



# Corn Grower Update

Spring Edition 2016

*"Your Eyes, Your Ears"*

## Monsanto BioAg

### Recruitment Blitz Winners

*Congratulations to the winners of the  
Monsanto BioAg Recruitment Blitz!  
We had a great winter recruitment  
season, keep up the good work.*



Ryan Bonham - Top Recruiter (Kearney-Franklin local)  
Tyler Hueftle - New Member (Dawson County local)  
Clark Pickrel - Call-a-thon Attendee (York County local)

Each winner will receive one of the NEW corn specialty plates!

Monsanto BioAg is using products that are derived from plant organisms to help enhance a crop's nutritional capabilities which can improve plant growth and yield potential. Microbial seed treatments support a crop's potential by enhancing the plant's ability to withstand stress throughout the growing season. In return, this helps maximize early season growth for high vigor and increased, consistent yield potential. The world's population is significantly growing and our diets are changing, creating a need for today's farmers to produce more crops while using fewer resources. Monsanto BioAg products help enhance the efficient and sustainable productivity of the world's crop production. Microbials are incredibly safe and countless microbes live in our environment interacting with plants, people, and animals in beneficial ways. Monsanto BioAg products and emerging technologies can be a supplement for every farmer's toolbox and complement an integrated systems approach to maximize the yield potential of every acre.

# Mick Mines' Nebraska Legislative Review

Likely, you are less than excited that the 104th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session is kaput. Senators completed their perfunctory 60-days in session. All 49 claimed victory and then they went home. With more than twenty filibusters, the pace and flow of debate was, at times, drudgery. Kudos to Speaker Hadley for holding the place together.

A couple hundred bills were passed. Most fall in the "mehh" category. Governor Ricketts proposed two significant property tax reduction bills (LB958 and LB959) and signed them into law. Too bad, both had morphed into mere shells of their once proud selves after legislative amendments. The Governor also signed a \$450 million "big deal" highway spending bill (LB960) that accelerates building of expressways and county bridges. Road contractors are trying desperately to contain themselves.

Looking forward, the May Primary Election finds 25 legislative seats on the ballot. Eleven are open as term-limits kicks another class to the curb. Senators Watermeier, Scheer and Murante are unopposed and eleven more incumbents scored opponents. General Election prediction: only eight contested incumbents return next year.

Finally, senators filed more than 100 Legislative Resolutions for interim studies. Typically, few interim studies evolve into public hearings, or even meaningful public debate. However, they do indicate which issues certain senators may introduce next session.

## Approved by the Governor

- LB958 - \$20 million property tax relief for farm and ranch landowners
- LB959 - \$8.5 million property tax relief for local school districts
- LB960 - \$450 to accelerate construction of expressways and county bridges

## Interim Study Resolutions of Interest to NeCGA

- LR406 - Study blending of various fuels and right to blend laws in other states
- LR498 - Study the Nebraska Right to Farm Act
- LR511 - Study laws governing collection of sales and use tax on remote sales
- LR519 - Study the One-Call Notification System Act
- LR535 - Study how the Legislature can assist value-add livestock producers
- LR536 - Study ways to avoid and mitigate conflicts from herbicide drift
- LR537 - Study Dept. of Ag duties regarding livestock animal identification
- LR569 - Study funding and grant program for the Livestock Growth Act
- LR570 - Study Dept. of Ag duties to establish agriculture promotion program
- LR592 - Study state individual and corporate income taxes
- LR593 - Study real and personal property taxes
- LR594 - Study local sales, use and other miscellaneous taxes
- LR598 - Study allowing independent repair persons to access software codes
- LR600 - Study to examine alternatives for valuing agricultural land
- LR604 - Study agriculture land value inconsistencies by county assessors
- LR612 - Study issues under jurisdiction of the Agriculture Committee

My sincere thanks to the NeCGA board and membership for another great session.

# 6th Annual Corn Grower Open

Please join us for the 6th Annual Corn Grower Open. This year's four person, best ball scramble will be hosted at the York Country Club in York, Nebraska on Thursday, July 28th. We will kick off the day with registration at 10:30 AM. Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at 12:00 PM followed by an awards ceremony and formal dinner to conclude the day.

We greatly appreciate the support we have received in the past for this event, and hope everyone can join us on the course this year!



## American Ethanol Nights at the Races

June 11  
Junction Motor Speedway - McCool Junction

June 16  
US 30 Speedway - Columbus

June 17  
Boone County Raceway - Albion

June 19  
Dawson County Raceway - Lexington



July 15  
I-80 Speedway - Greenwood

August 12  
Beatrice Speedway - Beatrice



**Pete Ricketts**  
*Governor*

# State of Nebraska

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## **NEWS RELEASE** **For Immediate Release**



**March 7, 2016**  
[www.nda.nebraska.gov](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov)

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### **IBACH ENCOURAGES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PESTICIDE APPLICATORS, SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCERS**

LINCOLN - As trees and plants green up and soil temperatures rise across the state, farm operations of all sizes and types are getting set to begin another planting season.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach is encouraging anyone who will be applying pesticide products during the busy spring season to be mindful of best management practices and use good communication with their neighbors. Pesticides include all categories of control applications such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

“It’s important for our commodity crop farmers and our growing sector of specialty crop farmers to work together so everyone can be successful,” Ibach said. “Herbicide applications are critical for corn and soybean production, but there are a number of specialty crops, such as grape vines, that are sensitive to these products.”

One way farmers can open the door of communication is through DriftWatch™. This website is a free, voluntary service that allows those with pesticide sensitive crops, organic crops and beehives to report their field locations. Pesticide applicators can review the website to gain an understanding of the locations of specialty crops in their area.

“For example, Nebraska’s vineyards will soon begin ‘bud break,’ or the official start of the vines’ annual growth cycle, and these plants are extremely vulnerable during this time period,” Ibach said. “It’s also time for our commodity crop growers to ready their fields for planting, including herbicide applications. Communication between all parties is important to ensure successful crop production for everyone.”

Applicators also can register on the DriftWatch™ website, facilitating email notifications to the applicators when a new sensitive crop site is registered in their local area.

The DriftWatch™ website can be found online at <http://www.fieldwatch.com>. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture monitors the DriftWatch™ site for the state. For questions about it, contact Craig Romary with NDA at (402) 471-2351.

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# 2016 Washington DC Leadership Program

For 28 years the Nebraska Corn Growers Association has planned and carried out a week long leadership trip to Washington DC. The purpose of the trip is to pair newly engaged members of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) with NeCGA board of director members, NeCGA staff, Nebraska Corn Board members, and Nebraska Corn Board staff in an effort to help them understand the legislative process, and the work that NeCGA and the Nebraska Corn Board do on their behalf.

The 2016 trip took place February 8th to February 12th and included 13 farmer leaders, 4 group leaders, and 3 staff members. Once in DC, the group gathered for a reception and spent some time getting to know each other and learning more about NeCGA and the Nebraska Corn Board. Due to flight schedules, the morning of the 9th was a busy one. Participants spent time reviewing the schedule for the week and getting to know their group members and leaders. Following the trip orientation, Holly Pitt-Young with Pitt-Young Strategies, took the group through Grassroots Leadership Training. They also were introduced to Bob Dineen and the Renewable Fuels Association. The afternoon of the 9th the group had an issues briefing with National Corn Growers then split into two groups to visit with Animal Ag Alliance and the Corn Refiners Association. Wednesday the 10th and Thursday the 11th were spent visiting with the Nebraska delegation on the Hill and meeting with industry partners. The final day was spent allowing participants the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful city, and take in the sights of our Nation's Capitol.



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### *May*

- 25 – Ag Night at Werner Park
- 30 – Memorial Day, NeCGA Office Closed

### *June*

- 2 – E85 Promotion, Omaha
- 9 – NeCGA Board Meeting
- 9 – E85 Promotion, Omaha
- 11 – AE Night at the Races, McCool Junction
- 16 – AE Night at the Races, Columbus
- 16 – E85 Promotion, Omaha
- 17 – AE Night at the Races, Albion
- 19 – AE Night at the Races, Lexington
- 23 – E85 Promotion, Papillion
- 30 – E85 Promotion, Omaha

### *July*

- 4 – Independence Day, NeCGA Office Closed
- 7 – E85 Promotion, Omaha
- 15 – AE Night at the Races, I-80 Speedway
- 28 – NeCGA Corn Grower Open

### *August*

- 12 – AE Night at the Races, Beatrice
- 20 – Frog Fest, Bluestem Farms

**NEWS FROM  
THE NEBRASKA CORN  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION**  
*"YOUR EYES, YOUR EARS"*



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