Nebraska Corn update

WINTER | 2023

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NEBRASKA CORN BOARD

Engaging on Mexico Trade

NeCGA chairman, Andy Jobman joined the National Corn Growers Association president Tom Haag; Representative Adrian Smith (R-Neb.); and Jason Hafemeister, acting deputy for trade at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a congressional briefing on the Mexico decree on January 31st.

The Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) and Nebraska Corn Board (NCB) have been actively engaged and fighting for Nebraska farmers after Mexico has doubled down on their decree that was originally published in 2020. This decree, as it stands today, bans the import of genetically modified (GM) white corn into Mexico. The Association has consistently and strongly encouraged an immediate response from the Biden Administration and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in response to Mexico's recent actions which will revoke authorizations and permits to import, produce, distribute and use the herbicide glyphosate and genetically modified (GM) corn in the midst of trade tensions with the United States.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) has clearly violated the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade pact by issuing this decree to ban the imports of GM corn. Nebraska Corn stresses that the consultation process for a dispute under USMCA must be initiated immediately. The decree alludes to scientific studies being conducted to investigate the health impacts of consuming GM corn. After decades of global study, the negative results have been absent time and time again when utilizing genetic technology. Nebraska Corn trusts the science.

"We are to the point that the United States needs to request consultation under the USMCA immediately," Chris Grams, NeCGA president, states. "The decree is unacceptable for not only Nebraska farmers, but also the country of Mexico. If the decree comes to pass, it will have severe economic consequences on Nebraska farmers as we lead the nation in white corn production."

"We trust the science and so should Mexico," Jay Reiners, NCB Chairman states. "We refuse to sacrifice the science, or the growing of white corn used for human consumption for yellow corn and livestock feed. Mexico cannot feed their people alone; they need U.S. farmers."

Just prior to our newsletter deadline, USTR announced they are requesting technical consultations with Mexico under USMCA. This initial step, if unresolved, will lead a dispute resolution process within USMCA, a step that Nebraska Corn has continually requested.

IN THIS ISSUE

D.C. Recap
State Senator Directory
State & Federal Policy Issues
Del & Ed Update
Long Term Benefits of E30
NCB Open Districts

"Our board is full of passionate growers from across the state that are ready to be a voice for you in the legislature in Lincoln and in Washington, D.C."

A Message from the NeCGA President | **CHRIS GRAMS**

Fellow Corn Growers,

2023 is off to a great start for the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA)! With the support of your membership, we are staying on top of issues that matter to your operations.

This past January, we hosted our annual meeting in York with a great turnout from our local associations. We revised our policy book as we prepare for another year of advocating for issues that are important to our members. At the board meeting that afternoon, we elected a new slate of officers. Our board is full of passionate growers from across the state that are ready to be a voice for you in the legislature in Lincoln and in Washington, D.C.

Continuing from 2022, we are staying on top of the decree that came out of Mexico with the intention to ban the import of GM corn. Our staff and grower leaders are actively engaged in conversations with National Corn Growers Association and our Congressional members to encourage the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) to begin the dispute process within the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. As more details become available on this issue, we will be sure to share with our membership base.

2023 also marks the beginning of the seventh PRIME class, which has eight participants this year. This group of young leaders will have the opportunity to take part in the biannual trip this summer to St. Louis for a locks and dams tour along the Mississippi River. This experience gives insight into how trade and transportation of products can vary across the country, especially coming from a landlocked state like Nebraska. For more information about the PRIME program, please visit our website.

NeCGA is ready for the exciting year that 2023 will be. As we continue to grow the Association, I encourage you to keep recruiting your neighbors and fellow corn growers to join our efforts and share their voices on these important issues. We are stronger together and I appreciate your membership and continued support of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association. Good luck and stay safe during your spring season!

Christopher A Grams

D.C. Recap

On February sixth, members of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) made their way to Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of Nebraska corn producers. Over the course of four days, members were given the opportunity to meet with various agricultural cooperators and congressional representatives to voice their concerns on various agricultural issues that the state of Nebraska is facing.

Following policy briefings from the National Corn Grower Association, participants met with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Renewable Fuels Association, Field To Market, National Pork Producers, Water Strategies LLC and Corn Refiners Association. The second day of meetings included Growth Energy, BSNF Railroad, Mexico Embassy, Animal Agriculture Alliance and US Grains Council. Members also had the opportunity to go to Capitol Hill to discuss concerns with Representative Adrian Smith, Representative Mike Flood and Representative Don Bacon as well as Senator Pete Ricketts and Senator Deb Fischer's staff.

In these meetings, members discussed international trade issues, especially the recent Mexico Decree, and how those decisions will affect our farms back home. We also reviewed the Farm Bill by highlighting how an NeCGA survey shows farmers value crop insurance protection along with foreign market development and market access programs. Members also voiced their concern on high input costs on their operations along with the rising tariffs that have been implemented in the last couple of years. Ethanol was also a topic of discussion in nearly every meeting. Having access to higher ethanol blends year round, not only benefits farmers and producers, but also saves consumers money at the pump. Overall, these organizations showcased their efforts in these issues and what they are doing to enforce change in policy.

The DC Leadership Mission is a great opportunity to learn more about issues in agriculture that can have effects to your operations back home as well as the agriculture policy that is discussed and voted on in our Nation's capital. If you are interested in attending next year's mission, please contact Katherine Byrne at kbyrne@necga.org.

State Senator Directory

Julie Slama
District 1
Room: 1401
402.471.2733

Robert Clements
District 2
Room: 1305
402.471.2613

Carol Blood
District 3
Room: 10th Floor
402.471.2627

Brad von Gillern
District 4
Room: 10th Floor
402.471.2621

Mike McDonnell
District 5
Room: 1101
402.471.2710

Machaela Cavanaugh
District 6
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2714

Tony Vargas
District 7
Room: 8th Floor
402.471.2721

Megan Hunt
District 8
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2714

John Cavanaugh
District 9
Room: 8th Floor
402.471.2723

Wendy DeBoer
District 10
Room: 12th Floor
402.471.2718

Terrell McKinney
District 11
Room: 1212
402.471.2612

Merv Riepe
District 12
Room: 1308
402.471.2623

Justin Wayne
District 13
Room: 1103
402.471.2727

John Arch
District 14
Room: 2103
402.471.2730

Lynne Walz
District 15
Room: 1120
402.471.2625

Ben Hansen
District 16
Room: 1117
402.471.2728

Joni Albrecht
District 17
Room: 12th Floor
402.471.2716

Christy Armendariz
District 18
Room: 10th Floor
402.471.2618

Robert Dover
District 19
Room: 12th Floor
402.471.2929

John Fredrickson
District 20
Room: 8th Floor
402.471.2622

Beau Ballard
District 21
Room: 1403
402.471.2673

Mike Moser
District 22
Room: 1529
402.471.2715

Bruce Bostelman
District 23
Room: 1210
402.471.2719

Jana Hughes
District 24
Room: 10th Room
402.471.2756

Suzanne Geist
District 25
Room: 1110
402.471.2731

George Dungan
District 26
Room: 12th Floor
402.471.2610

Anna Wishart
District 27
Room: 8th Floor
402.471.2632

Jane Raybould
District 28
Room: 10th Floor
402.471.2633

Eliot Bostar
District 29
Room: 10th Floor
402.471.2734

Myron Dorn
District 30
Room: 1208
402.471.2620

Kathleen Kauth
District 31
Room: 1522
402.471.2327

Tom Brandt
District 32
Room: 1528
402.471.2711

Steve Halloran
District 33
Room: 1115
402.471.2712

Loren Lippincott
District 34
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2630

Raymond Aguilar
District 35
Room: 1118
402.471.2617

Rick Holdcroft
District 36
Room: 1302
402.471.2642

John Lowe
District 37
Room: 1306
402.471.2726

Dave Murman
District 38
Room: 1107
402.471.2732

Lou Ann Linehan
District 39
Room: 1116
402.471.2885

Barry DeKay
District 40
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2801

Tom Briese
District 41
Room: 2108
402.471.2631

Mike Jacobson
District 42
Room: 1523
402.471.2729

Tom Brewer
District 43
Room: 1423
402.471.2628

Teresa Ibach
District 44
Room: 12th Floor
402.471.2805

Rita Sanders
District 45
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2615

Danielle Conrad
District 46
Room: 1206
402.471.2720

Steve Erdman
District 47
Room: 1124
402.471.2616

Brian Hardin
District 48
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2802

Jen Dey
District 49
Room: 11th Floor
402.471.2725

2023 State Policy Issues We are Watching:

FROM NeCGA LOBBYIST MICK MINES

The Nebraska Legislature began the long 90-day session in January and by day 11 over 800 legislative bills or proposed constitutional amendments were introduced. NeCGA's Government Relations Committee reviewed and highlights below some of the association's top priorities.

Ethanol Blending

LB 562 creates the E15 Access Standard Act that will provide consumers across the state of Nebraska with greater access to E15. Beginning January 1, 2024, fuel retailers shall offer E15 from at least 50% of their dispensers. There is an exemption for small retailers that sell less than 300,000 gallons of fuel annually or if the storage and dispensing infrastructure are incompatible with E15 gasoline. In addition, a grant program provides $30 million to upgrade fuel dispensing facilities like pumps, hoses, tanks, etc., to distribute E15 motor fuel. Senator Myron Dorn introduced LB 652 and designated it his personal priority bill.

Property taxes

Senator Albrecht introduced LB 820 at the request of Governor Pillen. The Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act says that agricultural and horticultural land sales are influenced by uses other than agricultural or horticultural purposes. The bill would require all agricultural and horticultural land to be assessed based on its capacity to produce income, called agricultural use value.

Senator Briese introduced LB 589 because property taxes are the primary funding source for school districts. The bill would cap the growth in property taxes. Individual school boards could exceed their property authority by a 75% majority vote of the school board.

Senator Linehan introduced LB 753 at the request of Governor Pillen. The bill creates the Opportunity Scholarships Act to provide education scholarships for eligible students to attend qualified, nonprofit, private elementary or secondary schools. Funding would come from individual and corporate taxpayers who qualify for a non-refundable tax credit equal to the amount the taxpayer contributes to a scholarship-granting organization, not exceeding 50% of their state income tax liability.

Rural Development

Senator Brandt introduced LB 116 that would update provisions within the Beginning Farmer or Next Gen Program. These changes were part of an interim study that NeCGA took part in. The changes introduced would increase the net worth maximum to $1 million and excludes retirement and pensions from determining net worth.

LB 442 was introduced by Senator Albrecht and would appropriate funding within the Livestock Friendly County Program to allow such designated counties access to grant funds for continued development and promotion of livestock.

Finally, LB 809 was introduced by Senator Murman and provides $10 million into the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act to assist rural communities across Nebraska in recruiting and supporting economic development.

Rural Broadband

LB 683 would create the Nebraska Broadband Office to ensure that all federal, state and local government funding for broadband infrastructure and services in Nebraska are leveraged strategically to ensure that all Nebraskans have access to affordable, reliable broadband services before January 1, 2028.

LB 361 would provide $4 million and creates the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program to propel Nebraska agricultural producers to lead the nation in precision agriculture connectivity, sustainability, traceability and autonomy to accelerate rural economic development; and provide high-speed Internet service to farm sites in unserved areas of the state.

Looking Forward to a Productive Year Ahead in the Nation's Capital

By Kathy Reding Bergren
Director of public policy and renewable fuels at the National Corn Growers Association

As the new Congress picks up the pace, NCGA staff are working on a number of issues in Washington, including the Mexican ban on genetically modified corn, reauthorization of the Farm Bill and biofuels policy, including reintroduction of The Next Generation Fuels Act.

Here are some highlights of our work so far:

Fighting Mexico's GM Corn Ban. Mexican officials have issued a decree that would ban imports of biotech corn. That's problematic for U.S. corn growers, as the majority of corn grown in the U.S. is biotech corn, and Mexico is one of our largest customers. Originally the ban was to take effect in early 2024, a little less than a year from now. But Mexican officials recently announced that biotech corn for human consumption would be banned immediately, while the ban on biotech corn used in animal feed would be postponed until a substitute is found.

We continue working closely with allies on Capitol Hill and in the administration to hold Mexico accountable for commitments made under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). USMCA is a rules-based and science-based agreement, and this issue provides our trade officials with an opportunity to stand up for this trade pact. We have also taken to the media and called on the Biden administration to initiate a dispute settlement under USMCA. Once that formal process is started, the issue could be resolved in six to nine months. With regular ongoing discussions among all parties, stay tuned for further new developments.

Supporting Reauthorization of the Farm Bill. This important legislation, which governs many of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's agricultural and food programs, is up for renewal this year, providing policymakers with an opportunity to strengthen existing programs. NCGA, state corn associations and our farmer members are working closely with policymakers to help them understand the importance of the farm bill and ensure the bill addresses the needs of corn growers.

NCGA's principles for the 2023 farm bill include protecting crop insurance, bolstering U.S. international market development efforts, strengthening the producer safety net, supporting voluntary conservation programs and championing initiatives important to rural America. Corn growers are participating in important congressional stakeholder meetings, collaborating with broad agriculture coalitions and working closely with members on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to secure a strong farm bill this year. With the process moving forward, and twists and turns expected along the way, NCGA will continue to keep you informed and provide opportunities to weigh in.

Next Generation Fuels Act Reintroduction. As high fuel prices and energy security concerns persist, along with a focus on cutting emissions, NCGA continues to advance ethanol as an energy, climate and economic solution. To that end, we are working with bipartisan members of the House and Senate on reintroduction of The Next Generation Fuels Act for this Congress. This legislation would clean up our nation's fuel supply and transition new vehicles to use low carbon, high octane fuels, creating an important pathway for higher ethanol blends. This transition to updated fuels and vehicles would cut fuel costs, reduce emissions, and increase fuel efficiency. This transition would also support agriculture's contribution toward decarbonizing transportation.

Working on corn farmers' behalf requires great leadership. NCGA staff were thrilled to learn in late February that one of our own, Neil Caskey, was chosen by the Corn Board as NCGA's new CEO. Neil has decades of experience advocating on behalf of farmers, and we're excited about new ideas he has for NCGA.

We will keep up the good fight on these and many other issues, and at times, we will call on you to take action. To that end, please make sure you are signed up for NCGA's action alerts by texting COB to 52886.

Here's to a productive year ahead!

"Nebraska Corn has been focusing on the genetically modified (GM) corn ban in Mexico. NeCGA has taken a stand both in Nebraska and on Capitol Hill..."

A Letter from the NCB Chairman | **JAY REINERS**

Welcome to 2023!

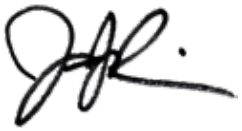
It seems as though each year flies by faster than the last. When you receive this in your mailbox, you may be spending quite a bit of time in the shop preparing for planting. It seems like harvest just wrapped up and we're looking to #Plant23 already. I look forward to this season each year as it brings new life to the soil with sunshine and warmer skies. This planting season will be my 33rd since I began farming with my dad as the fourth generation.

I want to begin this letter by congratulating Chris Grams on becoming president of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) in January. Chris will work very closely with the Nebraska Corn Board, as together we actively move the needle of the corn industry upward in the state and around the world. It's been a pleasure to work alongside Andy Jobman and we thank him for his service and dedication to Nebraska Corn.

Nebraska Corn has been focusing on the genetically modified (GM) corn ban in Mexico. NeCGA has taken a stand both in Nebraska and on Capitol Hill, briefing congressional leaders about the negative impact of Mexico's proposed ban. We applaud the efforts of Andy Jobman who took time off his farm to travel to Washington, D.C. in late January to take part in the panel, educating leadership in our nation's capital about the effect this could make on more than just corn farmers but our country as a whole.

In this issue of the joint newsletter, you will find information on three open NCB districts. If you or someone you know is from one of these districts, take the time to consider a possible service role. There's no time like the present to get involved! We also update you on the Del & Ed campaign, something we began last year in idea only. Finally, you'll read about an ethanol study where the results of using E30 versus E15 are compared and how this can change your wallet and the environment.

If we don't get the chance to chat before the ground is warm and dry enough for your planter to put a seed in the ground, have a safe planting season.



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.

Del and Ed and The Plant That Can Change The Planet

The spring 2022 issue of this newsletter discussed a new campaign that was just beginning to take flight, Del and Ed. These two characters showcase corn with the tagline, "Corn, the plant that can change the planet." Last year we began with the concept, and now we have the results we're proud to share.

While people are increasingly removed from farms and have limited agricultural backgrounds, there is an increased interest in where food comes from and how it is produced. Throughout the years, NCB has capitalized on the opportunity to connect with people and help bridge the gap between producer and consumer.

The Del & Ed campaign is designed to utilize a variety of media platforms to tell the story of Nebraska's corn industry. The commercials feature two actors, Del and Ed, who talk about the positive aspects of our state's corn industry in an entertaining and engaging way. It may be facts about carbon emissions, producing more corn on less land, or something in-between. Commercials have been utilized through television (broadcast and streaming), radio, social media and in sports stadiums statewide.

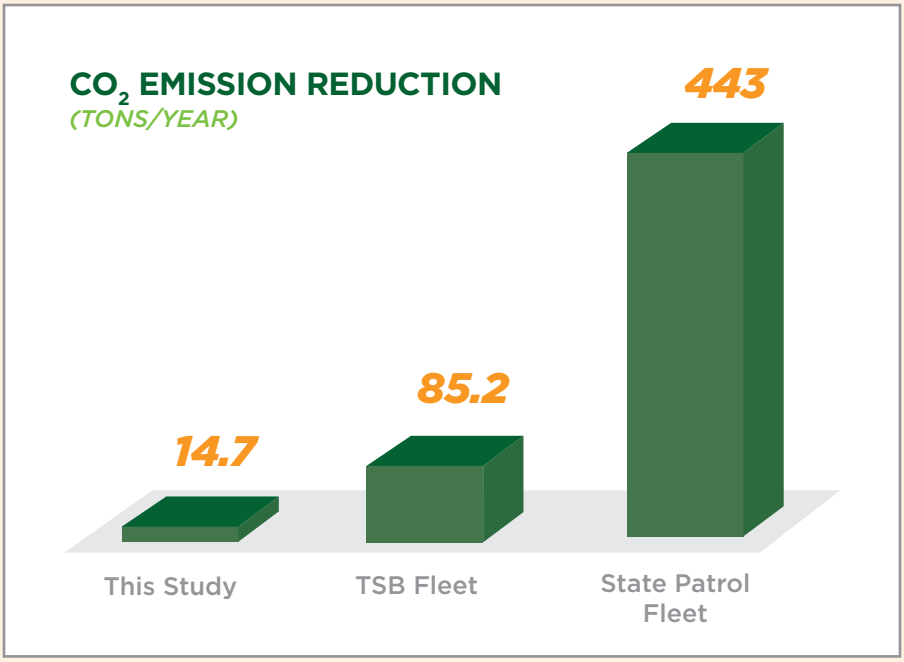
The Omaha and Lincoln areas were identified as the locations for the major focus because of the possible consumer reach. In the first few months of airing the television commercials we've received feedback from consumers through message and calls applauding the information they've learned about the Cornhusker state.

NCB has taken the next step in the campaign with a photoshoot of the characters to broaden the already wide reach. They will be used for print advertising, event promotions and marketing materials to ensure brand repetition and consistency. The more touchpoints a consumer has to Del & Ed, the better understanding they may have. In the next few months, NCB will again conduct consumer research to learn how we are increasing consumer knowledge since beginning the campaign. We hope to continue increasing consumer trust in farmers, with Del & Ed as one aspect to thank.

This campaign was created with very careful, strategic planning, ensuring farmers and consumers alike would be drawn to and resonate with the characters. This is a unique approach to reaching consumers, and NCB understands that as media habits change, so must NCB consumer strategy. Consumer trends prove that media is currently one of the best ways to reach our audience with the feedback already far above expectations.

Keep an eye out and an ear open for our friends, Del & Ed. They may find you where you least expect and be sure to learn something along the way.

Long-Term Benefits: E30 Statewide



Reduction in carbon dioxide emission observed in this demonstration and projected out to account for entire TSB (Transportation Service Bureau) fleet or SP (State Patrol) fleet.

Over the past year, the Nebraska Ethanol Board has been working with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) studying the use of higher ethanol blends in non-flex fuel vehicles. Typically, non-flex fuel vehicles are 2001 or newer and can handle ethanol blended gasoline up to 15%. The thought is, what would happen if these vehicles that normally handle E15 could handle up to a 30% ethanol blended gasoline instead? While using an E30 blend, this study analyzed the vehicles adaptability to using this higher blended gasoline and what the outcome would be if the state's entire fuel system converted to E30.

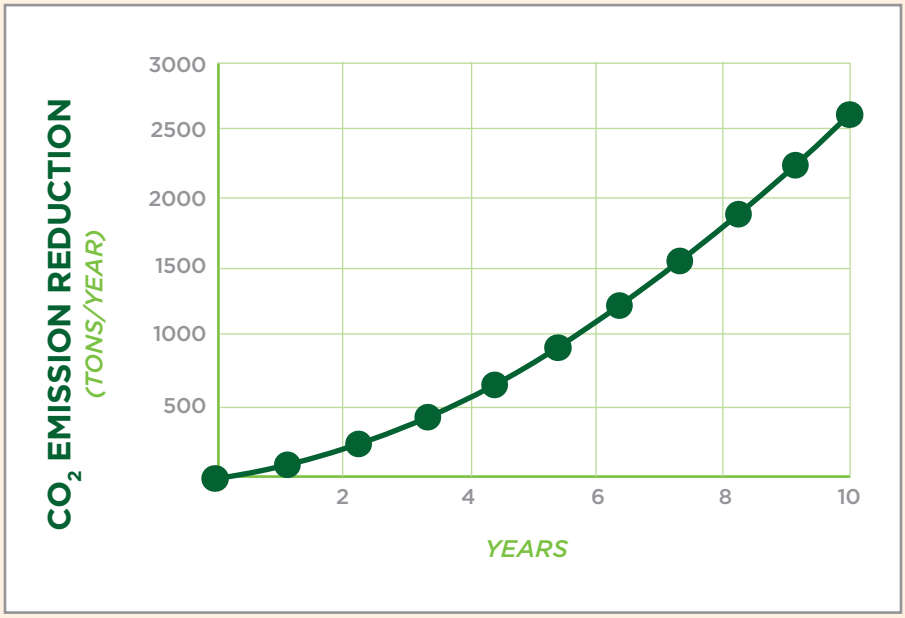
Phase 1 of this study used 50 State of Nebraska vehicles, 26 of the which were in the controlled group utilizing E15 gasoline, and 24 vehicles used E30 throughout the study. These vehicles ranged from government vehicles for regular transport to state patrol cars. The make and model of vehicles observed in the study included Dodge Avengers, Chargers and Ford Fusions. Each vehicle was equipped with monitoring devices to track the long-term use of the fuel and computer within the car in real-time measuring certain parameters. These devices tracked the engine performance, O2 sensors and how well the car adapted to the new E30 fuel in the engine. To help analyze fuel performance, drivers were required to record the mileage of the car to factor the overall fuel mileage these vehicles were capable of with E30 gasoline. The long-term use of E30 was compared to the E15 group, with an expectation that there would be a significant decrease in fuel mileage. The vehicles had a slight decrease when E30 was used in the vehicle the first time. However, the computer measured the output of oxygen inside the engine and learned how to manage the higher oxygen content of E30 throughout the engine. The performance data was compared to that of the E15 group and the E30 group performed near identical to E15 usage. Throughout Phase 1, zero check engine codes were displayed in the vehicles that were used in the study, indicating no damage to the engine.

The economic feasibility was measured during the study to see the benefits of the State of Nebraska converting to E30, how much savings could be had within the government vehicles and how many additional gallons of ethanol this would amount to. Throughout Phase 1, there were over 22,000 gallons of E30 used and looking ahead to Phase 2, they will attempt to use nearly 118,500 gallons in hopes of gaining clarity on the transition to E30 if the switched occurred on a large scale. Already, the State has saved nearly $9,000 in simply conducting the study. If the entire State of Nebraska fleet were to convert to E30, this would save an estimated $60,000 a year. This would be a major step in the right direction. For the average consumer, the typical price spread between E15 and E30 is around 40 cents per gallon of gas with the ability to help the current high gas prices at the pump. If all 1.7 million registered non-FFV's in Nebraska (personal vehicles) were to convert from E10 to E30, ethanol consumption would increase by 18.5

million gallons per year and decrease emissions by 64,000 tons per year. This is a win both for corn farmers and the environment.

Environmental impacts were also examined in how this would affect the carbon emissions within Nebraska. Currently, consumption of one gallon of gasoline results in 19.6 pounds of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere. With ethanol blended fuels, this can be combatted and result in 44 to 52 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions. During the study, it was projected that the E30 gasoline blend reduced 14.7 tons of carbon emissions. If even the state of the Nebraska's non-flex fuel vehicles switched from E10 to E30 the reduction in carbon emissions would be at least 225 tons of CO2 next year.

With positive results from a small study, this could potentially pave the way for carbon emission reduction in the nation as we move towards Climate-Smart practices. It would also prove that there is no longer a need to wait on the auto manufacturers to produce engines that handle E30. Ethanol has a place in the future and continues to be a corn plant that can change the planet. Looking ahead, Phase 2 of this study will begin in the spring of 2023 with hopes of providing additional information into converting the nation's fuel supply.



Predicted reduction in carbon dioxide emission if 10% of NE registered vehicles switched to E30 each year.

Study and graphs provided by Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Saha, R., Alsiyabi, A., & Stroh, S. (2021, February). *Impact of using E30 on ethanol consumption*, Redefining Renewable Fuels, from *Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*

Nebraska Corn Growers Association

Nebraska Corn Growers Association
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PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
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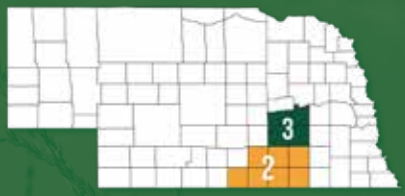
NEBRASKA CORN BOARD SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR THREE DISTRICTS



Nebraska farmers have a unique opportunity to assist in shaping the state's corn industry by serving on the Nebraska Corn Board (NCB). NCB is currently seeking candidates for Districts 2, 3 and the Board's at large director.

- **District 2 –** Includes the counties of Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Webster, Nuckolls and Thayer
- **District 3 –** Includes the counties of Merrick, Polk, Hamilton and York
- **At large –** Represents all counties in Nebraska

Appointments for Districts 2 and 3 are made by the Governor of Nebraska. The at large director appointment is made by the Board.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Citizen of Nebraska (and reside in an open district)
- Are at least 21 years old
- Have been actively engaged in growing corn in Nebraska for a period of five years or more
- Derive a substantial portion of their income from growing corn

Any candidate seeking appointment may place his or her name on the candidacy list by filing a petition with NCB. Petitions may be obtained by writing the Nebraska Corn Board (245 Fallbrook Blvd. Suite 204, Lincoln, NE 68521), by calling 402-471-2646, or emailing info.ncb@nebraska.gov. A candidacy petition must carry the signatures of at least 50 corn producers from that district. All petitions must be received by the Nebraska Corn Board no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, May 19, 2023. Faxed copies do not qualify.

Nebraska CornBoard