



The official publication for members of the Michigan Corn Growers Association

Summer 2012

## Ethanol Night at the Races Registration Information Enclosed

### Michigan Corn Names New Executive Director

The boards of directors for CPM and MCGA have named Jim Zook to be the new Executive Director for the organizations. Mr. Zook, who brings more than 30 years of well-rounded experience to the position, assumed his duties on June 25 at the Michigan Corn Office in Lansing.

Born and raised on his family's farm in central Illinois, Zook has a long history and deep understanding of agriculture. He said that accepting the leadership post at Michigan Corn is a return to his roots.

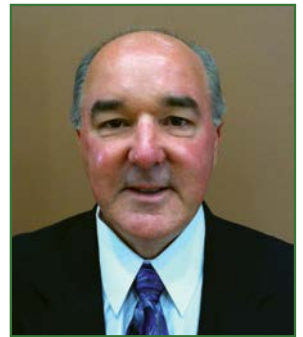
"I have been involved in agriculture my entire life," said Zook, who has a BS from Illinois State University. "From sitting with my father behind the wheel of our tractor at age five, to facilitating the first ethanol plant in Michigan, ag has always been my passion. This position is an opportunity to use my years of service to the ag community and experience with the development of ethanol facilities in Michigan to provide a different perspective and help strengthen corn's future statewide and nationally."

After working in the farm supply business in Wisconsin, Zook moved to Michigan in 1999 to take a position as the Crops Agent for Michigan State University Extension.

Zook is no stranger to the Michigan corn industry.

"I'm one of the old-timers in the ethanol industry here, and I'm proud that I was actively involved in developing a business that has helped Michigan's economy and added to our nation's energy supply," he said.

Zook helped facilitate discussions for Michigan corn processors that eventually led to the corn growers' ability to invest into the Caro facility. He then helped co-found and manage the ethanol facility in Woodbury, and also lent his expertise to other ethanol projects throughout the Midwest.



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### We Need Your Help!

*In an effort to reduce our mailing costs and more effectively utilize membership dollars, we are working to increase the amount of communications that we send to our members via email. To that end, we are conducting an "Email Alert Campaign." Send us an email every time you see the Email Alert Logo (shown to the left) and tell us where you saw the logo. After receiving your email we will enter you into a drawing for a new iPad, a large-screen television and two \$250 Cabela's gift cards. The winners will be announced at the 2013 MCGA Annual Meeting. For a copy of the official contest rules please visit our website at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).*





## Corn on the Hill

### National Legislation



Senator Stabenow, chair of the Senate Ag Committee, worked tirelessly to support farmers and keep the farm bill legislation moving forward.

### We Need a Farm Bill Now

The U.S. Senate passed the Senate 2012 farm bill with a 64-35 vote. The Senate version of the bill would cost \$498 billion, save \$23.6 billion over the next 10 years and eliminate \$5 billion per year in direct payments. The Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP) would become the primary risk management tool for farmers.

The MCGA worked with Chairwoman Stabenow in supporting elimination or consolidation of programs that are outdated or overlapping and voicing the importance of a strong and viable risk management tool. Chairwoman Stabenow and the entire Senate Ag Committee worked tirelessly to keep the process moving and pass the 2012 farm bill out of committee and the full Senate.

The House Agriculture Committee recently passed their version of the farm bill and the legislation will now move to the full House. Two of the main differences offered in the house version are a target price program called Price Loss Coverage (PLC) – similar to the levels proposed by the Senate Ag Committee to the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction (Super Committee) last fall. This program ties payment acres to the farm's current base acres and growers would have a one-time opportunity to update their yields at 90 percent of the average of the yield per planted acre for the 2008 to 2012 crop years. The target price for corn is \$3.70 per bushel.

The other major difference is a Revenue Loss Coverage (RLC) that has several variances from the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) in the Senate-passed version of the 2012 farm bill. The RLC is much more restrictive and limits coverage on

losses from 75 to 85 percent of expected crop revenue versus the 79 to 89 percent in the senate version.

The industry faces an uphill battle in the House to maintain necessary programs. Familiarize yourself with the legislation and contact your U.S. Representative to ask for their support and encourage them to pass the 2012 farm bill. The current farm bill is set to expire Sept. 30, 2012.

Please visit <http://capwiz.com/ncga> to contact your U.S. Representative and tell them we need a farm bill now.

### Renewable Fuel Standard is in Jeopardy

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) was designed to promote the renewable fuels industry, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and create market conditions to further innovation. Corn ethanol is included as a key part of the RFS. The RFS, created in 2005 and revised in 2007, mandates that the country produce 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2022, with more than half coming from cellulosic or advanced biofuels.

The RFS is under attack and facing trumped-up negative propaganda. In a letter signed by Representatives Goodlatte, Sullivan, Matheson and Moran, they stated that the RFS has failed to meet its goals. They go as far to say that the RFS is a de facto mandate for corn ethanol, which is damaging our economy, driving up food prices and degrading our natural resources without achieving the promised energy independence.

The fact is corn ethanol has helped diversify America's fuel supply and reduced our dependence on foreign oil. Oil import dependence has fallen from 60.3% in 2005 to 45% in 2011. Not only has ethanol had a positive impact on rural America, but also touched every American citizen. The U.S. ethanol industry has created nearly 400,000 American jobs across the country, added more than \$53 billion to the national Gross Domestic Product and displaced the need for more than 445 million barrels of imported oil in the last 12 months, valued at \$34 billion. In fact, five billion bushels of corn were used to produce American ethanol in 2011, resulting in nearly 14 billion gallons of ethanol and 39 metric tons of livestock feed.

Recently, Senators Inhofe (R-OK) and Coons (D-DE) formed a Biofuels Investment and RFS Market Congressional Study Group. This group will hold seven briefings over the summer. Expected briefing topics include: market effects and challenges, feedstocks and biofineries, environmental aspects vs. incumbent fuels, infrastructure and logistics, investment community views on alternative fuels development and views



Scan with your smartphone to find out the latest information about the MCGA.



## Corn on the Hill

### NRCS Proposes Changes to Wetland Determination Rules and Guidelines

The Michigan Corn Growers Association Board of Directors has worked diligently with U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to seek changes to the process for determining wetland areas. Many members have experienced concerns with delays in application reviews, inconsistency in determinations and lack of communication between the NRCS and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Acting upon the concerns of Michigan's corn growers, the MCGA pushed for needed change. The NRCS announced in May that they are proposing the following changes or clarifications to standardize the Wetland Determination Process.

1. **Precipitation Data** – Use a static 30-year average data set (1971-2000). Wettest 30 percent and driest 30 percent will be set aside.
2. **Standardizing Offsite Procedures** – Use the five most recent normal precipitation years.
3. **Sizing Wetlands Offsite** – Define “typical” normal precipitation years by month for each geographic precipitation zone.
4. **Tile Setback Distances** – Form a multi-state NRCS team to develop consensus on methodology for setback calculations.
5. **Defining Certification (Pre-July 3, 1996)** – Offer a two-year “sunset clause” to allow producers an option to seek a certified wetland determination.
6. **Use of Partners and Consultants** – Form a team to develop a two-phased approach for using consultants and partners.
7. **Certification on a Field vs. Tract Basis** – Conduct determinations only on fields requested, unless producer requests a tract.
8. **Mitigation** – Promote development of mitigation bank options and ensure NRCS personnel explain options to producers.
9. **Separation of Duties** – Determinations will be conducted by technical staff outside of the immediate county-based service area.
10. **North Central Wetlands Conservation Initiative** – Comprehensive initiative to address the backlog.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your wetland determination application, please contact Val at the Michigan Corn office via phone or e-mail at [valvailshirey@micorn.org](mailto:valvailshirey@micorn.org).

of customers and mid-stream and end users. This study group could be the beginning of the end for the Renewable Fuels Standard.

Make your voice heard and inform your elected officials on the positive attributes of the corn and ethanol industry. Take a few minutes and visit <http://capwiz.com/ncga> to send a letter to your congressional delegation.

### E15 Fuel Cleared for Sale

After rigorous testing of E15's impact on engine durability and auto emissions systems, EPA approved E15 for voluntary use in all autos and light trucks built since 2001 – which today is more than 70 percent of all vehicles on the road.

A host of other ensuing regulatory measures were completed, including significant analysis and development of data and literature on the emissions and health effects of E15, which EPA approved.

On June 15, E15 cleared the final Federal hurdle that will allow the fuel into the market. The EPA approved a plan submitted by the ethanol industry to address residual fuel that may be left in the gas pumps that offer not only E15, but other percentages above 10 percent ethanol.

The remaining obstacles are those of each state's regulatory issues, pending litigation and legislative opposition.

The MCGA organized a meeting with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Motor Fuels Quality Division, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Carbon Green Ethanol Plant, Renewable Fuels Association, Growth Energy, American Coalition for Ethanol, Michigan Petroleum Association, Michigan Association of Convenience Stored and the Association of Petroleum Industries of Michigan. The purpose of this meeting was to determine any obstacles in Michigan that prevent sales of E15 and what needs to be done to overcome those obstacles.

Fortunately, Michigan retailers have little to prevent them from selling E15 and it appears that all interested parties can work together to resolve those specific items. Items such as labeling, reduction of water levels and language regarding ethanol in the ASTM standards are the primary issues to be addressed.

Ask your gas retailer to offer ethanol blends. It is imperative that the demand for ethanol be voiced.







## Corn on the Hill

### National Legislation

#### Department of Labor's Proposed Changes to Child Labor Rule Withdrawn

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published and invited public comments on its proposed rule on child labor in agriculture on Sept. 2, 2011. The proposed rule aimed to increase protections for children working in agriculture while preserving the benefits that safe and healthy work can provide.

The parental exemption allows children of any age who are employed by their parent, or a person standing in the place of a parent, to perform any job on a farm owned or operated by their parent or such person standing in the place of a parent. In its announcement, DOL said it recognized the unique attributes of farm families and rural communities.

After an overwhelming response from the agricultural community, the DOL postponed the rules and re-proposed their proposal. Citing the overwhelming response to the initial notice of proposed rulemaking from not only farmers, but Congress, the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division announced

on February 1, 2012 that they would re-propose the parental exemption and allow for further comments and input from the public and interested parties.

Again, the agricultural community loudly and strongly voiced their disapproval to the proposed rule change. On April 26, 2012 the DOL released the following statement:

"The Obama administration is firmly committed to promoting family farmers and respecting the rural way of life, especially the role that parents and other family members play in passing those traditions down through the generations. The Obama administration is also deeply committed to listening and responding to what Americans across the country have to say about proposed rules and regulations.

"As a result, the Department of Labor is announcing today the withdrawal of the proposed rule dealing with children under the age of 16 who work in agricultural vocations.

"The decision to withdraw this rule – including provisions to define the 'parental exemption' – was made in response to thousands of comments expressing concerns about the effect of the proposed rules on small family-owned farms. To be clear, this regulation will not be pursued for the duration of the Obama administration.

"Instead, the Departments of Labor and Agriculture will work with rural stakeholders – such as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Union, the Future Farmers of America, and 4-H – to develop an educational program to reduce accidents to young workers and promote safer agricultural working practices."

Thank you to all who contacted the Department of Labor and registered your opposition to the proposed rule change. Your voice matters.

### State Legislation

#### Bio-Based Preference Program Introduced

State Representative Paul Muxlow (R-Brown City) introduced legislation, House Bill 5529, which establishes a bio-based product preference program. The program shall give preference to designated items that are composed of the highest percentage of bio-based content. Items listed must meet certain criteria including availability, performance standards and reasonable price, to name a few. Using bio-based, Michigan-grown products is good for the environment, increases commodity demand and creates jobs.

HB 5529 is in the House Government Operations Committee awaiting a committee hearing. The Michigan legislature returns in September and the MCGA has requested Government Operations Committee Chairman, Representative Stamas to place the bill on the agenda for a hearing. You can view the complete language and activity of the legislation at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sanilac County Breakfast on the Farm - July 21, 2012  
*Goma Dairy Farm, Marlette*

Delta County Breakfast on the Farm - July 28, 2012  
*VanDrese Farms, Cornell*

Kent County Breakfast on the Farm - August 4, 2012  
*May Farms, Sparta*

Isabella County Breakfast on the Farm - August 11, 2012  
*Judge Dairy Farm, Shepherd*

Thumb Area Golf Outing - August 14, 2012  
*Verona Hills, Bad Axe*

Central Michigan Golf Outing - August 16, 2012  
*Centennial Acres, Sunfield*

Osceola County Breakfast on the Farm - August 25, 2012  
*Gingrich Meadows, LeRoy*

Ethanol Night at the Races - September 8, 2012  
*Dixie Motor Speedway, Birch Run*  
**\*\*Please note the event's return to Saturday\*\***

Allegan County Breakfast on the Farm - October 6, 2012  
*John Schaendorf Dairy, Allegan*



## Programs Available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service

As the 2012 farm bill continues to move through Congress, there is a lot of discussion about changes being made to conservation programs in the new legislation. Before these changes are implemented it is important that you are aware of all the assistance and programs that are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The NRCS provides one-on-one technical assistance to help you evaluate your resource needs, develop conservation options to meet your needs, and finalize a conservation plan documenting your selected solutions. Then, local staff will continue to assist you in determining programs and funding that can help you implement the conservation systems that you have selected to best meet your needs. Technical assistance is provided free of charge by NRCS staff. However, sometimes there is a waiting list to schedule on-farm meetings with your local conservationists. Also, technical assistance is provided to implement conservation practices whether or not funding programs are requested.

Another service that NRCS provides is soil surveys. NRCS soil scientists have mapped Michigan's soils and created soil surveys that include maps and descriptions of all the major soils in a selected county. The surveys are available at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov> and can help farmers estimate the potential crop or forage production of an area.

In addition to providing technical assistance, the NRCS also offers several conservation and stewardship programs. There are a series of programs that help landowners by sharing the cost of installing conservation practices on private land. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are two of the voluntary programs that provide both technical assistance and funding to share the cost that farmers have in implementing conservation practices and/or wildlife habitat, as appropriate. Landowners enter into a contract with NRCS detailing the conservation practices or habitat systems that will be installed and the amount of payment that NRCS will provide.

There are also several NRCS programs that provide payments to landowners in exchange for an easement or long-term agreement that vary by programs up to 30 years in length. Programs include:

- The Wetland Reserve Program, which offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property.
- The Grasslands Reserve Program, which protects, restores, and enhances grassland, pastureland and other working lands from conversion.
- The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program provides funding to assist state, tribal, local governments or non-profit organizations in purchasing conservation easements.

The final program that NRCS offers is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which provides payments that reward landowners who have been good stewards of their natural resources and encourage additional conservation measures.

To get started working with NRCS, visit your local USDA Service Center or Conservation District. NRCS is listed in your phone book's federal government section under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. You can also find a list of NRCS Michigan offices online at [www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/).



Before

After

Photos courtesy of NRCS

Cost-share programs, like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), can help farmers install conservation practices on their land that can help mitigate problem areas like the waterway shown above. EQIP is just one of the many programs that the Natural Resources Conservation Service offers to help farmers determine conservation practices that will benefit their farm and the environment.





### Membership is Breaking Records

Good news on the membership front! The Michigan Corn Growers Association's (MCGA) membership levels have reached a new record-high of 1,140 members. On the national front, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) has also reached an all-time high of 37,447 members at the end of June. This growth is impressive, as most other commodity groups are facing flat or shrinking membership numbers.

As the only voice in Michigan focused solely on corn growers' issues in the state and national political arenas, the MCGA strives to educate local, state and national leaders about the issues directly impacting the corn industry. The MCGA is fortunate to have a full-time staff member in the office dedicated to political issues as well as the resources of five full-time lobbyists working in Washington, D.C. every day through our affiliation with the NCGA. Along with providing a voice on political issues, the MCGA also offers many exciting benefits to members. One of the benefits available to members is highlighted below.

### T-Shirt Design Contest Winner

After completing an extensive review of all the wonderful submissions, the board of directors of the Michigan Corn Growers Association is proud to announce that Joe Feldpausch is the winner of the 2nd annual Ethanol Night at the Races T-shirt design contest.

Joe, a sixth grader at Fowler Middle School, is a budding young farmer who works on his family's farm. He has attended Ethanol Night at the Races many times and especially enjoys the roasted almonds and the school bus races. Joe will receive a \$150 Visa gift card, two tickets to the event and a free T-shirt. In addition, his winning design will be printed on 1,200 T-shirts to be handed out at the Ethanol Night at the Races Event at Dixie Motor Speedway on Saturday, September 8, 2012.

Congratulations Joe!

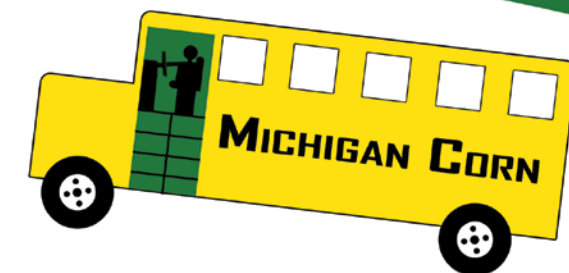


Joe Feldpausch

# MICHIGAN CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

# ETHANOL

## Night at THE RACES



*The Great Night Under the Spotlights*



### SUMMER MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT - FOCUS ON CORN WEBCASTS

#### Is 300 bushel per acre corn by 2030 out of reach?

Is the goal of producing 300-bushel corn by 2030 out of reach? Dr. Roger Elmore, Extension Corn Specialist and Professor of Agronomy at Iowa State University, continues this discussion through Focus on Corn's latest webcast, titled "Corn Production & Pursuit of Maximum Yield." The first of this two-part presentation examines the basis of corn yield, where Dr. Elmore examines yield and its components and discusses what it takes to maximize yield. By the end of part one, users will understand how different yield components work together to produce yield, the importance of maximizing leaf area and the impact of stress at different development stages on kernel numbers and yield. This presentation can be viewed at [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/corn/maxyieldpart1/](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/corn/maxyieldpart1/)

Focus on Corn is a webcast resource that has been developed by the Plant Management Network (PMN), a nonprofit online publisher, whose mission is to enhance the health, management and production of crops. Focus on Corn provides high-quality, science-based monthly webcasts. The webcasts cover multiple aspects of crop protection and production, including disease management, insect and nematode management, water management, nutrient management, seed treatments, weed management and other key areas. As one of many benefits, MCGA members receive free access to these webcasts. The information can be viewed by visiting [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/foc](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/foc) and entering the user name corn2 and the password member1.



### SPONSORED BY:



**Saturday, September 8, 2012  
Dixie Motor Speedway in Birch Run, Michigan**

**Ethanol Night at the Races - Saturday, September 8, 2012**  
**Registration Form**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Company Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to register the following :**

*Please list guest's names below. Attach sheet for additional names.*

Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_  
*Shirt sizes are not guaranteed.*

Member ticket (no charge)  
 (Each MCGA membership is good for one individual)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1

First four adult guests (\$15 each)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Additional adult guests (\$20 each)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Children under 12 years (\$5 each)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Children 6 years and under (no charge)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*Please make checks payable to the MCGA, provide credit card information or register online. Tickets are nonrefundable.*

Total number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return registration form to:**  
 2012 Ethanol Night at the Races  
 Michigan Corn Growers Association  
 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 5  
 Lansing, MI 48906

For Office Use Only:					
_____	\$ Owes	_____	\$ Rec.	_____	Pmt. Method _____ Date _____
_____	\$ Owes	_____	\$ Rec.	_____	Pmt. Method _____ Date _____

# Calling All Michigan Corn Growers Association Members!



**Racing Events\***

- Modified Invitational
- Flagpole Race
- Spectator Drags
- Dixie Crash Cars
- Chain-Gang Race
- School Bus Figure-8
- Figure-8 Trailer Race

*\*Subject to change*



Come join the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) on Saturday, September 8 for the 2012 Ethanol Night at the Races. Enjoy a steak dinner and a great night of racing. Bring the kids to meet Captain Cornelius, the corn-powered superhero.

Ethanol Night at the Races is an annual membership event and all MCGA members are invited to attend. **To clarify, each MCGA membership is good for one free individual ticket.** Friends and family of MCGA members are welcome to attend for a fee. The first four adult guests of an MCGA member will receive a reduced fare of \$15 per person. Additional adult guests will be charged \$20 per person. **When entering the event, please have all guests check-in under the MCGA member's name.**

**To Register:**

To register online, visit [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) and click on the Ethanol Night at the Races link. To register by mail, fill out the registration form and mail it to: 2012 Ethanol Night at the Races/Michigan Corn Growers Association; 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 5; Lansing, MI 48906.

**Schedule of Events**

- 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Steak Dinner
- 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Examine ethanol-powered projects from Kettering University and an ethanol-powered tractor and lawnmower from the Eastern Michigan Tractor Pulling Association. Visit sponsor displays and network with corn growers from across the state.
- 7:00 p.m.** Racing Begins

**Important Notice:** If the weather is threatening rain on Saturday, September 8, please contact Dixie Motor Speedway at (989) 624-9778 to confirm Ethanol Night at the Races is still on. The rain date for this event is Saturday, September 15.

## Thank you to our sponsors!

*Ethanol Night at the Races is sponsored by Mark Bauer, a corn grower and Pioneer representative; Don Morse, a corn grower and Pioneer representative; ADM Grain Company; The Andersons Albion Ethanol, LLC; Carbon Green BioEnergy, LLC; Crop Production Services; DuPont Pioneer; Great Lakes Hybrids; Growers National Cooperative; P & C Ag Solutions; Poet Biorefining; and Tri County Equipment.*

*If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring Ethanol Night at the Races, call the MCGA office at 1-888-323-6601.*





## Park the Tractor and Pull out Your Golf Clubs

It's time to register for the annual MCGA golf outings. Once again this year, golfers have the option of participating in two golf outings. The 18th annual Thumb Area Golf Outing will be held at Verona Hills in Bad Axe on Tuesday, Aug. 14. The Central Michigan golf outing will be held at Centennial Acres in Sunfield on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Check-in for both outings begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. The outings are a scramble format so golfers of all skill levels will have a great time. MCGA members and supporters are welcome to attend and pre-registration is required. Please register early as space is limited to the first 144 participants for each outing.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and will provide industry professionals with a valuable opportunity to interact with the state's corn growers while on the course. The MCGA appreciates the support of the following sponsors: Advance Trading, Bay Port State Bank - Bad Axe, Bay Port State Bank - Pigeon, Carbon Green BioEnergy, LLC, Cooperative Elevator Company, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, Crop Production Services - Keith Paige, DuPont Pioneer, Exchange State Bank, Farm Bureau Insurance - Casey Jahn, Farmers Co-operative Grain Company, Great Lakes Crop Insurance Agency - Doug Elbers, Great Lakes Hybrids, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Michael Sahr Crop Insurance Agency, LLC, Michigan Farm Radio Network, Mycogen Seeds & Dow AgroSciences - Mark Kies, Northstar Bank, P & C Ag Solutions, Specialty Hybrids - Dan Cable, Star of the West Milling Company, The Andersons, Inc., Thumb Crop Insurance, Thumb National Bank, TNT Equipment, Tri County Equipment and White, Schneider, Young & Chiodini, PC.

The early registration cost is \$40 per person for MCGA members and \$75 per person for non-MCGA members. Early registrations are due by July 27. After the registration deadline the cost is \$60 per person for MCGA members and \$100 for non-MCGA members. There must be at least one MCGA member registered with each foursome.

Golfers will receive:

- Coffee and doughnuts, lunch and dinner
- Complimentary range balls
- 18 holes of golf with a cart
- Chance to win a three-year lease of a flex-fuel truck
- Ability to participate in skill contests to win other prizes
- Awards and opportunities to win door prizes

Registration information is available online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) or by calling 1-888-323-6601.

## New Opportunity for Students - Enter the "Ethanol Rocks" Video Contest

The MCGA is encouraging students to showcase their budding visual talents and help spread the positive word about ethanol by entering a national video contest.

The NCGA is conducting a nationwide competition to promote the advantages of fuel ethanol in motor vehicles. The NCGA "Ethanol Rocks" Video Contest invites high school and college students to produce a promotional video that highlights the benefits of this renewable fuel. Educating consumers through a video contest is a great way for young people to get involved by spreading ethanol's positive 'green' message. Two \$1,500 awards and two \$500 awards will be presented.

Contestants must read and agree to the official rules of the contest, upload their completed video onto an unlisted YouTube site (directions on uploading are provided in the contest guidelines), and complete the application for contest eligibility. The entry deadline is Monday, October 15, 2012. For more information, please visit [www.ncga.com/ethanol-rocks-contest](http://www.ncga.com/ethanol-rocks-contest).



The winning team from the 2011 Central Michigan Golf Outing consisted of Ned Bever, Curtis Lennard, Matt Lennard and Robert Lennard.



**Energy used to grow a bushel of corn decreased 37% thanks to family farmers' use of technology.**

There is more you should know about America's biggest crop.

**CORN FARMERS COALITION**  
INNOVATION IS GROWING

[www.CornFarmersCoalition.org](http://www.CornFarmersCoalition.org)

The Corn Farmers Coalition is an alliance of the National Corn Growers Association and 14 state corn associations representing tens of thousands of farmers.

Source: USDA

The Lonier family began farming this Lansing, Michigan land the same year America celebrated its 100th birthday. Six generations later, the Lonier family are stewards of the land they farm using GPS guided tractors and combines.

"The biggest changes that I have seen in my 20 years of involvement on our farm is the technology that we use. From auto steering to using an iPad in the cab to watch how seeds are placed in real time," said Scott Lonier.

The use of technology allows the farm to run more productively as each corn seed is selectively cultivated, precision planted with the help of GPS guidance systems, and discreetly fertilized. It's the groundbreaking American technology that has allowed farmers to grow 87 percent more corn per ounce of fertilizer than just a few short years ago.

"Farming is not a job, it's a way of life. Being able to use the land God gave us to feed the world is a daunting and important responsibility," said Scott.

Photos courtesy of the Corn Farmers Coalition

## Corn Farmers Coalition Overtakes D.C.

The Michigan Corn Growers Association along with corn farmers from 13 other states and the National Corn Growers Association are partnering to once again support the Corn Farmers Coalition program. The program seeks to educate those in Washington, D.C. by using a foundation of facts that are essential to decision making with a soft repetition. This year five new families were added to the campaign, including the Lonier family from Lansing.

Brothers, Scott and Steve Lonier along with their father Jim and their families, operate Shady Lodge Farm, LLC.

The Corn Farmers Coalition launched its major advertising campaign with a saturation of ad space at Union Station in Washington, D.C. The effort puts prominent facts about family farmers in Capitol Hill publications, radio, frequently used websites and other Metro locations in June and July. The campaign runs through July 31, 2012.

The coalition will meet with media, members of Congress, environmental groups and others to talk about farming's bright future: how U.S. farmers, using the latest technologies, will continue to meet the demands of a growing population and how this productivity can be a bright spot in an otherwise struggling economy.

For a complete overview of the Corn Farmers Coalition and the 2012 campaign, visit [www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com).

**Family farmers grow 90% of America's corn.**

There is more you should know about America's biggest crop.

**CORN FARMERS COALITION**  
INNOVATION IS GROWING

[www.CornFarmersCoalition.org](http://www.CornFarmersCoalition.org)

Source: USDA





## Michigan Corn Growers Visit Capitol Hill

Nine members of the Michigan Corn Growers Association recently attended the 2012 National Corn Growers Association's Corn Congress event in Washington, D.C. While on Capitol Hill attendees met with Congressional members to discuss the 2012 Farm Bill, the Renewable Fuel Standard and the overall impact of the corn industry. Participants also reviewed the National Corn Growers Association's Policy and Position Papers and elected new members to the NCGA Corn Board. The policies approved at this meeting will help to set the direction for the Corn Board for years to come. Corn Congress is held annually in mid-July.

Delegates representing Michigan included Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) board member Tom Durand of Crosswell; CMPM president Pat Feldpausch of Fowler; retiring NCGA board member Clark Gerstacker of Midland; MCGA board member Phil Gordon of Saline; MCGA treasurer Loren Koeman of Grand Rapids; CMPM secretary and MCGA board member Brian Krepes of LaSalle; MCGA vice president Scott Lonier of Lansing; MCGA board member Scott Miller of Elsie; and MCGA president Jeff Sandborn of Portland. Two staff members also attended the event: Val Vail-Shirey, policy coordinator and Jim Zook, executive director.



Loren Koeman, MCGA treasurer, reviews the draft NCGA Policy and Position Papers while serving as a delegate at Corn Congress.

## MCGA Offers Bus Trip to the National Farm Machinery Show

Make plans now to be a part of the first-ever Michigan Corn Growers Association's bus trip to the 47th Annual National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky.

The show has more than 800 exhibitors displaying everything from irrigation and harvesting equipment to fertilizers and computer software. There are also hands-on demonstrations of the latest technological advancements and a variety of free seminars. For those who would like to attend but are less interested in equipment and demonstrations, there is an arts and crafts show on the grounds.

The bus trip will take place from February 12 - 14, 2013 and includes round-trip transportation, two nights' accommodations at the Horseshoe Casino, a \$5 slot coupon for play in the casino, two breakfast buffets, two dinner buffets and a day and a half to spend at the show. There will also be an optional guided tour of the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory and optional tickets will be available for the Championship Tractor Pull.

For MCGA members the cost of the trip is \$250 for a double occupancy room and \$350 for a single occupancy room. Non-members may also participate in the trip for a cost of \$310 for a double occupancy room and \$410 for a single occupancy room. Non-members will also receive a one-year membership as a part of the trip cost.

For more information about the trip or to view a registration form, visit [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).

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- ☑ **Research** - Corn trials, production practices and multi-year research programs.
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## Michigan's Corn Farmers and Ethanol Get Green Flag at MIS

The Michigan Corn Growers Association and American Ethanol were out in force at Michigan International Speedway over Father's Day weekend. The American Ethanol Green Flag was flying high as growers and the American Ethanol team distributed 3,000 flags to campers prior to the races. Campers who displayed their flag during the weekend had a chance to win some great prizes.

Over the weekend, ethanol and farmers were also well represented on the track. In the Nationwide race, Kenny Wallace drove a car acknowledging the contributions of family farmers and linking their key role in providing ethanol to NASCAR and the average consumer. On Sunday, Austin Dillon made his 2012 Sprint Cup debut in a full American Ethanol paint scheme that included the Michigan Corn logo.

Prior to Sunday's race, representatives from the Michigan Corn Growers Association and Garry Niemeyer, National Corn Growers Association president, met with Austin Dillon to discuss racing. The group also had an opportunity to meet with U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow to discuss several topics of importance to farmers and thank her for the critical role she has played in moving the farm bill forward. Finally, Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president and a corn farmer from Portland, was given an opportunity to present the American Ethanol Green Flag Restart Award to NASCAR driver Joey Logano. The award is presented to the participating driver who recorded the fastest average speed on restarts and who finished the race on the lead lap in the race the week prior.

To view more photos from the weekend, visit [www.facebook.com/MichiganCorn](http://www.facebook.com/MichiganCorn).



From left to right, MCGA president Jeff Sandborn, CMPM president Pat Feldpausch, Senator Debbie Stabenow and NCGA president Garry Niemeyer pose with the American Ethanol flag. While touring the pits, representatives from the MCGA and NCGA ran into Senator Stabenow and had a chance to discuss corn-related issues and the farm bill.



On the left, Austin Dillon's #33 American Ethanol Chevrolet prominently displayed the Michigan Corn logo while on the track. On the right, Austin shows his support for American Ethanol while meeting with representatives from Michigan Corn and the National Corn Growers Association.





## Friends of Michigan Corn Political Action Committee Organized

The Friends of Corn Political Action Committee (PAC) was recently formed to allow the MCGA greater participation in the political process. Please consider a contribution to the Friends of Corn PAC and participate in the election process.

“Forming a political action committee is essential to carry out the mission that the membership has developed,” said Russell Braun, Treasurer of Friends of Corn PAC. “We will be participating in the election process and educating candidates running for public office about the corn industry in Michigan and the positive financial impact it has on our state.”

Friends of Corn PAC are currently raising funds for the PAC. These funds give the MCGA the opportunity to conduct and participate in political events. Participation in activities such as sending questionnaires to all candidates filing for state office, holding events with candidates to educate them on issues important to corn growers, and making contributions to campaigns through the campaign-finance process are possible with the organized political action committee.

The Friends of Corn PAC is reviewing the voting record of our congressional officials and will make contributions to those who are supportive of the corn industry.

Anyone interested in supporting the corn industry can make a contribution to the Friends of Corn PAC by completing the form on page 15 and returning it to the address indicated. Contributions are accepted by personal check. If you have any questions, please call (517) 372-1500.

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- District 2** Matt Cary, Alma
- District 3** Matt Frostic, Applegate  
Richard Maurer Jr., Harbor Beach
- District 4** Tony Igl, Mason  
Mike Turner, Williamston
- District 5** Alvin Ferguson, Allenton (Secretary)
- District 6** Kenneth Blaauw, Shelbyville  
Loren Koeman, Hamilton (Treasurer)
- District 7** Jim Gillispie, Concord  
Ned Wyse, Camden
- District 8** Dan Cable, Monroe  
Phil Gordon, Saline
- At-Large** Scott Lonier, Lansing (Vice President)  
Scott Miller, Elsie  
Jeff Sandborn, Portland (President)

#### Industry Representatives

- John DiMartini, The Andersons, Inc.
- Dr. Kelvin Grant, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

#### County Presidents

- Clinton Russell Braun, Ovid
- Hillsdale Mark Kies, Allen
- Huron Tom Ziel, Pigeon
- Monroe Brian Kreps, LaSalle
- Saginaw Don Morse, Birch Run
- Sanilac Paul Gerstenberger, Snover

#### Ex-Officios

- Pat Feldpausch, CMPM President
- Clark Gerstacker, NCGA Corn Board Member
- Dr. James Kells, Michigan State University

#### Staff

- Jim Zook, Executive Director
- Kay Barclay, Accountant & Office Administrator
- Dennis Raymo, Communications Director
- Theresa Sisung, Communications & Programs Coordinator
- Penni Sweeney, Administrative & Membership Assistant
- Val Vail-Shirey, Policy Director



# Friends of Corn

## Political Action Committee

### Friends of Corn-PAC

### Count on me to support my Friends of Corn Political Action Committee

Contributions to the Friends of Corn - PAC have a significant and direct impact on protecting Michigan corn farmers' philosophy, values and farms. State legislative challenges will be ever present, and supporting candidates who support corn producers is a primary means of assuring our position will be heard.

*Your involvement in PAC fundraising will make a difference.*

*This is why your contribution is so important to the future of corn production in Michigan.*

Simply fill out the form below and return it with your personal check.

Thank you for your contributions and support.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

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Note: Friends of Corn-PAC Contribution Personal Check enclosed:  
 \$25    \$50    \$75    \$100    \$1 a day/\$365    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Friends of Corn-PAC can accept personal checks  
**NO** corporate contributions accepted.

**Please make your personal check payable to Friends of Corn-PAC**

Remit to: Friends of Corn Political Action Committee  
235 N. Pine Street • Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: 517-372-1500

**Thank you to first-time participants and  
to those who continue to support Friends of Corn-PAC**





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