



Corn Grower Update

Fall Edition 2014

"Your Eyes, Your Ears"

Take a Second for Safety this Fall

Husker Harvest Days:

Well, this year proved it again! If you want to experience the unpredictability of Nebraska weather, just wait until Husker Harvest Days. In spite of the fact that Wednesday's show was cancelled, we still had plenty of visitors to the Commodity Building. This year the theme in the commodities building was "Take a Second for Safety", primarily focusing on grain safety. Thanks to our friends at DuPont Pioneer and GSI, hundreds of Nebraska farmers had the opportunity to selflessly sign up their local fire departments to win a grain rescue tube. We are proud to announce that Bob Ziemba of Cedar Rapids won a grain rescue tube for the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Ray Kneifl of Newcastle won a grain rescue tube for the Newcastle Fire Department. In addition to the grain rescue tube giveaway, we also had grain bin rescue demonstrations held at GSI's booth. Working around grain can be risky and dangerous—and a life threatening situation can occur in seconds. The Nebraska Corn Growers along with our industry partners have made this topic a priority to keep farmers safe when working with grain.

As always, Husker Harvest Days gave us and other commodity groups an opportunity to connect with farmer-members. In addition to safety, we talked about a variety of issues: EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule, harvest projections, the Renewable Fuels Standard, and many other topics affecting your success. Thanks to those of you who took time to brave the rain and mud to visit with us at Husker Harvest Days.



Welcome Harvest:

It's that time of year again and we are all excited to welcome the harvest season. As you begin to get your crop out of the field this season, we want to take one more opportunity to remind everyone to "Take a Second for Safety." Harvest time involves people and large equipment moving quickly and in many directions at once. While we're all focused on getting the crop out of the field, it's even more important that we take the time to do them safely and in the right way. Farming is risky enough without taking shortcuts when it comes to safety. The Nebraska Corn Growers Association is proud of the hard work you put into growing this year's crop and wishes you a safe and bountiful harvest.



Summer Activities



Ethanol Night at the Races

This summer, the Nebraska Corn Growers Association hosted three Ethanol Night at the Races events around Nebraska. Each event was a great success with racefans excited to support ethanol and receive their free ethanol gift. These events were free to Nebraska Corn Grower members and their families. Attendees were able to receive a free ethanol t-shirt, and other fun ethanol giveaways. The events were hosted at the Beatrice Speedway in Beatrice on August 1st by the Southeast Corn Growers, Dawson County Speedway in Lexington on August 3rd by the Custer, Dawson and South Central Growers, and at Junction Motor Speedway on August 16th in McCool Junction by the York and Blue River Corn Growers.



Corn and Soy Mentor Mathew Heibner of Hampton, Nebraska, hands out a free ethanol gift to a Corn Grower member at Junction Motor Speedway.

Summer Plot Tours



Local Corn Grower members learn about the use of drones on their farms at the Southeast Plot Tour

Local Corn Grower Associations held their annual plot tours at the end of the summer. The local corn grower associations that held events were: Hamilton, Buffalo-Hall, York, Saunders, Colfax-Dodge and Southeast. Each plot tour had an excellent group of speakers that provided information about hands-on production and management topics. Speakers also shared up-to-date information on the current corn varieties, micro-nutrient and fungicide research, population research and much more.

Beef Pit at NE State Fair

On Wednesday August 27th, Corn Grower members volunteered at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island at the Nebraska Cattlemen's Beef Pit. This is the 22nd year that the Nebraska Corn Growers have volunteered to serve meals in the Beef Pit. "We always enjoy taking time to help out our fellow cattlemen in the Beef Pit. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future," Joel Grams NeCGA President stated.



Corn Grower members and staff volunteer at the Nebraska Cattlemen's Beef Pit at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island.

A Letter from President Grams

Dear NeCGA Member:

Since you are a member of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association, we wanted you to be among the first to know about some exciting and innovative changes happening. These changes are being implemented as the result of a visioning process that has taken place over the past few months.

Leaders from the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) and the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) have been collaborating to better align the two organizations and bring even greater strength, efficiency and effectiveness to benefit Nebraska's leading grain commodity and the farmers who grow it.

Effective October 1, 2014, the offices of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association will move to a new location at 1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 308 Lincoln, NE 68508. Thanks to a number of efficiencies such as shared office equipment, this move is expected to save NeCGA an estimated \$4,000 annually in overhead expense. Contact information for all staff will remain unchanged.

Already effective, NeCGA and NCB will be led by a joint executive director. Kelly Brunkhorst will serve in that capacity in addition to his duties as executive director of the Nebraska Corn Board. The Nebraska Corn Board offices will remain in the State Office Building.

Scott Merritt, who has served as executive director of NeCGA, will become general manager of NeCGA, overseeing that organization's staff, grower and local services, educational and promotional programs, and policy efforts from the new location.

It's important to note that each organization will maintain its separate and distinct mission and identity. This is critical since the checkoff and the grower association each have specific strengths, objectives, and responsibilities to Nebraska corn farmers.

Improved communication, cooperation and coordination are expected outcomes as we work to bring Nebraska's two corn organizations even closer together. We expect these changes will make both organizations stronger and increase their positive impact on behalf of NeCGA members and all farmers who pay the corn checkoff.

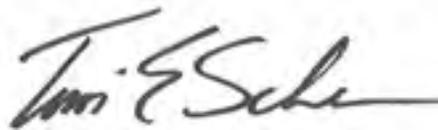
Over the long term, NeCGA and NCB leadership will continue to explore ways to more closely align the two organizations.

If you would like a personal visit from NeCGA or NCB leadership to your local association to discuss these changes, please contact the state office at (402) 438-6459.

Thanks for your support of Nebraska's corn industry. We are proud to serve you!



Joel Grams, President
Nebraska Corn Growers Association



Tim Scheer, Chairman
Nebraska Corn Board



FAQ's About the New Structure for Nebraska Corn Organizations

What led to these structural changes?

The Hale Group, a nationally recognized agriculture consulting firm, led the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Corn Growers Association through a strategic plan in 2009. A major conclusion of that plan was that the level of collaboration between the two organizations needed to increase. Since that time, grower leaders from the two organizations have been talking about how to accomplish that objective.

Those discussions have moved forward in earnest over the past few months, with a clear vision that was unanimously adopted by the board of directors of both organizations.

What's the difference between the executive director and general manager positions?

The executive director position, held by Kelly Brunkhorst, will coordinate the activities of both the membership association and the checkoff. This will bring a greater degree of communication and cooperation between the two organizations.

The NeCGA general manager will oversee the day-to-day activities of the membership association only. Scott Merritt will serve as general manager of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association on an annual contract basis. Scott recently announced that he has purchased an ownership interest in The Anderson Group, an association management firm, which is housed in the same building as the new NeCGA offices. As that transition evolves, Scott will continue as general manager of NeCGA.

What about the boards for each organization?

Since each organization has its own mission and responsibilities, each organization will continue to have its own separate and distinct board of directors as in the past. This structure is quite common in other corn states across the nation.

What about NeCGA's lobbying efforts?

Mick Mines will continue to serve as the registered lobbyist with Scott Merritt overseeing lobbying activities for the Nebraska Corn Growers Association. Mick will now have his office in the new NeCGA location.

What is the vision of the future?

As Nebraska's corn industry moves into the future, discussions will continue between board members of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and Nebraska Corn Board. The overall objective is to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation between the two organizations, while maintaining and strengthening the separate and distinct identities of each.



NeCGA Golf Event Raises Money for Food Bank of Lincoln

The Nebraska Corn Growers Association hosted its 4th Annual Corn Grower Open golf tournament on July 22nd in York, Nebraska. During the event, NeCGA held their first annual silent auction. The proceeds from this auction and mulligan sales were given to the Food Bank of Lincoln. With the help of Corn Grower members, sponsors and other event participants, NeCGA was able to raise \$1,640 for the Food Bank of Lincoln. On July 30th, Joel Grams, President of NeCGA, along with NeCGA staff, met with Scott Young, the Executive Director of the Lincoln Food Bank. During this meeting Grams presented this donation on behalf of NeCGA. The \$1,640 will allow the Food Bank to provide over 4,900 meals to children, families and seniors in need in 16 counties throughout Southeast Nebraska. The food will be used at the mobile pantry sites as well as distributed to their agency partners at various locations.



NeCGA President, Joel Grams, along with NeCGA staff present a check for \$1,640 to Scott Young, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Lincoln.



Waters of the U.S.

A proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to vastly expand the federal agency's powers under the Clean Water Act (CWA) has prompted a number of Nebraska organizations and entities to join forces under the coalition of 'Common Sense Nebraska.' Nebraska agriculture organizations initially formed the coalition in June to push back against the EPA measure proposal that would harm both rural and urban Nebraskans through expansion of EPA's powers and authorities under the federal Clean Water Act. The coalition's purpose is to build awareness and understanding of the EPA proposal and the impact it would have to Nebraskans. Founding members of the coalition include Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Nebraska Poultry Industries, Nebraska Soybean Association and the Nebraska State Dairy Association.

- **What is the "Waters of the U.S." Rule?**

This proposal gives EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers power to control land-use and farming practices on land with puddles, ponds, ditches, and areas where water runs or pools during or after heavy rain, even when those lands aren't wet the majority of the time.

- **Why is the Rule a concern?**

The land features regulated under this proposal can be found on virtually every farm or ranch. Farmers and ranchers with these features would be subject to additional Clean Water Act (CWA) programs, regulations, and permit requirements.

- **How would this affect me?**

Under this proposal, basic farming and ranching activities (tilling soil, fertilizing crops, changing land use, or even building a fence) could require permits when these land features exist. Permitting can be costly and time consuming. Furthermore, the CWA doesn't require EPA to issue permits, even when they require them, meaning EPA could stop farmers from doing basic practices through permit restrictions. EPA permitting also opens the door for lawsuits against farm.

What can I do to stop this?

Tell EPA to Ditch the Rule by visiting

<http://ditchtherule.fb.org/>

Deadline to submit comments is Oct. 20

**SAY NO TO
CLEAN WATER ACT EXPANSION**

#DITCHTHERULE



1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 308 | Lincoln NE | 68508

SAVE THE DATE:

2014 NeCGA Annual Meeting

- **Thursday, December 4, 2014** at the Holthus Convention Center, York, NE from **9 A.M.-2 P.M.**

MOVING NOTICE:

NeCGA will be in the new office effective **October 1, 2014**. Below is our new address:

Nebraska Corn Growers Association
1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 308
Lincoln, NE 68508

Are you receiving NeCGA's Weekly E-Newsletter?

To sign-up for our free E-Newsletter
call the office at
402-438-6459

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