

corntalk

Official Publication of Minnesota Corn • November 2022



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- Minnesota Corn scholarship application is open
- Farm weather stations provide critical info

Join MCGA today!



Look for this icon to learn about research, promotion and outreach efforts fueled by farmers' investment in the Minnesota corn check-off.

Corn Talk goes to corn farmers across the state, whether or not you're a member of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA). We distribute it far and wide to keep all corn farmers updated on the latest Minnesota corn check-off news. Just because you receive Corn Talk and pay into the Minnesota corn check-off doesn't mean you are an MCGA member.

We'd love to have you join us as a member. Members power our grassroots advocacy and engagement with elected officials in St. Paul and Washington, D.C. Without your membership, growers wouldn't have a voice in the important state and federal policy discussions that impact corn farming.

Membership also has its benefits on the farm level. Only MCGA members are eligible for the \$5,000 Minnesota Corn scholarship. MCGA members also automatically become members of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and receive benefits associated with NCGA membership, including discounts at national retailers and eligibility for the National Corn Yield Contest.

Joining MCGA is easy. Simply visit mncorn.org/join to join. You can also call us to inquire about membership at (952) 233-0333.

A one-year MCGA membership is \$75. If you sold at least 7,500 bushels of corn in the past year and paid into the Minnesota corn check-off, you may qualify for a no-cost membership. If you have sold 20,000 bushels and paid into the check-off, you may qualify for a three-year membership at no cost. ■

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Minnesota Corn

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Starting in 2023,
Corn Talk will be
published four times
throughout the year
rather than six.

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Corn is harvested near St. James. The 2022 Minnesota corn harvest progressed faster than the previous five harvests, on average, according to the USDA. Eighty percent of the state's corn crop had been harvested as of Oct. 30.



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Letter from Leadership

MN Corn wraps up a busy 2022

Adam Birr, Ph.D., Executive Director & CEO, MCGA and MCR&PC

Fall is my favorite season and a critical time for corn farmers, as harvest tells the tale of the events of the growing season. It is the ultimate performance indicator, with yields providing insights into what ideas worked and those that didn't meet expectations. That information is then used to plan with renewed optimism for next year's crop in an effort to continually improve productivity.

There are parallels to this process in the Minnesota Corn office as well. When farmers are in the field, staff use the time to reflect back on the year, evaluate program performance, and assess programs, projects, and tactics employed to meet Minnesota Corn's goals. Unfortunately, we don't have a yield monitor to measure our progress, but we do have other metrics to show how we are working every day to identify and promote opportunities for corn growers while enhancing quality of life.

For instance, we successfully advocated for continued access to Unleaded 88 (also called E15) during the busy summer driving season, ensuring that consumers had a fuel option that provided economic relief at the pump. In Minnesota, data shows drivers have taken advantage of uninterrupted access to this lower-cost, cleaner-burning fuel. As of Sept. 1, yearly reported Unleaded 88 sales in Minnesota were at 66.4 million gallons, according to the state's Department of Commerce. That positions Minnesota well to break the state record for annual Unleaded 88 sales of 87.1 million gallons.

Minnesota Corn also continued to play an active role in developing export markets. We recently welcomed more than 500 visitors from 50 different countries at the U.S. Grains Council Export Exchange, which was held in Minneapolis. During the week, we hosted a record number of delegations on corn farms throughout Minnesota. These visits are vital to sharing the story of American corn, and emphasizing that it's the best quality and most reliable source of corn in the world. Additionally, Minnesota Corn's research projects are wrapping up the crop year, providing information that will help Minnesota's corn farmers become the most sustainable in the world, both economically and environmentally. Lastly, we finished the year with more than 6,700 new members, a bar that hasn't been realized in many years.



Like farmers, staff at Minnesota Corn hope that our fall planning will yield results and help ensure that corn farmers in our state prosper.

Like farmers, Minnesota Corn's staff now turn our attention to the next "growing season." The election has resulted in more than 80 new faces at the state Legislature that we will engage on the importance of corn to Minnesota's economy. We are evaluating new ways to communicate with both farmers and the public alike through revamped publications and new partnerships. Our Innovation Grant program is currently open, providing farmers the opportunity to study their first-hand experiences and ideas to improve crop productivity.

Like farmers, we hope that our fall planning will yield results and bring us closer to realizing our vision of creating an environment where corn farmers can thrive. We thank you for your support and wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Birr', written in a cursive style.

MCGA engages candidates, advocates for farmers

Amanda Bilek, Senior Public Policy Director, MCGA

There was a lot at stake for Minnesota corn farmers during November's elections, the first since new district lines were drawn following the 2020 Census. All 201 seats in the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives were up for election, along with local, state, and federal offices, including governor, attorney general, and U.S. representative. We didn't know the election results as this issue of Corn Talk went to press, but one thing is clear: corn farmers can be proud of their advocacy efforts this fall.

Over the course of the summer and into the fall, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) connected with candidates to discuss issues important to Minnesota corn farmers. We also served as an informational resource for candidates on agriculture and corn farming in the state.

For example, MCGA utilized our grassroots network of farmers through county grower associations, encouraging them to connect with Minnesota House and Senate candidates. In our state office, MCGA focused on suburban and greater Minnesota state Legislature candidates that could play a big role in agriculture, environment, and tax policy decisions impacting corn farmers when the legislature convenes on Jan. 3, 2023. We communicated directly with these candidates through email and invited candidates to visit corn farms and ethanol plants, attend local meetings, or to meet MCGA staff and farmer-leaders for coffee or lunch to discuss agriculture and rural policy issues. Due to redistricting and retirements, there will be a lot of new faces in St. Paul during the 2023 legislative session. Our efforts have given us a leg up on building relationships with policymakers, and we'll continue this work during the legislative session and throughout the rest of the year to cultivate new relationships and champions for your issues.

Even during election season, MCGA continued advocating for policies that benefit corn farmers. For example, this summer, we called on our members and all of Minnesota's corn farmers to submit comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a proposal to lower the level of concern for Atrazine. If implemented, this proposal would impact the effective use of this tool by farmers. As a result of this call to action, corn farmers stepped up. In Minnesota, nearly 500 comments were submitted to EPA from farmers outlining why Atrazine is important to their farm. Nationwide, through the National Corn



Growers Association call-to-action system, nearly 4,000 messages were sent from agriculture advocates to EPA. Only Iowa submitted more messages to EPA than Minnesota. Thank you for speaking up for your farm operation. If you would like to receive future text alerts for calls to action, text "MCGA" to 50457.

After the election, MCGA begins our grassroots policy development and policy priority setting process. This process culminates during our resolution session at MN Ag Expo in Mankato. Taxes, ethanol, and environmental permitting — just to name a few items — are likely to be on the priority list for 2023.

Our policy efforts are only successful because of the advocacy work by MCGA members. With so many new faces and changing dynamics in our political and policy environment, your voice is more important than ever. You can learn more about our public policy efforts on our blog (mncorn.org/blog) and website at mncorn.org/advocacy. ■

Export Exchange held in Minneapolis

As part of our mission to develop international markets for corn and corn co-products, Minnesota Corn supports the U.S. Grains Council (USGC). The organization is dedicated to building and expanding international markets for American grains and grain co-products, including ethanol.

In October, USGC held its biennial Export Exchange networking conference and trade show. The event was held in Minneapolis because of the city's proximity to grain production and handling destinations. As part of Export Exchange, USGC takes international delegations on tours of farms, ethanol plants, and grain elevators.

Export Exchange allowed international buyers to connect directly with American farmers and suppliers. Such experiences help build trust, create open lines of communication, and keep American corn top of mind for international buyers, said Devin Hoffarth, MCGA's market development and industry relations director.

"We know we have a really good product in the U.S.," Hoffarth said. "Making all these stops is just a really good way to make those connections."

Minnesota Corn played an important role in Export Exchange. Staff assisted USGC on-site at the conference with registration, logistics and more. Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) member Jim O'Connor gave a speech about the importance of the Minnesota corn check-off. Additionally, in his capacity as past USGC chair, MCR&PC member Chad Willis served as the host of one of the conference sessions.



Members of an Asian delegation tour Jordan Goblish's farm during Export Exchange.

Minnesota Corn grower-leaders also opened their farms to the international delegations for tours. MCR&PC member Jordan Goblish hosted a delegation from China, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and O'Connor hosted Colombian and Southeast Asian delegations. Minnesota Corn Growers Association and National Corn Growers Association board member Brian Thalmann also hosted a Latin American delegation.

Learn more about how Minnesota Corn is building international markets for corn at mncorn.org/utilization. ▀



Brian Thalmann gives a Latin American trade delegation a tour of his family farm.

feature story.....

Meet the new MCGA, NCGA presidents

In October, Richard Syverson, a fourth generation family farmer in Swift county, assumed the presidency of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) Board of Directors. Also that month, Tom Haag, who grows corn and soybeans with his son Nathan in Meeker County, became the 2022-23 president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Board of Directors.

Learn more about Syverson and Haag, and their priorities for the coming year, in the profiles below.

*"We can be
that voice"*

Richard Syverson,
2022-23 MCGA president



Syverson grew up on the dairy farm that has been in his family since the late 1800s. But he said his parents never encouraged him to go into farming.

At the University of Minnesota, Syverson studied agriculture economics because the degree had potential uses outside of farming. Syverson said he reconsidered his plans for an off-farm career when he was a senior and his dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer. While taking time off from school to help his dad run the farm during his recovery, Syverson said he realized how much he enjoyed farming.

After graduating, Syverson and his fiancé, Vicki, purchased a piece of land next to the family farm. He took over the farm in 1987 when his dad died; that year, he switched the farm's primary focus from dairy farming to corn and soybean production.

In 2003, Syverson sold the remaining dairy cows and took a part-time job with the organization AgrAbility, which helps farmers with disabilities.

In 2005, he became a regional representative for MCGA. Syverson successfully ran for the MCGA board in 2018,

and shortly thereafter, he became a member of the board's leadership team.

As president, Syverson said he wants to work with other commodity groups, farm organizations, and people who are concerned with the environment to influence policy on a united front. He also said he wants to have conversations with conservation groups about government land ownership in greater Minnesota.

"It just doesn't make sense to have the very best land in an area taken out of production for conservation uses," he said. "Until we start having conversation about what the values are [and] what's the best use of resources out here, we're just going to keep fighting each other."

Syverson said MCGA gives farmers a voice in policy discussions that they might not otherwise have. "The folks who don't want us to do what we do have plenty of money and lots of staff that are out talking to those representatives all the time," he said. "[MCGA] can be that voice. We can be that arm to speak out."

He said he's hopeful that momentum will continue building around a joint MCGA-Minnesota Petroleum Marketers Association bill that would allow more Minnesota fueling stations to install equipment compatible with higher ethanol blends. The bill, called the Liquid Fuel Modernization Act, received a hearing in the state Senate in April 2022.

He also noted the value of the Minnesota corn check-off program in funding the research that shapes MCGA's policy positions.



Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) President Richard Syverson testifies during a 2023 farm bill listening session this past summer in Northfield.

"All in' for corn farmers"

Tom Haag,
2022-23 NCGA president



As president, Haag chose the slogan "All in" to reflect his leadership aspirations for the year. He said it's important that all states and members of NCGA are on the same page as the organization works on critical policy priorities, such as the upcoming farm bill and the Next Generation Fuels Act.

Like Syverson, Tom Haag also originally had off-farm aspirations. He went to college for teaching and said he wanted to become a basketball coach. But eventually, he too returned to farming.

Haag said that his farming operation was originally smaller and included dairy and livestock, though he, too, eventually pivoted entirely to corn and soybeans. He became a member of the Meeker County Corn Growers Association board in 1994.

He was elected to the MCGA board in 2010 and served as MCGA president in 2012-13. In 2016, he was elected to the NCGA board, and in 2021-22, he served as first vice president.

At a glance

Tom Haag, 2022-23 NCGA president

Crops and/or livestock raised: Corn & soybeans

Years farming: Nearly 50

Priorities for 2022-23: Ensuring crop insurance is protected in the 2023 Farm Bill, advancement of the Next Generation Fuels Act in Congress, ensuring that U.S. drivers have uninterrupted year-round access to E15.

Richard Syverson, 2022-23 MCGA president

Crops and/or livestock raised: Corn, soybeans & sheep

Years farming: 44 years

Priorities for 2022-23: Finding common ground with other commodity groups, farm organizations, and people who are concerned with the environment, initiating conversations about government land purchases in greater Minnesota, advancing Unleaded 88 use.



National Corn Growers Association President Tom Haag said his main priorities for 2022-23 include protecting crop insurance in the upcoming farm bill and advancing the Next Generation Fuels Act in Congress.

That bill would take advantage of ethanol to reduce fuel prices and carbon emissions. In Minnesota, it has support from bipartisan members of the state's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and U.S. Reps. Angie Craig and Michelle Fischbach.

NCGA is also focused on maintaining crop insurance in the 2023 farm bill. "Federal crop insurance is a major pillar of risk management for the vast majority of corn growers," he said. "It works and plays a significant role for agriculture in the wake of natural disasters."

Haag also noted the importance of a permanent solution that ensures consumers have year-round access to Unleaded 88. He said NCGA was grateful earlier in 2022 when the Biden administration stepped in and allowed for sales of the biofuel this past summer, but that it's crucial a permanent solution is reached.

Haag said he remains optimistic about the future of corn farming because of the satisfaction that farmers derive from growing crops and taking care of the land. He said it's important that there are opportunities for younger farmers to have the same opportunities that he had to make a living as a farmer. ■

Minnesota Corn scholarship application is open

Visit mncorn.org/scholarships now through Jan. 6 to apply for one of four \$5,000 scholarships offered by Minnesota Corn.

To promote opportunities for future agriculture leaders, Minnesota Corn offers four \$5,000 scholarships to Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) student members pursuing careers and degrees in agriculture. In October, the application for our 2023-24 scholarship opened.

Now through Jan. 6, applicants can apply through Minnesota Corn's online application portal, which can be found at mncorn.org/scholarships. Scholarship decisions will be announced on or before March 1.

Here's what you need to know about the Minnesota Corn scholarship:

At a glance: The Minnesota Corn scholarship is funded by corn farmers through the Minnesota corn check-off. Since 2019, corn farmers have funded \$50,000 in scholarships for 10 students.

Who is eligible? The scholarship is open exclusively to MCGA members who will be full-time college or graduate students during the fall 2023 semester and who are pursuing careers and degrees in agriculture. Past recipients, children of MCGA board members,

Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council members, and MCGA employees are not eligible.

How can I apply? To apply, visit mncorn.org/scholarships and click on the "Minnesota Corn Growers Association Scholarship" dropdown menu. That will direct you to the application. As part of the application, students must upload a resume, transcript, letter of recommendation, and answer three short essay questions. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

How can I join MCGA? Joining is easy! For students ages 16 to 24, a great way to join is through our Young Adult Membership program. A young adult membership costs \$20 annually and is a great way to stay up to date on all things Minnesota Corn. Learn more at mncorn.org/join.

What else? Check mncorn.org/scholarships throughout the winter to see if your county corn grower association is offering any scholarships for 2023. The page will be updated throughout the winter, so don't forget to periodically check back.

Also, don't forget about the scholarships offered by the National Corn Growers Association. The organization has three scholarship offerings: a \$1,000 scholarship for students pursuing a degree at a technical school or community college; a \$1,500 scholarship for undergraduate students pursuing degrees in any field; and a \$2,500 scholarship for graduate students whose area of study will benefit the corn sector. Learn more about these offerings at ncga.com/scholarships. ▀



Innovation Grant applications open

The Minnesota Corn program that provides farmers, agriculture students, and scientists with resources to conduct their own on-farm research projects has begun accepting proposals for 2023.

The Innovation Grant Program funds projects that explore efforts to improve yields, benefit the environment, and/or develop new uses for corn. It will accept proposals through Jan. 6.

Minnesota Corn offers the Innovation Grant program so farmers and students can be involved in field-level research efforts to improve production practices and increase on-farm profitability. The program is in addition to Minnesota Corn's primary research program, which provides university faculty and other professional researchers with grants to explore ways to make corn farming more profitable and sustainable.

Each year, Minnesota Corn allocates over \$2 million to research projects in the primary research program.

Innovation Grant projects must be in one of five categories: new uses, methods to improve nutrient use efficiency in corn production, comparative tillage innovations, economic and management innovations, or production practices that enhance water and air quality or improve biodiversity.

Preference will be given to projects that don't replicate what other farmers, students, and researchers have done in the past. You can see past Innovation Grant projects at mncorn.org/research.



Farmers who have received past Innovation Grant funding can apply for a grant to host a field day to showcase their project. There are two levels of funding for new farmer- and student-led projects. The first level is for up to \$7,000. This level is for testing corn-production practices on at least 20 acres. When applying for this level, farmers are asked to also consider how they might extend their experiment for up to three years.

The second level for farmers and students is for up to \$30,000. These proposals must be more in depth. They must include plans for data collection and statistical analysis, and they must include plans for three growing seasons.

For both levels, farmers and students are expected to collaborate with a soil and water conservation district, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, a university, or other agency on their project.

For scientists, there is one option for Innovation Grants. They can apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 to test an innovative or novel scientific approach or develop a preliminary data set to leverage greater funding for a project related to improving the sustainability or profitability of corn production. They must work directly with a farmer on a project.

If you have questions about the Minnesota Corn Innovation Grant Program, please reach out to Minnesota Corn Research Director Dr. Maciej Kazula at mkazula@mncorn.org. Learn more about the program and apply at mncorn.org/research.



Fulda farmer Mark Enninga works on his Innovation Grant research project.

Farm-oriented weather station network gives time-critical info

Written by Jonathan Eisenthal

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Station Network, or NDAWN, is a network of 175 weather stations spaced approximately every 20 miles across eastern Montana, North Dakota, and western Minnesota, its fastest-growing region. Each station is packed with state-of-the-art scientific equipment measuring air temperature, wind speed, rainfall, humidity, solar radiation, dew point, soil temperature, and soil moisture across a range of depths.

All data is posted on the NDAWN website (ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu) in real time, and offers extremely accurate, state-of-the-art forecasting within a radius of 20 miles of any given station.

Over the past couple years, the Otter Tail & Grant County Corn & Soybean Growers Association raised \$90,000 to build five new NDAWN weather stations in western Minnesota. The stations were installed this past summer.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is supporting a proposed \$3 million allocation of Clean Water Funds to add NDAWN stations across the state. The Clean Water Council, which advises the state legislature on Clean Water Fund allocations, recommended the proposal this fall. It will still need approval from the legislature.

"By providing this information, we can give our farmers and commercial applicators the tools they need to make well-informed decisions," said Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen, whose department supports the Clean Water Fund proposal. "We can decrease the potential loss of nitrogen and increase farm productivity by saving nutrients on the land. It is a win-win situation based on an easy-to-use tool."

Below is a rundown of how NDAWN stations can help corn farmers during planting and the growing season.

Planting

For proper germination, soil temperatures should be a uniform 50 degrees to a depth of four inches. Planting at this temperature assures even emergence and helps the plant attain its maximum yield.

Planting in colder soils can mean a yield reduction of up to 40 bushels per acre, according to agronomist Rick Swenson, a member of the Otter Tail & Grant County Corn & Soybean Growers Association Board of Directors.

The seed damage caused when planting in cool soils can have effects later in the season, too. For example,



NDAWN Director Daryl Ritchison

it could lead to using more fertilizer than necessary, increasing runoff.

NDAWN stations measure soil temperatures along a whole range of depths, from 2 inches to 4 feet. That gives growers a sense of when seeds will germinate, and how quickly roots can grow all the way down through the soil profile.

"The temperature at 2-inch depth might be 52 (degrees), but if your 4-inch reading is still 34 degrees, just knowing that is some incredible information to have in your hands before you plant," Swenson said. "It can be as little as a day or two of waiting that can mean the difference (between low and optimal yields). Especially if you have 80-degree weather on the way."

In season spraying

For growers to help their crops reach their maximum yield, they need to fend off a changing array of insect pests, fungal diseases, and weeds, all of which can sap the energy the plant needs to produce its grain.

These chemical controls are among the biggest investments a farmer makes, and highly detailed weather data helps the farmer use these controls effectively. Temperature and wind conditions can

make spray applications ineffective. High evaporation potential dissipates spray before it can do its job. Also, the weather conditions under which insects and blights emerge are predictable, so accurate forecasting can save the farmer from wasting controls when those insects or diseases are not apt to arise. The forecast can also help predict the right moment to make the most effective application.

NDAWN helps alleviate these risks in multiple ways:

- Measuring wind temperature, so stations can help growers know when not to spray.
- Measuring air temperature, so stations can help growers know when fungal diseases and insects are likely to be a problem.
- Tracking Delta T values, so stations help growers know if a pesticide would evaporate before hitting the ground.
- Measuring temperature at 20 inches and 10 feet above ground, so NDAWN stations can tell if there's an inversion in an area.

The NDAWN system also can send real-time text alerts to farmers about temperature inversions. NDAWN Director Daryl Ritchison said the network has the only

real-time temperature inversion alert system available to his knowledge.

Applications beyond farming

As stations are added to the network, there is an option to add a high-tech sensor to measure the amount of moisture in each snowfall, as well as other factors that can predict spring flooding. The sensor has been added to 40 stations, but NDAWN hopes that eventually all the stations on the network will have this capability.

These monitors also track the amount of snow deposited in each locale and the relative moisture level in the snowpack. This lets municipalities and regional governments know when it's time to deploy sandbags and/or close roads.

MCGA board member John Swanson, who farms in Polk County, said this feature could have saved the Fargo-Moorhead area money a few years ago, when it spent a lot of money on flood protection. The measures ended up being unnecessary, he said. ■



An NDAWN weather station is installed. If you farm in western Minnesota, you could soon have free access to localized, real-time weather data, thanks to an effort by the Ottertail & Grant County Corn & Soybean Growers Association to install five NDAWN stations.

Running for Minnesota's corn boards: What you need to know

In October, both the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) and the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) released their 2023 candidate forms. Submission of the candidate application form is highly encouraged for those interested in running for the MCGA board. Candidates for the MCR&PC are required to submit the candidate information and certification forms.

Here is what you need to know about running for a seat on the MCGA board or the MCR&PC.

What is MCGA, and what is the MCR&PC?

MCGA is Minnesota's grassroots corn growers association. Founded in 1978, MCGA advocates on behalf of corn farmers, supports county corn growers associations, and works closely with the MCR&PC to fund research, promotion, and outreach aimed at increasing opportunities for corn farmers. MCGA currently has more than 6,700 members.

The MCR&PC oversees the Minnesota corn check-off, a fund used to increase opportunities for corn farmers in the state. The council invests check-off dollars into research, promotion, and outreach programming aimed at developing markets for corn, increasing on-farm sustainability, and improving quality of life for corn farmers and all Minnesotans.

Who can run for the MCGA board? Who can run for the MCR&PC?

You must be an MCGA member to serve on the MCGA board. Joining is easy. If you have sold at least 7,500 bushels of corn in the past year and paid into the Minnesota corn check-off, you may qualify for a one-year membership to MCGA at no cost. Otherwise, a one-year MCGA membership is \$75.

To serve on the MCR&PC, farmers must be at least 18 years old, grow corn in Minnesota, and pay into the Minnesota corn check-off. A link to the state statute that provides full information on eligibility can be found at mncorn.org/about/about-mcrpc.

What are the obligations when serving on the board or the council?

Board and council members are expected to attend MCR&PC and MCGA board meetings. The MCR&PC and MCGA board hold joint meetings five times a year. Board and council members are also asked to join one of the Minnesota Corn focus teams: Grower Services, Utilization, or Discovery & Development. The teams meet four times a year.

How long are terms on the board and the council? Can I serve on both?

Board and council terms are three years long. You can only serve on one at a time. The MCGA board has a limit of 3 three-year terms, but MCR&PC has no term limits.

How many board seats are up for election in 2023? How many council seats?

Seven MCGA board seats and four MCR&PC seats are up for election in 2023.

To ensure statewide representation, both the MCGA board and the MCR&PC elect farmers from specific districts of Minnesota. The districts are numbered differently for the board and the council, though they are contained in the same general geographic boundaries.

MCGA has open seats in District 1 (southwestern Minnesota), District 2 (south-central Minnesota), District 4 (western Minnesota), District 5 (central Minnesota), and three open at-large seats. The MCR&PC has openings in District 1/2/4 (northwestern Minnesota), District 7 (southwestern Minnesota), District 8 (south-central Minnesota), and District 9 (southeastern Minnesota). See the district maps at mncorn.org/contact.

I'm interested. Now what?

Great! The next step is to fill out the candidate forms for the board or the council. The forms are online at mncorn.org/forms.

For the MCR&PC, growers must complete the candidate certification form and the candidate information form. The certification form affirms that you meet the qualifications to run for the council. The information form asks candidates to explain why they want to serve on the council. Farmers will not be allowed to stand for election to the MCR&PC unless they complete both forms. Council candidate forms are due by Jan. 27, 2023.

For MCGA, growers are asked to fill out the candidate application form and return it to MCGA staff by Dec. 31, 2022.

What happens after I submit the candidate forms?

For the MCR&PC, candidates who submit the forms will be placed on the MCR&PC ballot. In March 2023, the ballot will be mailed to growers who participated in the 2022 MCR&PC election. Growers who did not vote in last year's election can also request a ballot by contacting the Minnesota Corn office at (952) 233-0333. Ballots include only the candidates running to represent your district. Election results are announced in the spring.

For MCGA, the election will be held at the MCGA annual meeting, on the morning of Jan. 18, at MN Ag Expo in Mankato. While candidates are encouraged to submit the candidate application form ahead of the annual meeting, MCGA members are also allowed to run from the floor at the meeting. All voting is done by delegates within the corresponding district.

Learn more about the Minnesota Corn Growers Association at mncorn.org/about/about-mcga and more about the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council at mncorn.org/about/about-mcrpc. ▀

Welcome MCGA's new members

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is excited to welcome the 226 people and businesses who joined the organization in September. It's great to have you aboard!

Our new members come from 37 counties and represent all corners of the state. Meeker County had the most new members in September with 55, followed by Renville with 22, Fillmore with 20, and Norman with 17. Additionally, 220 people and businesses renewed their MCGA membership in September.

MCGA is Minnesota's grassroots corn growers association. The organization advocates for Minnesota's corn farmers in St. Paul and Washington, D.C. and educates elected officials on issues important to corn farming. MCGA also works closely with the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council to fund research, promotion, and outreach aimed at increasing opportunities for corn farmers.

Below is a listing of MCGA's new members from September. ■

| Name | Membership County | Name | Membership County | Name | Membership County | Name | Membership County |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Mark Adams | Meeker | Gary Findlay | Traverse | James Lennox | Meeker | Peterson Farm Seed | Meeker |
| Ag Country Farm Credit | Meeker | Dan Flowers | Le Sueur | LG Seeds | Meeker | Vangie Piepenburg | Meeker |
| Gene Alama | Meeker | Malachi Friedrichs | Clay | Joyce Libbesmeier | Meeker | Kera Pikula | Meeker |
| Milo Alama | Meeker | Gar-Lin Agronomy | Olmsted | Kevin Libbesmeier | Meeker | Mario Provencher | Meeker |
| Dean Allen | Olmsted | Sophie Geer | Renville | Lauren Libbesmeier | Meeker | Kurt Raaen | Fillmore |
| Lauren Alex | Renville | Jacob Gerber | Grant | Chad Liebenow | Wabasha | Andrew Rasmussen | Meeker |
| American Federal Bank | Norman | Tom Gerken | Wabasha | Justin Liebenow | Wabasha | Joel Rauenhorst | Faribault |
| Dwight Anderson | Otter Tail | Brandon Goff | Swift | Jerry Liebl | Grant | Steven Rechtzigel | Dakota |
| Jeanne Anderson | Goodhue | Paul Golden | Chippewa | Litzau Farm Drainage | Meeker | Milton Reich | Swift |
| Grant Arends | Norman | Golden Harvest Seed | Meeker | Lowell Lorenzen | Lincoln | Colby Renne | Meeker |
| Argyle Co-op | Marshall | Brian Gordon | Kandiyohi | Landon Luhman | Norman | Terrel Renne | Meeker |
| Warehouse Assn | | Gordon Farms | Swift | Joel Luhmann | Winona | Ridgeview Farms | Fillmore |
| Arnolds Inc | Meeker | Sherrie Graves | Dakota | Nick Lundberg | Swift | Jon Risacher | Murray |
| Staci Barth | Meeker | Nathan Griewe | Norman | Marilyn Lundin | Meeker | Hiko Ritz | Kandiyohi |
| Zach Barth | Meeker | Annette Gruber | Stearns | Thomas Lye | Swift | Logan Roadstrom | Mille Lacs |
| Jessica Beckendorf | Renville | Jerry Gruber | Stearns | Kaitlyn Mathies | Meeker | Adam Ruen | Fillmore |
| Natalie Beckendorf | Renville | Rada Gullekson | Norman | Jammie McCarney | Meeker | Brielle Ruen | Fillmore |
| Amanda Becker | Meeker | Evan Gust | Norman | Joseph McCarney | Meeker | Carson Ruen | Fillmore |
| Tom Becker | Meeker | Judy Haag | Meeker | Ryan McCullen | Cottonwood | Luke Ruen | Fillmore |
| Linnae Beckman Lund | Kanabec | Ethan Haen | Renville | Cheryl Melchert | Meeker | Mark Ruen | Fillmore |
| Andrew Behnke | Lincoln | Eugene Halbur | Pipestone | Seth Merkel | Fillmore | Scott Ryan | Goodhue |
| Conni Bergo | Meeker | Hamm Seeds | Meeker | Michael Merrill | Pipestone | Brad Schmitz | Isanti |
| Mary Besser | Kanabec | Gene Hanson | Grant | Allen Meyer | Stearns | Jim Schoenberg | Stearns |
| Besser Ag Services Inc | Kanabec | Lane Hanson | Norman | Vincent Miglizzo | Olmsted | Michael Schoenberg | Stearns |
| Jennifer Bipes | Meeker | Morris Hanson | Faribault | Bryan Miller | Fillmore | Sharon Schoenberg | Stearns |
| Adam Bishop | Dodge | Neal Harder | Sibley | Herman Miller | Fillmore | Joyce Schreiber | Meeker |
| Bitzan Farms LLC | Douglas | Tim Hart | Pope | Tyler Miller | Meeker | Josh Schreier | Murray |
| Evan Borgen | Norman | Payton Hecht | Meeker | Moeller Farms | Pipestone | Spencer Schroeder | Renville |
| Colton Bratsch | Renville | Gale Heid | Meeker | Cory Morrow | Grant | Daren Schuerman | Swift |
| Dave Brelje | McLeod | Jessica Heiden | Winona | John Mulhern | Fillmore | Mazzarine Self | Renville |
| Jon Broberg | Swift | Ben Hendrickson | Renville | Steve Muller | Cottonwood | Simon Farms | Fillmore |
| Tate Brovold | Meeker | Rebecca Hendrickson | Renville | Debbie Nelson | Meeker | Leah Sip | Norman |
| Hunter Bruns | Renville | Terry Hjort | Kanabec | Gordy Nelson | Meeker | Karina Skaug | Polk |
| Makenna Bruns | Renville | Joe Hoff | Renville | Gina Noll | Mahnomen | Steffes Auctions | Meeker |
| Bucher Farms | Pipestone | Sara Hoff | Renville | Kaden Noll | Mahnomen | Kyle Stene | Norman |
| William Bugbee | Stearns | Andrew Hughes | Swift | Marcus Noll | Mahnomen | Joe Stevermer | Faribault |
| Ryan Carlson | Swift | Jim Jensen | Swift | Pat Noll | Mahnomen | Jacob Storm | Olmsted |
| Brian Clemenson | Goodhue | Ben Johnson | Douglas | North Fork LLC | Meeker | Rick Stromberg | Kanabec |
| Jerry Clemenson | Goodhue | Cody Johnson | Renville | North Prairie Farms | Fillmore | Mark Stueven | Pipestone |
| Tiffany Clemenson | Goodhue | Matthew Johnson | Olmsted | Paul Nowak | Meeker | Wyatt Stueven | Pipestone |
| Conner Danielson | Meeker | Trent Johnson | Murray | Bill Olen | Kanabec | Trent Summerlewt | Meeker |
| Dante Deppa | Stearns | Tyler Johnson | Fillmore | Pat Olmscheid | Stearns | Don Swenson | Fillmore |
| Charlie Dicke | Goodhue | Grace Kaehler | Meeker | Charlie Olson | Lyon | Duane Swiers | Mahnomen |
| John Dosdall | Stevens | Jeremy Keim | Fillmore | Jim Otto | Meeker | Shaun Swiers | Mahnomen |
| Kyle Duxbury | Fillmore | Gene Kiefer | Mower | Russ Palubicki | Otter Tail | Ralph Tart | Fillmore |
| Travis Duxbury | Fillmore | William Kiehne | Fillmore | Mike Paul | Stevens | Kelly Tate | Goodhue |
| Carson Edwards | Renville | Kay Kipf | Meeker | Charles Paulzine | Murray | Ilton Thorpe | Mahnomen |
| Gavin Edwards | Renville | Aaron Kozlowski | Pipestone | Paynesville Farmers | Meeker | Keagan Toreen | Renville |
| Hayden Edwards | Renville | Marie Kragenbring | Meeker | Union Co-op | | Kyra Toreen | Renville |
| Destiny Eggen | Norman | Amanda Lahr | Stearns | Earl Pederson | Norman | Ultimate Ag Service | Meeker |
| Beth Eiyneck | Mahnomen | Janet Lahr | Stearns | Jana Pederson | Norman | W.K. O'Leary Farms Inc | Swift |
| David Eiyneck | Mahnomen | Joshua Lahr | Stearns | Kwin Pederson | Norman | Tim Weaver | Wabasha |
| Gabe Eiyneck | Mahnomen | Nathan Lahr | Stearns | Neal Pederson | Norman | Preston Welling | Meeker |
| Maddie Engelstad | Polk | Tim Laman | Isanti | Sherry Pederson | Norman | Kalleigh Wertish | Renville |
| Blake Engstrom | Renville | Taylor Lang | Meeker | Martin Petersen | Traverse | Jean Zinda | Swift |
| Triston Erickson | Norman | Henry Lemke | Meeker | Don Peterson | Lyon | | |
| Terry Evavold | Otter Tail | Carol Lennox | Meeker | Jerry Peterson | Pipestone | | |

county highlights ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
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Thank you to our county board members

Across Minnesota, there are 52 county corn growers associations covering the state's corn-producing counties. Most are joint corn and soybean growers associations. When you join the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA), you also become a member of your county's corn growers association.

These county corn growers associations engage farmers through community gatherings, local programs, golf tournaments, fuel promotion events, and more. They're led by the local farmers who sit on their boards, with support from Minnesota Corn's district field managers (DFMs).

To show appreciation for these county board members, DFM's deliver them snacks during harvest season. Minnesota Corn is grateful for the hard work of our many county corn board members. We couldn't do what we do without your dedication and support. Thank you.

County corn growers associations generally don't hold programs or meetings in the fall, but they will begin meeting again this winter. We'd love to have you involved. To learn more about your local county corn growers association, contact the DFM for your area. You can see which DFM covers your county and get their contact information at **mncorn.org/contact/staff**.

Minnesota Corn thanks all of our state's corn growers for their work producing a safe and abundant crop this year. We hope you had a bountiful harvest and wish you and your family a restful holiday season.

Read updates from Minnesota Corn's DFMs online at mncorn.org/blog. Below are photos of our DFMs handing out snacks to county corn board members. 🌽



McLeod County Farmer Mandy Dammann and her daughter



Lyon County farmer Grant VanKeulen



A farmer receives a thank-you gift at the Red River Ag elevator in Hawley



Faribault FFA students hand out burgers and rib sandwiches before the Northfield-Faribault football game in October



McLeod County farmer Chad Hoese (second from the right) and friends



Wright & Hennepin Corn Growers Association President Stan Vander Kooi



Martin County farmer Jayden Garlick

We want to hear from you.
Send photos and brief descriptions of your county events to your district field manager.
Find your DFM on our maps at mncorn.org/staff.

thanks to our allied partners



MCGA Board Members

- President
Richard Syverson of Clontarf
320-760-6719
- First Vice President
Dana Allen-Tully of Eyota
507-951-5597
- Treasurer
Jim Kanten of Milan
320-297-0375
- Secretary
Wesley Beck of St. James
507-630-1471
- Past President/
Chairman of the Board
Bryan Biegler of Lake Wilson
507-920-8186
- Angela Guentzel of Kasota
507-317-4372
- Tom Haag of Eden Valley*
320-453-7760
- Paul Henning of Okabena
507-370-1688
- Blair Hoseth of Mahanomen
701-261-3574
- Brad Neumann of Wabasso
507-822-6951
- Jocelyn Schlichting of Rice
320-333-4291
- John Swanson of Mentor
612-419-9235
- Rob Tate of Cannon Falls
507-298-0308
- Brian Thalmann of Plato*
320-238-2481
- David (D.J.) VanKlomben of Montevideo
320-212-2748
- Tim Waibel of Courtland
507-359-1219
- Todd Wentzel of Murdock
320-760-1347
- Harold Wolle Jr. of Madelia*
507-236-2181
- *NCGA Board member

MCR&PC Board Members

- Chair
Doug Albin of Clarkfield
320-383-2338
- Vice Chair
Gary Prescher of Delavan
507-525-7671
- Treasurer
Duane Epland of Twin Lakes
641-590-0928
- Secretary
John Mages of Belgrade
320-248-1908
- Brandon Fast of Mountain Lake
507-220-8275
- Jordan Goblish of Vesta
507-829-1589
- Rodney Moe of Waltham
952-237-9808
- James O'Connor of Blooming Prairie
507-456-5330
- David Vipond of Mahanomen
218-556-9780
- Chad Willis of Willmar
320-235-4452
- Scott Winslow of Fountain
507-951-0363
- Ex-Officio Thom Petersen
Minnesota Dept. of Ag
651-201-6219

cornstalk

calendar of events

nov
24-25 MCGA offices closed
for Thanksgiving Holiday

nov
30 MCGA Pre-resolutions meeting

jan
5 Joint Board/Council Meeting

jan
6 Minnesota Corn scholarship and
Innovation Grant applications due

jan
18-19 MN Ag Expo
Mankato, MN

