

# National Concerns and the Nation's Corn Growers



## Policy Update National Corn Growers Association

Many of the concerns now facing our nation – renewable fuels, global trade and clean water among them – are inextricably tied to U.S. agriculture. Farming and ranching activities affect, and are greatly influenced by, the policies in these areas.

America's corn growers want to be part of the solutions that will contribute to the economic, agronomic and environmental welfare of the country. As representatives of America's corn growers, the National Corn Growers Association has created this document to present some of these issues as they affect the nation's corn producers, and to put forward the actions we recommend.

## Issue: Farm Bill

### Overview

In the midst of an unprecedented level of national debt, corn growers believe it is time to make fundamental changes to long established farm programs. NCGA and other commodity organizations appreciate the need to develop more effective and efficient programs that help farmers manage risk and cost taxpayers less money. We support new programs that will provide growers only when assistance is most needed.

For growers, especially young and beginning farmers, managing the potential loss of revenue is vital. NCGA has long supported risk management tools that complement federal crop insurance to protect farmers against multi-year declines in prices and/or yields.

NCGA urges Congress to avoid another extension of the 2008 farm bill and pass new legislation this year. Current inaction hampers farmers' ability to make sound long term business decisions for the next five years.

### Recommended Action

- Urge Congress to pass a new farm bill this year.
- Ensure that the Federal Crop Insurance Program remains the cornerstone of the farm safety net.
- Advocate for market based risk-management tools that complement the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

## Issue: Ethanol

### Overview

As part of a comprehensive domestic energy strategy, corn ethanol helps to diversify America's fuel supply, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and foster a more vibrant economy. Ethanol has become an essential component of the U.S. motor fuel market. Today, ethanol is blended into more than 90 percent of the nation's fuel, and is sold from coast to coast and border to border. The U.S. industry supports over 380,000 jobs around the country, 87,000 of which are directly employed by the production of ethanol. In addition, over \$43 billion was contributed to our nation's Gross Domestic Product last year.

In 2012, 13.3 billion gallons of American ethanol displaced the need for 465 million barrels of foreign oil. That alone is valued at over \$47 billion.

### Recommended Action

- Protect and defend the Renewable Fuel Standard.
- Expand consumer fuel choice by investing in biofuels infrastructure and increasing the number of flex-fuel vehicles.

## Issue: Global Trade

### Overview

During the 2013 marketing year, the United States is predicted to export over one billion bushels of corn worldwide. Farm exports in fiscal year 2013 are projected to reach \$139.5 billion. This supports more than 1 million American jobs. Today's top markets worldwide for U.S. corn are Japan, Mexico, China, South Korea and Taiwan.

NCGA remains committed to the development and maintenance of fair and open global trade practices and policies. We seek to initiate and support programs to build long term global demand for corn and corn co-products.

### Recommended Action

- Support the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) as long as the market access schedules of our existing FTAs are kept intact.
- Monitor the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to ensure Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and non-tariff barriers that hamper U.S. agricultural exports are addressed.
- Support the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development program at USDA.

- Eliminate barriers that are not based on science for trading agricultural products derived from biotechnology.
- Support the authority of the World Trade Organization to arbitrate disputes and implement enforcement actions.

## Issue: Biotechnology

### Overview

Corn growers have a strong interest in the availability of new technologies to enhance the productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture. Improved seeds derived from biotechnology provide farmers with better choices to combat weather and pest challenges and help feed a growing global population. It is imperative that the U.S. continues to lead the way with innovation and acceptance of biotechnology crops.

NCGA supports the continued coexistence of different cropping systems to facilitate grower and consumer choice without undermining the goals of environmental sustainability.

### Recommended Action

- Support a strong, science-based regulatory system.
- Work with members of the agricultural commodity value chain to establish improved, more consistent and transparent communication regarding issues related to the development, cultivation or delivery of agricultural products derived from biotechnology.
- Reaffirm the need to develop and implement cohesive domestic and international low-level presence policies in order to avoid costly trade disruptions.
- Support the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to provide guidance for voluntary labeling that indicates if foods have been developed using bioengineering to identify attributes that are important to consumers in a manner that is truthful and not misleading.
- Continue to educate growers about refuge requirements and proper stewardship of biotechnology products.

## Learn More

The issues presented in this document are important to U.S. corn growers, affecting how they will continue to meet the rising demand for food, feed, fuel and fiber. For more information, please visit us at [www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com).



## About NCGA

Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents over 38,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state associations and checkoff organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for their members and their industry.

NCGA is the largest trade organization in the United States representing corn growers. Since its inception NCGA has successfully represented corn growers throughout the entire corn industry, the U.S. government and consumers throughout the world.

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