Nebraska Corn Update

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NeCGA Member Chrisp Completes Year as National President

Lynn Chrisp, a Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) board member from Hastings, recently completed his year of service as the president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). Chrisp has been on the NCGA board of directors since 2011, prior to being elected by his peers to serve as the national president last June.

Throughout his term, Chrisp dealt with many difficult issues including trade tariffs, challenges with the Renewable Fuel Standard, small refinery waivers and misleading corn syrup advertisements from Anheuser-Busch. He traveled throughout corn country, Washington, D.C. and around the world advocating for the nation’s corn farmers.

“On a fundamental basis, it really does not take much time to be involved, be counted and make a difference,” Chrisp said. “Farmers’ opportunities today provided by electronic communications allow them to be involved, make their voices heard and make a difference. Whether it is by contacting the administration, Congress or federal regulators, it is easy to do and it only takes a few minutes. All of our voices together can make a difference.”

The Nebraska Corn Board and the NCGA extend their appreciation to Lynn and thank him for his years of national service, and most recently his role as NCGA president. Chrisp, a corn farmer from Hastings, spent the last year in the leadership role, which concluded Sept. 30.

“It’s always great to see a farmer from Nebraska at the helm of a national organization,” said Dan Nerud, president of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and farmer from Dorchester. “Lynn not only served our state’s farmers well during his year as president, but he also was a powerful advocate for all American corn growers.”

On Oct. 1, Chrisp advanced to NCGA’s chairman position. Kevin Ross, a farmer from Underwood, Iowa, replaced Chrisp as president.

Lynn Chrisp, NCGA chairman, addressed corn farmers from across the U.S. at a recent Corn Congress. The biannual event serves as an important time to discuss agricultural policy and the most pressing issues impacting corn farmers. Chrisp finalized his role as NCGA president on Sept. 30.

IN THIS ISSUE

Husker Harvest Days
D.C. Leadership Mission
And much more!
Fellow Corn Growers:

If you are like me, 2020 cannot come soon enough! Our industry has faced many challenges this year. I could go back to a wet 2018 harvest as the start to a buildup in frustrations for agriculture. While we may not be able to control the weather, we can have a voice in issues surrounding policy. Rest assured that I, as your Nebraska Corn Growers Associations president, have relayed your frustrations.

I want to take you back roughly 90 days ago. I, along with other board members and staff, began hearing from you on ethanol policy. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had just announced that they were going to approve over 30 small refinery exemptions. These exemptions amounted to over 1.3 billion gallons of renewable fuel that would not be blended into our nation’s fuel supply.

We heard you loud and clear - you were frustrated! This announcement was the tipping point.

A few weeks later, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue was to attend a townhall meeting hosted at the Nebraska State Fair. While Secretary Perdue was ultimately unable to attend, our message was clear and it was a message that we delivered to our Congressional delegation, along with Governor Ricketts on your behalf.

We’re approaching harvest in the next 30 days, where we have already lost over 50 cents on the value of new crop corn. EPA didn’t listen, and as a representative of corn farmers — we are frustrated. You can even use the word angry!

We were heard and the administration felt your frustrations! In early Oct., President Trump announced a deal to reallocate gallons lost to small refinery exemptions.

While I continue to be frustrated by the approach EPA has taken in managing the Renewable Fuels Standard (take time to let your voice be heard), I use this issue to represent one of the values of your Association.

I am proud of the position and directness we took representing you.

As we close out 2019 with our upcoming annual meeting, don’t ever hesitate to call the office or myself to relay your thoughts on issues of importance.

Happy Thanksgiving! And may our 2020 be filled with fewer frustrations!

Dan Nerud
President, Nebraska Corn Growers Association
NeCGA Members Host Trade Teams

Last year the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA), joined the U.S. Grains Council to support the important work they do for international trade. In addition to joining the Council, NeCGA members played key roles in hosting trade teams to showcase the quality of Nebraska’s corn production.

Over the last several months, NeCGA board members Brandon Hunnicutt (Giltner), Larry Mussack (Tekamah) and Dan Nerud (Dorchester) each hosted trade teams from Mexico, Japan and Taiwan respectively.

“By bringing teams onto our farm, we’re able to relay firsthand our sustainable production practices and quality of corn that we produce,” said Brandon Hunnicutt, NeCGA board member and co-owner of Hunnicutt Farms. “Also, by bringing trade teams to farms, we’re able to build relationships with our customers that hopefully develop into long-term partnerships. I like to think the U.S. is the best in the world when it comes to corn, ethanol and livestock production. We’re open for business and want to share our products with the world.”

The Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Nebraska Corn Board assist in lining up the tour stops, while the U.S. Grains Council sponsors the teams. Each of the groups bring a different focus. The Japan and Taiwan teams focused on livestock feeding, while the Mexico team was focused on imports and expansion of ethanol use.

“We know we produce quality ag products in Nebraska,” said Dan Nerud, president of NeCGA and farmer from Dorchester. “We can have all of the quality products in the world, but if we don’t have anyone to buy our commodities, it doesn’t matter. Therefore, trade matters. We always need to be working on enhancing relationships with our friends around the globe.”

MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Advocacy in the Unicameral**
  NeCGA is your voice in Lincoln as state senators consider legislation that can have a dramatic effect on your operation. From property taxes to water policy to environmental regulations—NeCGA stays connected with policymakers to protect your best interests.

- **Advocacy Inside the Beltway**
  As a member of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association you are also a member of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). At over 40,000 members strong, NCGA is the largest corn-focused membership organization in the nation—and is one of the most respected and influential agricultural organizations in Washington, D.C.

- **Education**
  NeCGA helps bring a number of valuable programs that make a real difference in your operation—demand, value and sustainability.

- **Leadership Development**
  NeCGA is developing the next generation of farmers and agricultural leaders by supporting a wide range of programs for young farm families, college students, and farmers who want to grow into state and national leadership roles. Programs include the Corn and Soy Ambassador Program, PRIME Program, FLAGship Program, and Grassroots Leadership.

- **Partnership**
  Joining NeCGA is about you. Your farm. Your family. Your future. And your opportunity to get as involved as you want to be in helping Nebraska’s corn industry grow and prosper.

- **Seed Incentive**
  All growers who join or renew as three-year members in the association receive a seed voucher worth $150 of their next purchase. Participating companies can be found at necga.org.
The Nebraska Corn Growers Association continued strong outreach and visibility during the annual Husker Harvest Days show, Sept. 10 – 12. The theme this year was Ag Strong: Growing Value. Each of the commodity associations and checkoff boards represented talked with attendees about the ways their commodity adds value to Nebraska. Throughout the week NeCGA also promoted membership and encouraged growers to continue advocating for trade and ethanol. This included having producers sign a banner that was sent to Washington, D.C. NeCGA also conducted a number of media interviews and took part in a “Nebraska Wins with USMCA (US Mexico Canada Agreement)” press conference with Governor Ricketts, UNL Chancellor Green and members of Nebraska agricultural associations.

Each year the Association asks local associations to staff the booth for a shift during the annual farm show. This is a great opportunity for local associations board members to visit with current and potential members. Local associations work hard throughout the year advocating for their members and hosting local events. Husker Harvest Days is a great opportunity to share these wins.

This is a great opportunity for local associations board members to visit with current and potential members.
NeCGA Attends Corn Congress, Meets with Congressional Members

Delegates from the Nebraska Corn Growers Association, the Nebraska Corn Board and other corn states descended on Washington, D.C. in late-July. While in the nation’s capital, delegates took the opportunity to meet with Nebraska’s congressional delegation.

“July Corn Congress always provides a great opportunity to advocate on our members behalf,” said Steve Ebke, chairman of the NeCGA Government Relations Committee. “This year was especially timely with discussions ongoing regarding the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement and ethanol policy.”

In addition to meeting with Nebraska’s congressional members, NeCGA delegates met with congressional members outside of the Corn Belt to relay a farmer’s personal perspective on key issues including ethanol and USMCA.

The annual opportunity to be in Washington, D.C. also allowed attendees to take part in the National Corn Grower Association (NCGA) action team meetings, update policies and visit with agribusiness associations.

Lynn Chrisp, a farmer from Hastings who was serving as president of NCGA, presided over the delegate sessions and presented his Presidential Award to Senator Deb Fischer. In presenting the award to Senator Fischer, Lynn commented, “Senator Fischer has been an outspoken advocate for corn farmers from our shared home state of Nebraska and across the country, supporting policies that will help create market opportunities for corn.”

NCGA Recognizes Senator Fischer with President’s Award

National Corn Growers Association Chairman Lynn Chrisp presented NCGA’s 2019 President’s Award to Nebraska Senator Deb Fischer at Corn Congress in July. The President’s Award is given annually during NCGA’s Corn Congress meeting in Washington, D.C. to a leader who has worked to advance issues important to corn growers and agriculture.

“It is my great pleasure to present the NCGA President’s Award to Senator Fischer,” Chrisp said. “Senator Fischer has been an outspoken advocate for corn farmers from our shared home state of Nebraska and across the country, supporting policies that will help create market opportunities for corn.”

In her remarks to corn farmers, Fischer voiced her support for the pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the top legislative priority for corn growers in 2019. Fisher was a strong advocate for removing the barrier to year-round sales of E15 and continues to stand up for a strong Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and against the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) practice of providing RFS waivers to big oil companies.

“It’s a real honor to receive this recognition from the National Corn Growers Association. From pushing to advance USMCA to securing year-round E-15 sales and working to address small refinery exemptions, I’m proud of the good work we’ve done together. I look forward to continuing to fight for our corn growers in Nebraska and across rural America,” Fischer said.

Fischer sits on the Senate’s Agriculture and Armed Services Committees. She is also a member of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s leadership team, serving as counsel to the Majority Leader. A lifelong Nebraskan, Fischer was first elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2012, the first Nebraska woman elected to a full term. She is now the senior senator from Nebraska.
A Letter from the NCB Chairman | DAVID BRUNTZ

My fellow corn farmers:

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the end of harvest (hopefully!), I wanted to share a few updates from your Nebraska corn checkoff. In times of market uncertainty and low prices, a natural question we hear is “what are my checkoff dollars doing for me lately?” It’s a fair question. A question I would’ve likely asked before I became a director on the Nebraska Corn Board. Let me guarantee you, our state’s corn checkoff dollars are being used strategically and efficiently in our key areas of research, market development, promotion and education. Each dollar spent helps to fulfill our mission of promoting the value of corn by creating opportunities.

Research – From crop production technologies to new uses research, we’re constantly investing in different areas of discovery for the betterment of our industry. On the agronomic side, we’re focused on key issues like soil health, water sustainability and nitrogen management. On the new uses front, we know consumers are demanding sustainable products, so we’re partnering up with scientists to look at high value products from corn kernel fiber.

Market Development – We’ve been busy building demand for Nebraska corn. Within the last couple of months, we’ve hosted trade teams from Japan, Mexico and Taiwan showcasing the quality of our corn, ethanol and DDGS industries. Trade is such an important component of our industry, and we’re constantly partnering with the National Corn Growers Association, the U.S. Grains Council, the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the U.S. Meat Export Federation to ensure the passage of trade agreements like the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement.

Additionally, we testified in front of the EPA just a few weeks ago, and strongly urged the agency to uphold law and maintain the integrity of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Promotion – For the second year in a row, the Nebraska Corn Board led a multi-state effort to promote American Ethanol, specifically Unleaded88, on the B1G 10 network. Check out the full story in this newsletter.

Education – It’s essential for people of all ages to understand our industry to ensure we have a viable future and consumers who want our products. We have a number of educational initiatives in our portfolio, targeting pre-K students all the way through adults. For example, right before Thanksgiving, we’ll be equipping our CommonGround volunteers with training sessions on gene editing technologies and alternative protein sources so they have the tools needed to talk with consumers and clear up any misinformation they may have regarding modern agriculture.

I sincerely hope you all take the opportunity to read through this entire Nebraska Corn newsletter to get a more in-depth look into some of our current initiatives. If you’d like more information on any of our programs or have ideas for the Nebraska Corn Board, reach out to your local director or to one of our staff members at 402-471-CORN.

All the best this holiday season!

David Bruntz
Chairman, Nebraska Corn Board

“The Nebraska Corn Board is funded through a producer checkoff investment of ½-cent-per-bushel checkoff on all corn marketed in the state and is managed by nine farmer directors. The mission of the Nebraska Corn Board is to promote the value of corn by creating opportunities."
Nebraska Corn Hosts International Buyers During Three Trade Missions

This fall, Nebraska Corn hosted three trade missions with international buyers from Japan, Mexico and Taiwan. The visits were organized in collaboration with the U.S. Grains Council and were designed to strengthen relationships while highlighting the U.S. corn, ethanol and DDGS industries.

“We’ve had great friendships with our customers from these three countries for many years, and we always look forward to their visits to Nebraska,” said David Bruntz, NCB chairman and farmer from Friend. “These buyers are top ten customers. Mexico is our top corn importer, Japan is number two and Taiwan is sixth. Each of these visits are very important to Nebraska corn farmers.”

Throughout each of the trade missions, the international customers were shown many different parts of the corn value chain, including cornfields, ethanol plants, storage facilities, livestock operations and transportation systems.

“In times when there’s so much uncertainty in regards to trade, it’s great to have our top customers visit to remind them how much we value their business,” said Bruntz.

For more information on the various trade missions, visit NebraskaCorn.gov and click on the “News Releases” tab.

As part of their visit to Nebraska Oct. 23-24, members of the Taiwanese trade mission visited Dan Nerud’s farm. Nerud is the current president of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association.

A trade delegation from Mexico was in Nebraska Oct. 16-18. The team represented all facets of the Mexican ethanol industry.

The Japanese trade delegation was in Nebraska Sept. 18-19. The group was comprised of Japanese feed corn millers who learned about the U.S. value chain.
Nine young leaders learned about U.S. agriculture and corn policy during annual D.C. leadership mission.

Nine young leaders visited Washington, D.C. July 14-18, 2019, to learn about corn policy development, explore American agriculture outside of the Midwest, and visit with congressional leaders and agribusinesses. The trip was sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board and was designed to encourage young leaders to take an active role in the agricultural industry.

"Being from Bellevue, I've always been interested in agriculture, but didn't have a lot of experience with row crops and agricultural policy," said Catherine Jones, D.C. leadership attendee and recent graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "I appreciate the Nebraska Corn Board’s investment in young people who are passionate about the agricultural industry. I know I will take much of what I learned this week with me as I pursue a
master’s degree and future career in an ag-related field.”

The nine-member leadership team consisted of:

Catherine Jones, Bellevue, Nebraska
Morgan Leefers, Syracuse, Nebraska
Liz Ruskamp, North Bend, Nebraska
Brent Lemmer, Atkinson, Nebraska
Nate Lundeen, Minden, Nebraska
Michael Dibbern, Cairo, Nebraska
Alex Voichoskie, Wilcox, Nebraska
Heather Ramsey, Bruning, Nebraska
Wesley Wach, Hayes Center, Nebraska

Half of the group arrived to D.C. early so they could take part in Trade School offered by the U.S. Grains Council. This hands-on workshop helped the leadership group better understand the importance of global ag trade and provided participants with updates on current and potential trade agreements. On Tuesday, July 16, the group visited a variety of farms specializing in seafood, grain, fruit and vegetable production. The leadership team then spent time in Washington, D.C. and visited with USDA Undersecretary Greg Ibach. As the week progressed, the group participated in Corn Congress, a multi-day policy development event organized by the National Corn Growers Association. During Corn Congress, participants had time to meet with Nebraska’s congressional leaders and national agribusinesses, such as the Nature Conservancy, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, the Waterways Council, Inc. and the Environmental Defense Fund.

“As a young farmer, this opportunity has greatly helped me understand the intricacies of ag policy,” said Michael Dibbern, D.C. leadership attendee and farmer from Cairo. “This experience has reaffirmed my belief that we in agriculture need to be at the table as policy is being shaped. It’s really easy to fall into the day-to-day routine of the farm, but we need to make our voices heard at the national level.”

Participants of Nebraska Corn’s leadership group were selected after completing an application process. This is the seventh year the Nebraska Corn Board has sponsored the leadership group.
Gov. Ricketts Appoints Grabenstein to Nebraska Corn Board

In August, Gov. Pete Ricketts appointed Adam Grabenstein, from Farnam, to the District 5 region of the Nebraska Corn Board, which consists of Buffalo, Dawson, Hall, Howard and Sherman counties. Grabenstein replaced Tim Scheer, from St. Paul, who served on the board since 2007 and chose not to seek reappointment.

Grabenstein is the fifth generation operating his family farm, which is located in Frontier and Dawson counties. On his farm, he grows corn and cover crops, and manages a cow/calf operation and a cattle feedlot near Farnam. In 2005, the Grabenstein family was recognized with the AKSARBEN Foundation’s Pioneer Farm Award, which recognizes Nebraska farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land in the same family for 100 years.

He earned degrees in diversified agriculture and agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in 2005. Grabenstein is also a graduate of the Nebraska Lead Program class 37. Adam and his wife, Kelsey, are the parents of three children: Fletcher, Rowdy and Stella.

"I chose to apply for the open director position because I wanted to be a better advocate for Nebraska’s ag industry," said Grabenstein. "As a farmer and cattle producer, I know firsthand we need to do a better job of sharing our story of production agriculture. I look forward to serving Nebraska’s corn producers in a progressive way but in a manner that preserves the family farm legacy."

NEBRASKA CORN BOARD OFFERS NEW INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) has long had a robust internship program. Each year, dozens of students apply for the opportunity to intern with major NCB cooperators: the U.S. Meat Export Federation, the National Corn Growers Association and the U.S. Grains Council. Students can also intern locally with the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the NCB. These internships are summer internships with the exception of the year-long options in the Lincoln offices of Nebraska Corn.

This year, a new option was added with the U.S. Grains Council in Washington, D.C. This is a year-long internship, which begins in Jan. 2020. This internship is focused on international relations and is designed for upper-level college students or recent graduates wanting to gain more experience working with global ag trade.
B1G Ten Campaign has B1G Impact

Fans of college sports have likely seen ethanol advertisements on TV, while streaming and even on social media. For the second year in a row, the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) spearheaded a national advertising campaign promoting the benefits of clean-burning Unleaded88 (E15) on the B1G Ten Network (BTN). To maximize on reach and impact, NCB partnered with the Nebraska Ethanol Board and other corn checkoffs across the country, including Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kansas and Colorado.

"Everyone knows that you need to pay to play when it comes to advertising and marketing," said Debbie Borg, NCB District 4 director and farmer from Allen. "We also know that we're stronger when we're working together. By combining resources from several corn states on one major national platform, we're able to very effectively reach huge numbers of people to promote ethanol."

The animated stars of the Unleaded88 commercials are Emma and Nate. Both appreciate the numerous benefits of filling up with Unleaded88, including the money they save at the pump.

"We also know that we're stronger when we're working together. By combining resources from several corn states on one major national platform, we're able to very effectively reach huge numbers of people to promote ethanol."

"Previously, we focused our advertisements on E15, but research from ethanol industry groups showed us E15 wasn't testing well with consumers," said Kurtis Harms, NCB director of communications. "Nationally, many fuel retailers are rebranding E15 as Unleaded88, which is resonating well with motorists. We know not all stations are referring to E15 as Unleaded88, but it's the most consistent name nationwide."

Because E15 can now be sold year-round for all vehicles 2001 and newer, NCB and its partners believed this was an ideal time to develop a national campaign.

"We're very lucky in states like Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois because we grow a lot of corn and have more resources to invest in ethanol advertising than some smaller corn states," said Borg. "However, we don't have the population densities that some other states, like New York or California have. This is why it's so important to have a national campaign. Plus, the B1G Ten has such a strong alumni base scattered all over the country."

The current campaign kicked off during the 2019 football and volleyball seasons and will also include men's basketball. To view the commercials, visit: youtube.com/nebraskacorn.
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
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Lincoln, NE 68510

Nebraska Corn Growers Association
ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Ramada Midtown, Grand Island

Keynote Speaker:
Kevin Van Trump
The Van Trump Report

Exporting Nebraska Corn Through U.S. Beef & Pork

In 2018, the market value of red meat exports to Nebraska:
- CORN $187 Million
- DDGS $41 Million

In 2018, red meat exports added 11% of bushel value. $0.39 from red meat exports at an average of $3.53 per bushel.

Without red meat exports, Nebraska farms would have lost $657 million in corn revenue in 2018.

$2.202 Billion
The projected market value of red meat exports to Nebraska corn from 2019-2028.

$437 Million
The projected market value of red meat exports to Nebraska corn from 2019-2028.