Wow! I cannot believe it’s September already. I can feel the harvest season setting in. So much to do and it feels like I don’t know what to do first. I am sure that can be said by a lot of farmers this time of year. Going into harvest, safety needs to be number one on the list. Not everyday will be perfect, but we have to try. Going out with the right attitude does help! If you have a bad day, get some rest, eat a good meal, adjust to whatever went wrong, and try to make the next day a better one.

With the calendar turning to October 1st, if you haven’t paid all of your property taxes you know that the second half is due. Property Taxes have been the Nebraska Corn Growers Association’s (NeCGA) top state priority. NeCGA and the Ag Leaders Group will continue to look at ways we can reduce the over reliance of property tax for the rural community, yet maintaining a quality education for our kids and grandkids.

Working on property taxes is just one issue that we have addressed. Your NeCGA board of directors and staff have been very busy this summer. Many miles were logged attending events like Ethanol Night at the Races, our annual golf outing, promoting corn in general, and attending Corn Congress and conducting Hill Visits in Washington D.C.

While in D.C., delegates vote on policy that starts at the local level, moves to the state level, and is then voted on and finalized at the national level. These are the policies we look to and follow when making decisions on issues such as the farm bill, trade and tax reform. Also while we were in D.C., Brandon Hunnicutt was elected to serve on the board of directors for the National Corn Board and Lynn Chrisp was confirmed as First Vice President of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). Congrats!

Finally, I recently returned from meetings on the west coast. Our group met with companies that work in the bio industry. They have some interesting new uses for corn. We learned a lot about what they do and we relayed to them the technology that we utilize today. It included talking about how efficient farmers have become and how reliable we are - thus producing a consistent crop for their needs. We encouraged them to build their future plants in the United States. I repeatedly relayed that Nebraska has a quality corn crop that would work for them! It was a good trip and we are now planning our next steps that will help to move this project along.

Good Luck this fall and be safe!
Dan Wesely, NeCGA President
Nebraska Corn Growers Association Announces Winners of Winter & Spring 2017 FLAGship Program

Lincoln, NE – The Nebraska Corn Growers Association is pleased to announce the winners of the Winter and Spring 2017 Future Leaders in Agriculture Scholarship Program. After reviewing the applications and much deliberation, the Grower Services Committee decided on ten applicants to receive the $2,000 scholarships. The awardees are:

- Emily Frenzen, Fullerton
- Grace McDonald, Phillips
- Heidi Borg, Allen
- James McArtor, Grant
- Jared Stander, Ashland
- Matthew Ortmeier, North Bend
- Michaela Cunningham, Fullerton
- Nathan Lundeen, Minden
- Marissa Kegley, Kearney
- Victoria Whitmore, Shelby
- Spencer Rohrich, Wood River

To be eligible for this scholarship, students must be a member of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association or the son/daughter of a NeCGA member. They must be a senior in high school or college freshman who is continuing their education in an agricultural related field at an in-state school.

“We are continually impressed by the quality of applications we have received for the FLAGship Program. The future of the corn industry, and agriculture in general, is in good hands with this next generation,” said Dan Nerud, Chairman of the Grower Services Committee and Vice President of NeCGA.

For more information about the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Future Leaders in Agriculture Scholarship Program, please visit necga.org or call (402) 438-6459.
The Nebraska Corn Growers Association has closed the books on another summer tradition, fueled by American Ethanol. This summer five different speedways played host to American Ethanol Night at the Races. Local corn grower association members and Nebraska Corn staff had a fun summer talking with race fans about the benefits of homegrown American Ethanol.

**American Ethanol Night at the Races Recap:**

NeCGA’s race season kicked off on **June 2nd** at Beatrice Speedway in Beatrice. It was a hot night, but Nebraska Corn staff was ready with American Ethanol fans to help race goers cool down. Next, it was time to race over to Lexington Raceway. After a rainout towards the end of May, the race was rescheduled for **Sunday, June 4th**. Dawson County Corn Growers, Custer County Corn Growers, and South Central Corn Growers Associations helped to spread the word about American Ethanol and Nebraska Corn.

**Thursday, June 8th** staff packed up and headed to US 30 Speedway, near Columbus. This was only the second year Nebraska Corn has been at US 30. There were a number of race fans wearing the American Ethanol t-shirts that were handed out last year. With the help of the Central Plains Corn Growers, Nebraska Corn handed out American Ethanol goodies and played trivia during intermission. Since one race per weekend is not enough, staff and the Central Plains Corn Growers Association headed to Boone County Raceway in Albion on **Friday, June 9th**. Staff and local board members built on the connections they had made Thursday night, and met some new faces.

The finale of the summer was held on **Friday, July 7th** at I-80 Speedway near Greenwood. The Austin Dillon American Ethanol show car made an appearance at the packed event. Fans were able to snap pictures of themselves with the car during breaks in the action. The Saunders County Corn Growers were on hand to talk with race fans and mingle with members.

The American Ethanol Night at the Races tradition is a chance for local corn growers, family, and friends to get together on a fun night and help promote homegrown fuel. American Ethanol helps promote cleaner air for our environment, creates job opportunities in rural communities, and is an industry supported by Nebraska corn farmers.
At the time I’m writing this, three of our top ten markets for corn and corn co-products – Mexico, Canada, and South Korea - are in serious jeopardy because of comments by President Donald Trump threatening to withdraw from free trade agreements with these countries.

My fear is that by the time you read this, the President will have made good on one or both threats, and those very large stockpiles of corn sitting in your bins and elevators will have even fewer places to go.

Over the Labor Day holiday weekend, we started hearing rumblings that President Trump was preparing to withdraw from KORUS, the free trade agreement between the U.S. and South Korea. South Korea is the third largest customer for U.S. corn and DDGS; exports of corn and corn co-products are valued at more than $1 billion. Farmers and ranchers from Nebraska and across the country sprung into action, contacting the White House, USDA, members of Congress and Governors, urging the President to reconsider. I cannot tell you how important it is for agriculture to speak up and to be strong.

While the President did ultimately hold off, he has not taken withdrawal off the table completely, and we are deeply concerned that we have merely bought some time. Just how much time is an open question.

Unfortunately, this was not a drill, nor was it the first time we’ve had to press the panic button on trade matters in the new administration. Back in April, the President threatened to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico and Canada.

As of this writing, the Administration is still actively threatening withdrawal—an action that would cost U.S. corn farmers dearly. Mexico is our number one market for corn, with exports valued at $2.5 billion annually. Canada is the number two export market for ethanol and continues to grow. Even the threat of withdrawal hurts our relationship with these countries, who are already looking elsewhere to build trading relationships without us.

As I travel around the country and meet with farmers, trade has surpassed ethanol and even the farm bill as the number one concern I hear. In these challenging economic times, we not only cannot afford to lose a market for our crop, we need to build new and better markets.

This is no time to put your head down and hope for the best. We need strong farmer-advocates like you to keep up the noise.

Your Congressional delegation is with us on trade issues and your Governor has been particularly strong in telling the White House how important trade is to Nebraska agriculture. Tell them you appreciate their efforts and urge them to keep it up. And then ask them – politely – to pass along your concerns to the President. We need to stay in KORUS and NAFTA, and pursue new trade agreements that will build demand for corn.

Additionally, the list of nominees for key USDA positions continues to be announced and congrats to your Director of Agriculture, Greg Ibach on his nomination.
Nebraska Corn Leaders Chrisp and Hunnicutt Elected to National Corn Leadership Roles

LINCOLN, Neb. - Two Nebraska corn farmers will represent our nation’s corn industry in leadership roles within the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Lynn Chrisp, a farmer from Hastings, Nebraska, was ratified as the First Vice President of NCGA. Chrisp manages a corn and soybean farm and is actively involved in agricultural leadership roles both locally and nationally.

“As it is for many farmers, growing corn is my way of life,” said Chrisp. “Unfortunately, there are increasing obstacles that make our livelihoods difficult. I’m committed to doing all I can to further promote the work of our farmers and interact with policy makers on the local, state and national levels to enhance and expand our corn industry.”

Prior to this role, which will begin October 1, 2017, Chrisp served the nation’s corn farmers through local and national leadership positions. He’s worked with NCGA through various action teams and locally serves as a director on the Nebraska Corn Growers Association.

Brandon Hunnicutt, a farmer from Giltner, Nebraska, was elected to NCGA’s Corn Board. This 15-person board serves on behalf of U.S. corn farmers to carry out the mission of NCGA, which is to “create and increase opportunities for corn growers.”

“Corn is an incredibly versatile crop, which I’ve been growing for a very long time,” said Hunnicutt. “I understand the challenges farmers face. It’s my goal to help in the challenges to ensure we have a sustainable corn industry for future generations. I also understand more consumers are increasingly removed from the farm, so it’s essential we work with them to help them understand modern agriculture and how food is safely produced.”

Hunnicutt will also begin his new role with NCGA on October 1, 2017. He currently serves as a director on both the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Corn Growers Association. Additionally, Hunnicutt is involved in roles with the U.S. Grains Council and the National Corn Growers Association.

The elections took place July 19, 2017 during NCGA’s Corn Congress in Washington D.C. The multi-day Corn Congress is focused on shaping policy for NCGA. Corn farmer delegates from across the country participated in the discussions.
2017 Corn Grower Open

The 2017 Corn Grower Open is in the books and NeCGA is thankful for another fun and successful day of golf! We had over 110 golfers and 25 different sponsors on a very warm day at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney. Following a round of golf, golfers were treated to supper and the presentation of prizes. Guests were also able to hear from our presenting sponsor, Valley Irrigation, and our meal sponsor, Farmers Business Network. The annual Corn Grower Open would not be possible without the generous support from sponsors and golfers! We hope to see everyone on the course again next year.

Flight One
First Place: Kearney-Franklin 2
Second Place: Big Iron/Tredas/Mussack

Flight Two
First Place: Buffalo-Hall 3
Second Place: York 1

Thank you to our 2017 Corn Grower Open Sponsors!
...and that’s a wrap on the 40th anniversary of Husker Harvest Days! The second week in September was a hot one, but that didn’t stop the people from coming to see what’s new in the world of agriculture. This year in the commodities building, the emphasis was on trade and its importance to the state of Nebraska, and agriculture especially. Each person who stopped by the building was asked to take a moment to sign the #TradeMatters banner. The large banner will be wrapped up and shipped to the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, to remind him how important trade is to Nebraska. In addition to signing the #TradeMatters banner, those who stopped in were asked to sign a petition on WOTUS, or Waters of the United States. The petition will be sent to the EPA to encourage them to rescind the 2015 rule and create a definition of WOTUS that does not subject upland drainage features to federal jurisdiction, and recognizes that water quality can be protected without it.

It wasn’t all business at the Nebraska Corn booth this year. Attendees were treated to an ice cold Coca-Cola, sweetened with high fructose corn syrup, and got a chance to spin a wheel and win prizes, while testing their knowledge about corn and trade. The Nebraska Corn Growers Association and Nebraska Corn Board appreciates all of the help from local corn grower associations as well as respective board members. Husker Harvest Days would not be a success without you! Don’t forget to mark your calendars for next year, September 11-13, 2018.
The Nebraska Corn Growers Association is accepting application for session II of its PRIME Program. This program is designed for Nebraska producers who want to increase their knowledge and better themselves and their operation in all aspects. All sessions are focused on maximizing the long-term viability of the operation through the latest research, emerging technologies, farm management practices, and peer relationships.

The program consists of three sessions, lasting approximately two days each, plus attendance at the Nebraska Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting. Participants can expect a total time commitment of 6-8 days away from the farm over a 12-month period. The material will be relevant and presented by the best that the industry has to offer. Locations of the sessions will be determined once the class has been selected.

A registration fee of $190 is required up enrollment. The fee will be waived for NeCGA 3-year members. All other costs of the program will be covered by NeCGA. The class will consist of 8-12 corn farmers selected from applications and local association board recommendations.

Applications should be submitted by December 22nd, 2017. Participants will be selected and notified in January. Primary selection criteria will be the applicant’s desire and ability to participate and contribute during all sessions. Diversity among farm size, geographic location, and background will be sought as well.

For more information or for an application please visit necga.org, email mwrich@necga.org, or call the office at (402) 438-6459.

**Tentative Session Schedule**

- **Session I** - February 2017
- **Session II** - June 2017
- **Session III** - December 2017
GRASSROOTS WORKSHOP

January 11th & 12th
Holthus Convention Center - York, NE

*Details to Come*

All members welcome!

2018 Nebraska Corn & Soy Collegiate Ambassador Program

The program’s goals are to educate the students about state and federal policy issues affecting agriculture and about opportunities available by supporting industries like the Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.

After completing the program, students will be recognized at the annual meetings of the corn and soybean associations, and each will be presented a **$500 scholarship** to help them with school expenses.

Look for the application - November 2017.

Questions...Comments...More Info?
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