



MINNESOTA CORN GROWERS

YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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Tim Waibel, MCGA President

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every Minnesotan, regardless of your age or the industry you work in. For agriculture, it has brought challenges to every link in our food supply chain, from farmers all the way to the grocery retailers.



And while the pandemic has impacted each of us in unique ways, we have shown what we do have in common is the determination to persevere. As you will read in the pages ahead, we accomplished a lot in 2020 despite the headwinds.

I would also like to take some time to acknowledge the bright spots over the last year where we made the most of some good fortune and opportunities to grow.

First, the weather. After years of struggling to get the crop in the ground, out of the ground or both, Mother Nature was kind to us this growing season. I can't remember the last time we wrapped up planting in April like we did on my farm. When it came to harvest, we were able to push through with little rain (and almost no snow) shutting down the combine. By early November, 83 percent of our crop was harvested—a full three weeks ahead of last year's progress.

I would also say the last year afforded us the opportunity to become more comfortable with the technology that allows us to collaborate when we aren't in the same room. We successfully changed how we did business as an organization,

and although I look forward to once again getting together in person, my eyes have been opened to the opportunities provided to us with today's technology. Making the most of both moving forward will make us more productive than ever.

Finally, I would like to note that this last year has helped me realize how much I treasure the people I work alongside to build a better future on the farm. We have so many talented people in our ag sector who are committed to advancing our organization's grassroots mission. I look forward to continuing our efforts under more normal circumstances.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. While we may still have some time before we are back to business as usual, I look forward to the year ahead with hope and a renewed appreciation for what we have accomplished. ■

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association is fueled by the grassroots leaders who work tirelessly to advance the mission of our organization.

In the following pages, we will be honoring the individuals who we sadly lost this year after a lifetime commitment to agriculture. And, we will tell you about current county leaders who carry on that commitment by going above and beyond in their efforts to build a brighter future on the farm.



James O'Connor, MCR&PC Chair



We are finally turning the page on 2020—a year of incredible uncertainty that tested our resilience and resolve to carry out our mission as farmers despite the hurdles sent our way. Before we move on, I think it is vital we recognize the challenges we were able to overcome in the last year and the positive outcomes that come out of surviving a pandemic.

COVID-19 arrived in March at a time when commodity prices were already low. The pandemic immediately disrupted exports, decimated ethanol demand, and paused the livestock supply chain as packing plants closed. Safe to say, this was a shock to farmers and our food system as a whole.

But then we got to work.

To carry out our mission made possible by farmers' investment in the Minnesota Corn check-off, the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council quickly pivoted to the virtual world.

I had the opportunity to participate in my first virtual trade mission in partnership with the U.S. Grains Council. Minnesota Corn directors and myself filmed virtual tours on our farms and hosted a roundtable discussion with a Japanese delegation showcasing Minnesota's excellent 2020 corn crop. And while we weren't able to get together for Farmfest, Minnesota Corn partnered with WCCO Radio to elevate the importance of the state's corn farmers on its airwaves in the first week of August, and launched a virtual booth to show the many ways our organization is working on your behalf.

The innovation we saw in Greater Minnesota was also on display. One example I was especially encouraged by came from our ethanol plants and their transition to produce hand sanitizer in response to a dire need from the pandemic. Hand sanitizer not only kept the lights on for plants impacted by reduced fuel demand, it also provided an opportunity for our ethanol industry to make a difference in the fight against COVID-19.

While social distancing in our tractors and combines may not be too difficult, I look forward to getting together again and celebrating what we were able to accomplish in 2020. And also how we grew over the last year. Along with improved market conditions, we have

a deeper appreciation of our family and loved ones, health care workers, and the important role our rural communities play in our lives.

May God bless you and keep you safe in the year ahead. ■

Adam Birr, Ph.D., MCGA Executive Director

A year ago I said that we were looking to 2020 with renewed hope. None of us could have imagined the challenges that lay ahead. Rather than lament all things that COVID-19 took away from us, let's celebrate the accomplishments that will make Minnesota Corn stronger in the years ahead.



Working under the thoughtful leadership of the directors, the staff rallied together to come up with new ways to carry out the mission of the organization. Virtual tools allowed us to stay connected with county leaders through webinars and county board meetings. We were able to articulate the needs of Minnesota's corn farmers to legislative leaders in Washington, D.C., through our inaugural virtual day on the hill. We recently wrapped up a pre-resolutions meeting in which we achieved one of the best participation rates in years with broad representation from across the corn-growing portions of the state. Lastly, we've leveraged newsletters, podcasts, media outlets, and re-vamped websites to broadly share all the ways the organization is supporting corn farmers.

We look forward to greeting each other in person once again at Farmfest, MN Ag Expo and the countless events that our organized counties support each year. However as we emerge from 2020, we will utilize some of the newly discovered tools to thrive in the years ahead. ■

Gerald Mulder, Renville County

The Minnesota Corn community lost a tremendous advocate for agriculture with the passing of Gerald Mulder in December.

During his nearly 50 years farming in Renville and post-retirement, Mulder served as a devoted advocate for Minnesota's corn farmers and worked tirelessly to give farmers a strong voice on the issues that mattered most. During his time as an MCGA board member, Mulder also led efforts to grow membership in MCGA by spending countless hours raising awareness of the importance of membership. He also influenced national consumer outreach through his work with the National Corn Growers Association.



January



The Better Fuel Initiative was unveiled in the MCGA booth.

Another great MN Ag EXPO 2020

MN Ag EXPO returned to Mankato, and was once again the place to be for all involved in Minnesota's ag sector. Farmers, researchers, policymakers and agribusinesses came together for the two-day event featuring networking opportunities, educational sessions, and a trade show floor full of great exhibitors.

Ag leaders honored at MN Ag EXPO

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) recognized advocates who built a brighter future for agriculture at MN Ag EXPO. Connie and Gerald Mulder received the 2020 Golden Kernel Award for their efforts strengthening the grassroots of MCGA through recruitment and participating on MCGA's board of directors. Minnesota Department of Agriculture



MCGA 2020 President Les Anderson (right) presented the Friend of Agriculture Award to Commissioner Petersen.

(MDA) Commissioner Thom Petersen received the Friend of Agriculture Award recognizing his tireless advocacy for farmers and efforts elevating the state's ag sector.

The launch of the Better Fuel Initiative

The Better Fuel Initiative was launched at MN Ag EXPO as a multi-faceted effort to promote the adoption of state policies, raise awareness, drive research and increase

infrastructure with the aim to meet environmental goals through the use of biofuels. **Learn more on page 13.**

Gov. Tim Walz stopped by the booth to learn more about the Better Fuel Initiative on day one of EXPO.



MCGA welcomes four board members

MCGA members elected Wesley Beck, Angela Guentzel, Jocelyn Schlichting Hicks and Todd Wentzel to its board of directors during the MCGA annual meeting held at MN Ag EXPO.



Wesley Beck



Angela Guentzel

USMCA signed by President Trump

President Donald Trump officially signed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) during a ceremony at the White House in January. MCGA President Les Anderson was in attendance representing Minnesota's 24,000 corn farmers. He was joined by National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) President Kevin Ross.



Jocelyn Schlichting Hicks



Todd Wentzel

February

Biofuels, tax policy headline 2020 legislative priorities

The second session of the 91st Minnesota Legislature convened on Feb. 6 with an emphasis on capital investment in public works projects. MCGA headed to the Capitol focused on increasing the state's biofuel standard to 15 percent, securing buffer property tax relief, and finally achieving full conformity on Section 179.

Nitrogen Smart 2020 begins

Fourteen Nitrogen Smart seminars took place in 2020 before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like in previous years, each location featured two courses: One covering the fundamentals of nitrogen management, followed by an advanced course, which focused on the 4Rs of nutrient management. MCGA was once again a proud supporter of the program, helping farmers become more efficient nutrient managers.



Nearly 250 farmers attended in-person seminars in 2020, before COVID-19 hit.

Minnesota Corn Podcast announced

The Minnesota Corn Podcast was launched introducing listeners to the leaders shaping the future of agriculture by driving research, identifying new markets and promoting agriculture. Released twice each month, the podcast



Subscribe to the Minnesota Corn Podcast at info.mncorn.org/podcast.

can be found on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or subscribe at info.mncorn.org/podcast.

Record-breaking year for ethanol

The Minnesota Department of Commerce announced more than 78 million gallons of ethanol were sold in Minnesota in 2019, shattering the previous record high of 59.4 million gallons set in 2018. The 2019 total is more than a 300-percent increase from 2017 when a little more than 19 million gallons of E15 were sold at the pump. Retailers offering E15 also rose in 2019, eclipsing 360 stations statewide.



Consumers once again broke the record for E15 sales at the pump.

Minnesota’s corn farmers expand spotlight with U of M Gopher fans

MCGA once again partnered with University of Minnesota Gopher athletics to share corn farmers’ commitment to conservation and their impact on our state. During the 2019–2020 athletic season, the partnership extended throughout the calendar year, reaching fans of Gopher football, men’s basketball and women’s basketball. Current student-athletes aspiring to become agricultural leaders were also highlighted in video interviews shared during games, as well as on Gopher Facebook and Twitter channels.



MCGA and the “MN Corn Grows MN” initiative were featured during Gopher basketball games.

The Innovation Grant Program reveals 2020 lineup of farmer-led research

MCGA launched the fifth year of the Innovation Grant Program, investing in five farmer-led research projects and four led by University of Minnesota researchers. This year’s projects focus on improved soil health, nutrient management and water quality protection. To date, the program has invested nearly \$700,000 in 37 original projects.

Bill introduced raising biofuel standard

One of the top legislative priorities for MCGA was increasing Minnesota’s biofuel standard from 10 to 15 percent for all gasoline sold in the state. In late February, HF 3699 and SF 3605 were introduced. The legislation passed out of multiple committees before priorities shifted at the Capitol due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Legislation increasing the state’s biofuel standard will continue to be a top priority.

March

Commodity Classic 2020

MCGA directors joined farmers from across the country in San Antonio for Commodity Classic 2020. The annual event was once again a pivotal time to get together with directors from state corn organizations to discuss future policy priorities during NCGA Corn Congress.



Commodity Classic is also an opportunity for MCGA directors like Brian Thalmann to meet with ag media.

MCGA names 2020 scholarship recipients

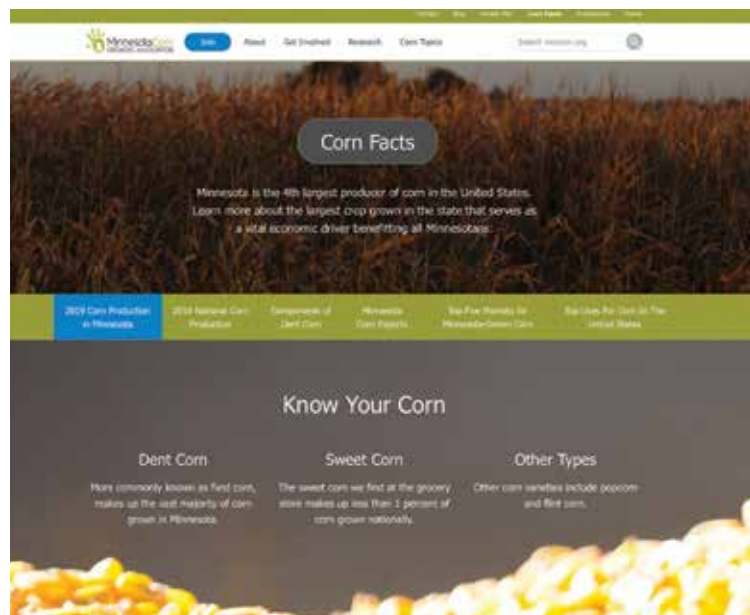
MCGA was excited to announce the recipients of the 2nd Annual Minnesota Corn Growers Association Scholarship. Luke Carr and Anna Prchal each received a \$5,000 scholarship to further their college education as they work toward becoming agricultural leaders. Both went on to attend South Dakota State University.



Carr and Prchal rose above a talented group of applicants in 2020.

A new resource for Minnesotans in search of corn farming facts

MCGA unveiled a revamped Corn Facts web page, bringing Minnesotans the information they need to know about the impact of corn farming in our state. Available at mncorn.org/corn-facts, the page features general information about Minnesota’s corn sector, production statistics, trade markets and how the state’s corn crop is used.



The new Corn Facts web page is a great resource for the non-farming public.

Webinar focuses on marketing decisions during COVID-19 crisis

MCGA partnered with the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council and Kluis Commodities for a webinar in March covering actions farmers should and should not take during the COVID-19 crisis. Led by Al Kluis, the webinar covered what farmers can expect in the short and long term of the pandemic, and provided insights that helped ease anxiety.

Farmers make voice heard on possible waiver decision appeal

In March, it was reported President Trump was considering appealing a Tenth Circuit court decision that restricted the issuing of small refinery waivers by the Environmental Protection Agency. MCGA issued a call-to-action asking its members to contact President Trump and request he does not appeal the decision. More than 300 farmers responded in 72 hours, emphasizing the importance of this issue with corn farmers. In the end, the decision was not appealed.

USDA announces CFAP

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced initial details for a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in April to help partially address financial impacts to U.S. farmers and ranchers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$19 billion aid package directed \$3 billion in food product purchases by USDA and \$16 billion in direct assistance to farmers.

May

MCR&PC election results announced

The Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) held elections in May. Brandon Fast (District 7) and Jim O'Connor (District 8) were re-elected and David Vipond (Districts 1, 2 and 4) and Rodney Moe (District 9) were newly elected to MCR&PC.



Brandon Fast and Jim O'Connor were re-elected to their second terms.

Sharing the benefits of ethanol-blended fuels

Through the Better Fuel Initiative, ads sharing the benefits of ethanol-blended fuels played on more than 10 radio stations in the Twin Cities alone, reaching millions of listeners. Nearly 30 Metro Transit buses, the Green Line light rail, and digital billboards across the metro also featured ethanol-themed graphics. These marketing efforts stretched to Greater Minnesota as well, connecting with consumers via targeted radio and billboards.



One of many billboards found throughout Minnesota.

State FFA Convention moves to the virtual world

The FFA State Convention was first postponed due to COVID-19, then moved online to meet social distancing guidelines and the limitations placed on in-person gatherings. Minnesota FFA's first-ever virtual state convention was held May 19–21, with countless examples of teachers and students adapting to the "new normal."

Minnesota's 91st Legislative session comes to an end

The Minnesota Constitution required the legislature to adjourn on May 18. Even though COVID-19 had disrupted normal legislative operations, work continued in committees and the floor to advance needed legislation. Agriculture Policy and Agriculture Supplemental Finance bills passed, providing much-needed funding to the state's ag sector, but a tax bill with Section 179 conformity would need to wait until a special session.

April



Ethanol plants stayed in production while helping fill a pandemic need.

Ethanol plants step up to fill need for hand sanitizer

The demand for sanitizer outpaced our nation's supply in April as Americans focused on stopping the spread of the Coronavirus. A number of ethanol plants in Minnesota used their resources to help fill the need by adapting their manufacturing process to create ethanol for sanitizer instead of fuel. Sanitizer also provided plants another market as demand for ethanol fuel sharply declined.



Chippewa County Corn and Soybean Growers donated a pallet of water to its local healthcare providers.

County corn organizations step up to help communities

County corn organizations across the state fuel the grassroots efforts of MCGA. But in April, many shifted their focus to help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the pages ahead, you will learn about various efforts to stock food shelves, support local businesses and keep people safe.

June

Ag education efforts continue despite COVID-19

MCGA is proud to support efforts throughout Minnesota educating future generations about agriculture. Ag in the Classroom and FarmAmerica were two organizations that quickly pivoted to the online world to continue providing high-quality ag education to students, while accommodating teachers whose curriculums quickly moved from in-person to virtual.



The Mitchell sisters of Le Sueur County took home top prize in the Science of Ag Challenge.

and Sydney Mitchell, who developed a presentation that showed students the breadth of career opportunities in ag. The award came with a \$1,000 scholarship provided by MCGA.

Virtual 4-H Science of Ag Challenge brings out best and brightest

Students ranging from seventh graders to college freshmen confronted some of the thorniest challenges in the world of agriculture as part of the 6th annual Minnesota 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge in June. The top award went to sisters Addison

July

Red River Farm Network launches series to recognize FFA, 4-H leaders

With the arrival of COVID-19, state fairs were cancelled, leaving thousands of 4-H and FFA students without a stage to showcase their animals or projects. With support from MCGA, Red River Farm Network (RRFN) launched the "Parade of Champions" to spotlight the young leaders in agriculture who would have otherwise taken center stage at a state fair. Beginning in July and continuing through the summer, RRFN featured 4-H and FFA participants and their projects on the radio and its social channels.



Learn more about the "Parade of Champions" at rrfn.com.

Corn Congress, Hill visits go virtual

Corn Congress brings together delegates from state corn associations spanning the country to debate and adopt new federal policy positions that guide advocacy efforts. The event was held virtually in July with delegates participating via video chat. Minnesota Corn directors also met virtually with members of Minnesota's congressional delegation to discuss the issues impacting corn farmers, including the need for increased COVID-19 assistance and protecting the Renewable Fuel Standard.

MCGA Director

Brian Thalmann elected to National Corn Board

MCGA board member Brian Thalmann was elected to the NCGA Corn Board during July Corn Congress. Thalmann, who farms in Plato, served as 2018-2019 MCGA President and is a three-term member of the board. He joins MCGA directors Tom Haag (Eden Valley) and Harold Wolle (Madelia) on the Corn Board.



Brian Thalmann

CommonGround Minnesota debuts new website

CommonGround Minnesota debuted a new website that allows the group of women farmers to more effectively share information about agriculture today. The website now features a blog sharing topics from modern agriculture that would



Elisha Graves, Todd County

For the past couple years, Elisha Graves has gathered items teachers can use in their classrooms, helping address a need for supplies while promoting agriculture. Each year she picks three schools to drop the supplies off at. To help families impacted by COVID-19, she also organized a food giveaway at a local grocery store, handing out bags of nutritious groceries featuring items made with corn as an ingredient.

"There's nothing more self-affirming than knowing that you are doing something good. Plus, it makes you feel good. When you are doing something more meaningful in your life, you develop a better sense of yourself."

be of interest to the non-farming public, like how to better understand meat labels, a look at cover crops and other conservation tactics and a dive into what happens on an organic farm. A number of videos were also added to the website providing visitors an up close look at what happens on a modern farm.

O'Connor elected to MCR&PC chair

Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) elected Jim O'Connor as its chair for 2020-2021. O'Connor is a farmer from Blooming Prairie who grows corn and soybeans and raises swine. He was recently re-elected to his second term as a member of MCR&PC, representing District 8.



Jim O'Connor

August

“Ag is Everywhere” week to celebrate ag sector, elevate issues

With trade shows like Farmfest cancelled due to COVID-19, MCGA partnered with Fluence Media and WCCO Radio for “Ag is Everywhere” week, held Aug. 2-8. The week featured a U.S. Senate candidate debate, forums and interviews highlighting the latest developments in policy, research, ethanol and communications from the state’s corn growers.



The work of the state’s corn farmers was showcased on the radio and online, while important issues were elevated with policy makers.

State’s ag sector calls for policy makers to finally pass Section 179 conformity

Minnesota’s ag sector came together to urge the Minnesota Legislature to pass full Section 179 conformity during an August special session. Ten groups, including MCGA, signed a letter delivered to caucus leaders imploring each to provide farmers tax certainty through Section 179 conformity. The letter emphasized the need for legislators to cooperate and fix a broken policy that left farmers with significant tax burdens at a time when farm income is at an all-time low.

Minnesota Corn welcomes new research director

MCGA welcomed Maciej Kazula, Ph.D., as its new research director. Prior to joining MCGA, he had spent the last three years as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Minnesota’s Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. Kazula grew up on a small farm in Poland before coming to the United States to pursue his graduate degrees at the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Agronomy.



Kazula oversees farmer-funded research and works with Minnesota Corn grower leaders in directing annual research investments.

September

Arboretum’s “Farm at the Arb” enters year two with new focus on crops

Supported by MCGA, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum opened the “Farm at the Arb” in 2019 to share the story of modern agriculture with its 500,000 annual visitors. In year two, the Arboretum brought on Bob Dressen as the exhibit’s lead horticulturist. Dressen leads the future of the growth plots and their ability to tell the story of agriculture today.



Revamped growth plots now surround the iconic red barn at the “Farm at the Arb”.

“MN Corn Grows MN” connects farmers, candidates ahead of election

Each of Minnesota’s House and Senate seats were up for re-election in November, providing an opportunity to elevate agricultural issues in the days leading up to the Nov. 3rd election. Through the “MN Corn Grows MN” campaign, MCGA worked with county leaders to organize farm visits and hold one-on-one conversations with candidates about the issues impacting corn farmers, their families and rural communities.

EPA denies gap year waivers

A major focus for the state's corn farmers, the EPA finally announced it would be denying 54 of the 68 "gap year" waivers, which would have removed billions of biofuel gallons from the nation's fuel supply. In a statement, MCGA President Les Anderson said more action was necessary, including the rejection of waiver requests still pending. Learn more about MCGA's efforts to protect the RFS on page 14.

MCGA co-hosts U.S. Congressional debates to elevate ag issues

MCGA co-hosted a series of debates between candidates for the United States House of Representatives. The debates aired on WCCO Radio prior to the Nov. 3 election. The partnership was the latest by MCGA elevating the issues most important to the state's corn farmers, their families and rural communities. Prior to and during each debate, MCGA used WCCO's airwaves to highlight the many ways corn farmers are helping Minnesota grow.

Renville's Mulder receives Minnesota Corn Lifetime Membership

MCGA honored Gerald Mulder with a Minnesota Corn Lifetime Membership for his dedication to advancing the mission of the grassroots organization on the county, state and national level. During his nearly 50 years farming in Renville and in retirement, Mulder worked tirelessly to give farmers a strong voice on the issues that mattered most. He also led efforts to grow membership in MCGA by spending countless hours raising awareness of its importance.



Gerald Mulder

CommonGround hosts virtual evening of cooking and conversation

CommonGround volunteers and foodies from across the country took part in a virtual cooking class in September. During the event, titled "Mom Meals: Cooking and Conversation with Farmers," a professional chef walked attendees through a three-course, kid-friendly meal. As each course was prepared, CommonGround volunteers shared their experiences



The virtual event allowed CommonGround volunteers to connect with families despite the pandemic.

growing and raising the ingredients in the featured recipes and answered questions about their farms and modern agriculture.

Maizey, TC Road Crew take over Sever's Fall Festival

In partnership with MCGA, the Twin Cities Road Crew brought corn-themed fun to Sever's Fall Festival during two weekends in September. Visitors to the popular family destination participated in fun contests, received giveaways and enjoyed performances featuring everyone's favorite mascot, Maizey—all while learning about our state's corn farmers. The event provided a safe venue for the Road Crew to share its corn-themed message during the pandemic.

October

Tim Waibel named 2020-2021 MCGA President

The MCGA board of directors elected Tim Waibel as its 2020-2021 president. From Courtland, Waibel farms corn and soybeans, as well as raises swine, with his wife, Mary. He was elected to the MCGA board in 2012 and had previously served as secretary and treasurer.



Tim Waibel

U.S. Grains Council holds virtual conference with international buyers

Replacing the in-person Export Exchange, the Virtual Grain Exchange took place in October with more than 1,200 registrants from 54 countries. The online platform allowed attendees to hear speakers and participate in real-time discussions about advancements in American commodities, peruse a virtual exhibit hall, and schedule one-on-one meetings with U.S. suppliers. Minnesota Corn also hosted a virtual tour with a Japanese delegation, including pre-recorded video tours of Minnesota farms, followed by an online meeting.

USDA ethanol infrastructure investment is a win for all Minnesotans

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue traveled to Albert Lea in October to reveal Minnesota retailers will receive \$1.86 million to expand ethanol infrastructure as part of USDA's Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP). The investment will help local retailers build out infrastructure for higher blends of ethanol, including E15, increasing consumer access to cleaner-burning options at the pump.



Secretary Perdue traveled to Albert Lea to announce the HBIIP program.

CommonGround Minnesota hosts events throughout the year connecting women farmers with consumers.



November

Governor's Council on Biofuels releases recommendations

The Governor's Council on Biofuels, which is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, including MCGA director Brian Thalmann, released its recommendations for using biofuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The recommendations included moving to a 15-percent biofuel standard and indicated funding is necessary for updating fueling infrastructure so it is compatible up to a 25-percent ethanol blend.

CommonGround marks 10 years of breaking barriers

CommonGround, a group of women farmers dedicated to having one-on-one conversations with consumers about the food they grow, celebrated an impressive milestone in November: 10 years of service and impact. The program was developed by NCGA in collaboration with state corn and soy farmer associations. Though 10 years have passed, the mission remains the same: break the barriers between farmers and consumers through personal conversations.

December

Pre-resolutions meeting

Corn farmers showed grassroots engagement and leadership in action by gathering for MCGA's virtual annual pre-resolutions meeting. There was good discussion on state and federal legislative policy and priorities.

MCGA welcomes new biofuels director

MCGA welcomed its new biofuels and industry relations director, Mackenzie Boubin. She previously worked at CHS as an account representative in the Refined Fuels Division and also at the Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association as a project coordinator. Boubin grew up on a fifth-generation farm in Waseca.



Mackenzie Boubin

Soil Management Summit goes virtual in 2020

Formerly the Conservation Tillage Conference, the Soil Management Summit returned Dec. 15–16 in a virtual format due to COVID-19. The conference, which is supported by MCGA, continues to provide the latest in soil health practices, based on farmer experiences and applied science. ■



Gov. Walz established the Governor's Council on Biofuels on the farm of Brian Thalmann, who also served on the council.

MCGA doubles scholarship offering in 2020

MCGA announced it would be providing four \$5,000 scholarships to students located statewide who are pursuing a career in agriculture. The number of scholarships available doubled from last year, as Minnesota's corn farmers increased their investment in the next generation of agricultural leaders.

This past year was one for the record books. The COVID-19 pandemic arrived and instantly changed every aspect of daily life, from our interactions with our family and friends to how we function in our professional lives.

For Minnesota agriculture, the pandemic proved our resilience, creativity and drive to get the job done, despite the daily challenges thrown our way. Regardless of your mission, the show went on in 2020, and the accomplishments should be celebrated.

Ag education efforts go virtual

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) supports organizations like Minnesota Ag in the Classroom and Farmamerica in their mission to promote ag education in schools. Before 2020, both organizations depended on in-person tours to make an impact.

Ag in the Classroom brings teachers on a multi-day tour of Minnesota's ag sector each summer. Teachers would take what they learned on the sold-out tours and translate the experience to their students. The tours went virtual in 2020 without missing a beat. Stops included a school garden, tree farm, a "farm-to-fork" restaurant, a honey farm and a crop farm. Each tour was followed by video discussions where teachers conversed about how they would incorporate what they learned.

Farmamerica hosts more than 2,000 students each year at its 360-acre site showcasing the evolution of agriculture. In 2020, the Waseca-based learning center took the effort virtual to reach more students than ever. Online videos used Farmamerica's historical sites to showcase what life was like in the 1850's and 1930's at home, in schools and on the farm. Viewers were guided through each stop, which included facts students would hear during the typical in-person tour. The videos became a great source of curriculum material for teachers to carry out virtually.

County leaders use resources to help community

During a time of year when county leaders are gearing up for events to promote agriculture, county corn organizations pivoted their resources to help their communities handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Murray County Corn and Soybean Growers worked with local restaurants to provide gift cards to essential workers in



Students were able to learn about the evolution of agriculture despite not being able to visit Farmamerica.



the community. It was an effort that showed their support while helping restaurants impacted by COVID-19.

In Yellow Medicine County, directors purchased hundreds of masks from a local retailer and distributed them to members of the community continuing to operate during the pandemic. A number of county organizations also made sizeable donations to their local food shelves experiencing increased traffic.

Minnesota's corn farmers took center stage with a statewide audience during "Ag is Everywhere" week.



Ag in the Classroom used Facebook Live to host a tour of Bruce Vento Elementary School's garden.



Grassroots in 2020

Whether it is traveling to Washington, D.C., to meet with policy makers or hosting a trade delegation back home, Minnesota Corn's grassroots mission historically has been accomplished in person. Grower leaders worked tirelessly to continue the momentum in 2020, despite the transition to virtual meeting rooms.

In July, MCGA directors met with each member of Minnesota's congressional delegation virtually to advocate for much-needed COVID-19 assistance and efforts to stop actions undermining the Renewable Fuel Standard. In October, Minnesota Corn directors invited a Japanese trade delegation on their first-ever virtual tour, including pre-recorded videos from Minnesota corn farms, grain facilities and more. The year ended with a virtual pre-resolutions session where nearly a hundred farmers logged on to set the policy priorities for the upcoming year.

Staying connected in 2020, despite the pandemic.

To the disappointment of many, Minnesota Farmfest 2020 was cancelled in August due to the pandemic, removing an event we all look forward to annually. "Ag is Everywhere" week, held Aug. 2-8, stepped in to put agriculture center stage statewide.

"Ag is Everywhere" week was a multi-faceted effort from MCGA featuring forums and candidate debates airing on WCCO Radio that elevated the importance of ag issues.

The "MN Corn Grows MN" campaign shared the key role farmers play in building a more sustainable future for all Minnesotans via billboards, as well as through radio and online ads.

And a virtual booth from MCGA featured highlights from the past year in policy, ethanol, research and connecting with the non-farming public, along with videos from directors discussing the

highlights MCGA members need to know. ■



Yellow Medicine County directors dropped off masks for essential workers at the beginning of the pandemic.



A common theme in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic made for anything but business-as-usual at both the Minnesota State Capitol and in Washington, D.C. But the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) adapted to the virtual world and Minnesota's farmers made their voices heard.

State

2020 legislative session shifts to pandemic response

The arrival of COVID-19 drastically shifted priorities in the Minnesota Legislature, as policy makers worked together to provide relief to Minnesotans impacted by the pandemic. A \$200 million COVID-19 relief fund was quickly established in March to help state agencies respond, with additional bills passed in the coming months providing necessary funds.

Future special sessions would be required to reach agreement on a public works bonding bill and a tax bill that included Section 179 conformity for farmers.

Candidate engagement elevates corn farmer issues

With each of Minnesota's House and Senate districts up for election in November, MCGA worked with its county corn organizations to bring 30 candidates to the farm for discussion on the issues most important to farmers.



Sen. Julie Rosen spoke with MCGA board member Harold Wolle during a Faribault County plot day.

Topics discussed during each visit included increasing Minnesota's biofuel standard from 10 to 15 percent, buffer property tax relief, efficient environmental permitting, public investment of agriculture research, and Clean Water Funds for on-the-ground implementation.



Sen. Nick Frenz traveled to the farm of MCGA President Tim Waibel during one of 30 candidate visits in September.

Better Fuel Initiative

The Better Fuel Initiative launched in 2020 as a multi-faceted effort to increase awareness, understanding and usage of biofuels in Minnesota. Led by MCGA, a central focus of the initiative was supporting policy that increases the state's biofuel standard from 10 to 15 percent.

During the 2020 legislative session, bills increasing the standard to 15 percent were introduced in both the Minnesota House and Senate and passed out of agriculture committees in each body. Then COVID-19 hit and legislative priorities shifted to responding to the pandemic. The legislation will again be a top priority for MCGA in 2021.



Efforts to increase the state's biofuel standard will continue in 2021.

Established in 2019, the Governor's Council on Biofuels also met throughout the year with the mission to produce recommendations for using biofuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. MCGA board member Brian Thalmann was one of 15 diverse stakeholders serving on the council.

In November, the group released its report, which recommended moving from a 10- to 15-percent biofuel standard to accelerate progress toward Minnesota's petroleum replacement goal of 25 percent by 2030. The council also indicated funding is necessary for updating fueling infrastructure so it is compatible up to a 25-percent ethanol blend.

Full conformity on Section 179

MCGA worked with its agricultural partners in 2020 to pass full conformity on Section 179. During the fifth special session of the Minnesota Legislature held in mid-October, HF 1 passed with a strong bipartisan vote and included full conformity on Section 179 beginning in tax year 2020. The bonding bill also included a provision to retroactively fix tax increases for like-kind exchanges under Section 179 expensing in 2018 and 2019.

Conformity on Section 179 has been a priority for MCGA the last three years. Its inclusion in HF 1 was a testament to the power of grassroots advocacy and farmer participation in calls-to-action.

Federal

As they did in St. Paul, priorities shifted at the nation's capital as legislators focused on federal relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. MCGA worked with the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) to advocate for much-needed agricultural relief.

The first round of relief came in mid-May. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The \$19 billion aid package directs \$3 billion in food

product purchases by USDA and \$16 billion in direct assistance to farmers. The first round of relief allocated \$3.9 billion for row crop producers, with the majority of funding directed toward

livestock producers experiencing significant processing challenges due to COVID-19.

In September, USDA announced CFAP 2, providing an additional \$14 billion for farmers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs due to COVID-19. Shortly before Christmas, Congress passed a \$900 million COVID-19 relief package and funding for federal government operations for the 2021 fiscal year, including an additional \$13 billion in relief for agriculture. President Trump would eventually sign the legislation.



The COVID-19 pandemic impacted major markets for Minnesota's corn crop.

MCGA heads (virtually) to Washington

In July, MCGA grower leaders met with Minnesota's congressional delegation for virtual Capitol Hill visits to discuss the issues continuing to impact corn farmers. The conversation with each member of Congress focused on the fact that continued efforts to undermine the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and demand destruction due to COVID-19 are expected to only add to 2020 market losses.



MCGA directors met with Rep. Collin Peterson who at the time chaired the House Ag Committee.

Typically held in-person, the meetings were one of many examples where MCGA adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued advocacy efforts.

Waiver fight continues

Also in July, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released that it received a total of 68 exemption requests from oil refineries that would remove nearly 2 billion gallons of biofuels from the nation's fuel supply. The requests, labeled as "gap year" exemptions, are only the latest attempt by oil refineries and the EPA to undermine the RFS. MCGA worked closely with NCGA and its biofuel partners to fight back against the waivers, and it was announced in September that 54 of the 68 waivers had been denied.

The denial of the waivers was a positive development, but MCGA will continue working with its national partners to uphold the RFS.

USMCA ratified

In January, President Donald Trump officially signed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) during a ceremony at the White House. MCGA President Les Anderson was in attendance, representing Minnesota's 24,000 corn farmers. He was joined by NCGA President Kevin Ross. USMCA ratification had been a priority for MCGA since the deal was signed in 2019. ■

Through farmers' investment in the Minnesota Corn check-off, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council fund \$2.6 million in research annually. The projects, led by both farmers and researchers, are identifying practices that make farms more sustainable and developing new uses for corn, leading to increased profitability.

Innovation Grant Program

Entering its sixth year, the Innovation Grant Program has invested over \$700,000 in 37 original projects identifying practical innovations that can be replicated by Minnesota farmers. The following projects were funded in 2020:



Feyereisen (center) shows the nitrate monitoring station to farmers whose fields are located in the watersheds being monitored.

Comparing conservation practices

USDA-ARS scientist Gary Feyereisen is using two side-by-side sections in Faribault County where runoff moves quickly into the Blue Earth River. With both watersheds nearly identical, his research will compare the effectiveness of conservation practices, including nutrient application, cover crops and a bioreactor.

Phosphorous loss in NW Minnesota

With the Corn Belt stretching north, University of Minnesota Researcher Lindsay Pease is monitoring phosphorous loss in the Red River Basin region to compare concentration in corn and non-corn producing fields. The results will determine corn farming's impact on water quality, helping farmers defend management decisions.

Carbon loss on drained fields

University of Minnesota Researcher Anna Cates is researching how newly installed tile impacts the soil carbon sequestration balance and how long it takes for the system to rebound and rebuild in comparison

to undrained fields. Comparing mineralization will help farmers better calculate fertility needs for their crops in land that has just been drained.

The impact of manure on soil nutrients

While we know manure supplies nutrients to corn production, University of Minnesota Researcher Anna Cates is diving into the soil health benefits of manure. Her research will look at the carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous response in soil, compared to the application of various types of manure.

Real-time liquid manure testing

Trimont farmer A.J. Krusemark aimed to get a handle on the crop nutrition provided through injecting swine manure. His goal was to implement a rapid testing strategy when applying manure, allowing him to consistently hit a specific phosphorous rate. By hitting that rate and pairing it with a minimal nitrogen side dress, he was able to maintain his yields while reducing his application rate.

No-till and cover crops to reduce soil loss

Goodhue County farmer Brock Olson is testing a three-crop rotation, reduced tillage, and cover crops to see what combination will create the greatest benefit in reduced erosion, and retention of nutrients. His three-year study tests a combination of the practices, while monitoring water infiltration, organic matter and soil nitrogen levels.



Innovation Grant participant Brock Olson aims to reduce erosion on his hilly Goodhue County farm.

Reducing nitrate in a surficial sand aquifer

Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District specialist Steve Lawler is evaluating what best management practices are most effective in protecting water quality in an area that is susceptible to leaching. The collaborative project will test split nitrogen applications, specifically, on the area located near Austin.

Impact of wide row crops on cover crops

Fulda farmer Mark Enninga is testing the use of a wide-row system (44 inch), while keeping seeds planted closer together to keep the plant population the same at 35,000 seeds per-acre. With a wider row, he hopes his cover crops mix will develop a healthy biomass that will help on fields that are often drowned out.



Enninga modified his planter to establish wider crop rows on his Fulda farm.

Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) teaching tool

Crop advisor Tim Moline is using a 15-acre crop trial site close to the SMSU campus to conduct a hybrid trial evaluating corn traits, while also using the site as a teaching tool for students interested in a career in agriculture. The site held a field day in 2020 to showcase results.

managed so they can support continued row crop production, while conferring environmental benefits. Baker is establishing a kura clover buffer that would eventually allow farmers to return to production.

Stopping bacterial infections

To stop the spread of bacterial infections like Goss's Wilt in crops, University of Minnesota Researcher Michael Sadowsky and his team are developing a new enzyme that would halt communication between bacteria, stopping the spread. The enzyme, lactonase, would also be an environmentally friendly option since it naturally degrades.

A watershed-scale bioreactor

A unique three-cell bioreactor was installed in Faribault County on a 632-acre watershed, which is row cropped in corn and soybeans. Faribault County Soil & Water Conservation District Administrator Michele Stindtman is working with farmers to implement conservation practices and measure the effectiveness of the bioreactor. ■



Using cover crops as a practice to promote soil health and sustainability continues to be a research focus.

2020 Research Highlights

Mapping soils according to potassium availability

University of Minnesota researcher Dan Kaiser is mapping the soils of Minnesota according to mineral content, specifically the ratio of illite to smectite clay species. The map will be vital in developing site-specific fertilizer guidelines, because the ratio can impact the amount of potassium needed to maximize yield.

Farmable vegetative buffers

University of Minnesota researcher John Baker's focus is showing that perennial living mulches can be established in sensitive locations within cropped fields and

Larry Johnson, Carver County

Former MCGA President and ethanol pioneer Larry Johnson passed away in July. In addition to his work as a director of MCGA and the National Corn Growers Association, Johnson is widely recognized as a pivotal figure in the rise of ethanol in Minnesota. In its infancy, much was unknown about ethanol. Johnson took it upon himself to address the many questions posed by each stakeholder, from farmers to auto repair shops to policymakers, in his travels throughout the state.

In the leadership role, Johnson learned the ins and outs of ethanol and its potential, earning him the reputation as the "Ethanol Answer Man"—a distinction he never took lightly.



Strengthening the ethanol market while developing new markets for the state's corn crop continued as a top priority for Minnesota Corn in 2020. Made possible through farmers' investment in the Minnesota corn check-off, the following initiatives helped build a more profitable future on the farm:



As COVID-19 impacts demand, efforts to market the benefits of E15 are vital to the state's ethanol industry.

Ethanol

Better Fuel Initiative

In addition to the policy advancements covered on page 13, the Better Fuel Initiative raised awareness of the benefits of ethanol-blended fuels with Minnesotans. A marketing campaign featured targeted advertisements found online, on the radio and on billboards across the state sharing information about the cleaner-burning, higher-octane fuel, while addressing the misinformation surrounding ethanol-blended fuels.

County organizations also complemented the statewide effort by purchasing local advertising around the Better Fuel Initiative and connecting with local residents at fueling events.

USDA investment builds out E15 infrastructure

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue traveled to Albert Lea in October to announce Minnesota retailers would receive \$1.86 million through the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program

(HBIIP). The investment will help local retailers build out infrastructure for higher blends of ethanol, including E15, increasing consumer access. Investing in replacing outdated fueling infrastructure is vital so retailers can offer E15 at the pump.

New technology brings ethanol to heavy duty transportation

Minnesota Corn is supporting an exciting new technology from Illinois-based ClearFlame Technologies. It would allow diesel-powered semis and tractors to run on ethanol while keeping as much as 90 percent of the engine intact. The technology would preserve the high-power characteristics of a diesel engine while allowing it to run on ethanol. If only 20 percent of the heavy duty transportation industry uses ClearFlame technology, it would double ethanol demand.

Reaching technicians and students during the pandemic

Supported by Minnesota Corn, MEG Corp typically travels to technical schools across the state to share information about the benefits and safety of ethanol-blended fuels. With in-person opportunities still on hold due to COVID-19, founder Hoon Ge is carrying out his curriculum via zoom, meeting with classrooms and conducting workshops virtually.

MEG Corp is also introducing a new curriculum for high school students that shares the basics of ethanol and its benefits in 2021. A central message of the material is the role of agriculture in producing renewable and sustainable fuel production.



Corey Hanson, Norman County

Working alongside his fellow farmers at the Norman County Corn and Soybean Growers, Corey Hanson spearheads efforts to engage with his local FFA community, including organizing food delivery programs and providing scholarships each year. He also worked with local food assistance programs in Norman County to organize donations from the county organization.

"I think it is important for our corn and soybean farmers to help the community when it is needed, especially now with COVID-19. It means a lot to help people, especially when you see the need."

Market Development

Center for Sustainable Polymers

Last year, Minnesota Corn announced a \$460,000 investment in the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Polymers (CSP) to produce a corn-based plastic. The work continues to develop a more environmentally friendly plastic that would open up a potentially massive market for corn farmers. For example, CSP researchers are adding toughness and better thermal stability to corn-based polylactic acid (PLA) plastics, which would greatly increase their applications.

China's emergence as a new market abroad

Minnesota Corn supports the U.S. Grains Council and its mission to grow markets abroad for corn and corn-based products. In 2020, a major breakthrough for farmers was made in China. At the time of publication, China had purchased nearly 11.5 million metric tons of American corn in the 20-21 marketing year—more than 4 million metric tons over the second-largest purchaser, Mexico. The emergence of China as the top purchaser provides a major boost to corn farmers dependent on the export market.

Indonesia opens door to ethanol imports

In year 2018, Minnesota's corn farmers hosted Indonesian officials on a tour showcasing the state's sustainable farm operations and ethanol industry. Two years later, the fourth-most populous country in the world announced it would be opening its doors to ethanol imports. Indonesia creates a potential market of more than 200 million gallons for ethanol, equivalent to 71 million bushels of corn.

Virtual grain exchange

Replacing the cancelled in-person Export Exchange, the Virtual Grain Exchange took place in October with more than 1,200 registrants from 54 countries. While it is hard to replace the in-person conversations that lead to deals, the online format brought in more potential buyers from around the world. Working with the U.S. Grains Council, Minnesota Corn virtually hosted a Japanese trade delegation, including pre-recorded tours of Minnesota farms and grain operations, followed by a meeting with Minnesota Corn directors.



Livestock remain the largest market for American corn, and a strong export market benefits corn farmers.

Strengthening the largest market for American corn

Through their investment in the Minnesota corn check-off, farmers support the efforts of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), growing demand for corn-fed, American livestock. A 2019 USMEF study reported red meat exports will have a \$23.1 billion market value to U.S. corn from 2020-2029, and a \$4.5 billion market value for U.S. DDGS. Beef and pork have been the fastest-growing category of corn use since 2015. ■



Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council Vice Chair Brandon Fast hosted Indonesian embassy members on his Mountain Lake farm.

Fewer Minnesotans than ever have a connection to agriculture, making efforts by Minnesota Corn to reach the non-farming public vital. Initiatives and partnerships in 2020 engaged audiences via new mediums to share the many ways corn farmers benefit the state.

“Ag is Everywhere” Week

With COVID-19 cancelling in-person events, Minnesota Corn launched “Ag is Everywhere” week statewide to elevate the importance of corn farming and the issues that impact it.

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) sponsored a U.S. Senate debate that aired on WCCO radio to elevate the issues most important to farmers and their Greater Minnesota communities. Forums were held on WCCO Radio during the “Dave Lee in the Morning Show” that covered a new ag-focused topic each day, including the importance of biofuels, new uses for corn and conservation.



MCGA board member Jocelyn Schlichting-Hicks told her family farm’s story for a video series shared through the “MN Corn Grows MN” campaign.

Videos featuring Minnesota’s corn farmers talking about their passion for becoming the most environmentally responsible and sustainable farmers in the nation were also shared in a YouTube advertising campaign.

CommonGround marks 10 years of breaking barriers

CommonGround, a group of women farmers dedicated to having one-on-one conversations with consumers about the food farmers grow, celebrated an impressive milestone in 2020: a decade of service and impact.

The organization’s farmers volunteer their time to share personal experiences, as well as science and research, to help consumers sort through the myths and misinformation surrounding food.

What began as a handful of volunteers with a shared goal is now a growing national organization with more than 200 volunteers across 20 states. CommonGround Minnesota holds annual events that bring food influencers and metro moms to the farm and hosts



The virtual Farmfest booth replicated the in-person Farmfest experience, minus the sweet corn ice cream, unfortunately.

With Farmfest cancelled, MCGA also launched a virtual booth to update members who would otherwise be in the Minnesota Corn tent. The virtual booth featured updates on policy, ethanol, research and consumer engagement. Minnesota Corn grower leaders recorded videos discussing the latest advancements made in each area as a substitute for the valuable conversation that takes place in the MCGA tent. You can still visit the virtual booth at farmfest.mncornrowsmn.org.

“MN Corn Grows MN” continues

Launched as part of “Ag is Everywhere” week, the “MN Corn Grows MN” campaign reached metro and outstate residents via billboards, radio ads and targeted digital advertising. The message via each medium was the many ways corn farmers benefit the state economically, environmentally and sustainably.



Events like cooking classes promote conversation about food and farming between CommonGround volunteers and non-farmers.

cooking classes that promote conversation about food and farming. In 2020, the group pivoted due to COVID-19 and hosted a kid-friendly, virtual cooking class with St. Paul-based Cooks of Crocus Hill.

Minnesota Corn Podcast arrives

The Minnesota Corn Podcast introduces listeners to the individuals building a brighter future on the farm. Each 10-minute episode highlights a different initiative supported through farmers' investment in the Minnesota corn check-off, including exciting research, new markets and outreach to the non-farming public.



Subscribe to the Minnesota Corn Podcast today at info.mncorn.org/podcast.

You can find the podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or subscribe at info.mncorn.org/podcast.

Sharing sights and sounds from the field

MCGA district field managers are chronicling their travels throughout Greater Minnesota in the "From the Field" YouTube series. Subscribe to the channel at youtube.com/mncornvids for videos showing our

grassroots leaders in action. Topics for each range from recapping a recent political candidate's visit to introducing adorable farm dogs.

Sharing how the check-off works for you

Sharing the many ways farmers' investment in the Minnesota corn check-off is building a brighter future on the farm was a focus in 2020. Ag radio outlets throughout the state shared how the check-off fuels research, ethanol demand, and marketing developments. A YouTube campaign reached growers with videos featuring Minnesota's corn farmers, and Corn Talk featured a number of articles sharing the latest in check-off supported initiatives. A publication was also created – "Your Minnesota corn check-off at work" – and can be downloaded at mncorn.org/publications.

Twin Cities Road Crew adapts to continue youth outreach

MCGA partners with Twin Cities Road Crew to hold corn-themed assemblies at schools and events throughout the Twin Cities metro. With in-person assemblies on hold this year, the Road Crew created digital versions that promote corn and corn farming in an interactive way. The digital assemblies allow them to reach even more students.

The Road Crew also brought the corn-themed fun to Sever's Fall Festival during two weekends in September, hosting fun contests, giveaways and performances featuring everyone's favorite mascot, Maizey. ■

2020 Minnesota Corn Production

Acres planted	8 million acres
*Yield	202 bushels/acre
*Total production	1.53 billion bushels

2020 National Corn Production

Acres planted	82.5 million acres
*Average yield	175.8 bushels/acre
*Total production	14.5 billion bushels

About MCGA

Founded	1978
Governance	18 state directors, elected by their peers (directors serve 3-year terms)
Members	6,351
Organization	52 county organizations, representing 65 counties

Corn Check-Off Investment Allocation

Research and Stewardship	30.5%
National and World	22.2%
Membership and Grower Services	17.5%
Education and Promotion	13.2%
Operations and Administration	9.9%
Advocacy	6.7%

*Based on USDA November estimates. Sources: NASS, MDA, MCGA.

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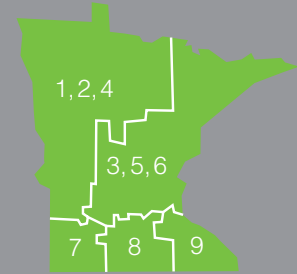
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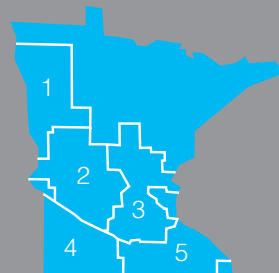
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