have the potential to create profitable new uses for corn, to build market demand, and to develop viable methods to improve environmentally and financially sustainable, climate-smart farming practices. These efforts are sparking optimism and new ideas for Kansas corn. Nationally recognized corn researcher Ignacio Ciampitti leads our K-State extension efforts. His team brings research results and information to Kansas farmers online, through publications, extension offices, field days and events like the Kansas Corn and Soybean Schools.

### KCC Research Photos

Top Left: Dairy research at K-State is looking at the best ways to incorporate DDGS into dairy calf diets.

Top Right: New use research at Pittsburg State University is pursuing promising value-added uses for corn.

Middle: Research on soil health methods at K-State continues to bring new information to growers, and that research is now expanding to sites in western Kansas.

Bottom: K-State researcher Rachel Veenstra recorded a video series for our Kansas Corn STEM program on corn growth stages.