

MICHIGAN CORN

# BETWEEN

T H E  R O W S

The Joint Magazine of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association



FALL 2018

M C G A M E M B E R S

# Share Their Stories

MICHIGAN CORN

# BETWEEN THE ROWS

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## SAVE THE DATE

**2019 Great Lakes  
Crop Summit**

**January 30-31, 2019**



**REGISTRATION OPENS October 1!**  
**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort | Mt. Pleasant, MI**



[www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com](http://www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



**Dr. David Kohl** is one of the best known and respected speakers in agriculture. His brings cutting-edge information in a dynamic format based upon his many years of academic research and working with commercial banks, ag lenders and producers throughout the world. Dr. Kohl's personal involvement with agriculture and interaction with key industry players provide unique perspective into the future trends of the agricultural industry and economy. You won't want to miss his keynote presentation that will open the 2019 Great Lakes Crop Summit.



**Michael Horsch** came from Germany to the USA in 1979 with a plan to have his own farm one day. In 1981 he returned to Germany and built his first direct seeder instead. In 1984 he and his family founded Horsch Machine, a leading European manufacturer of agricultural tillage and seeding equipment. Today Horsch still is one of the fastest growing short line farm machinery manufacturers in the world. Even in the downturn between 2013 and 2016 Horsch grew by over 30%. They have factories in Germany, the USA, Russia, Brazil and China. Michael Horsch and his brothers run several farms in East Germany and the Czech Republic. The farm AgroVation in CZ is a model future farm which many farmers around the world have already visited. Michael will bring his entrepreneurial spirit and world view of the agricultural industry to our audience.

**NOW  
ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS!**



# MICENT

Corn Education  
Networking  
Training

**The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan is seeking applications for the second class of the Michigan Corn Education, Networking and Training Program (MI CENT).** This program is designed to provide educational opportunities for the next generation of Michigan corn farmers. Topics include agronomy, technology, farm management, the work of the National Corn Growers Association and one topic picked by the class. There will also be plenty of time provided for networking and an optional international tour (for an additional fee).

The program consists of five sessions. The four sessions in Michigan will begin with an evening reception followed by 1.5 days of educational presentations. The

session in Washington, DC will be approximately 3 days. Details for the optional international trip will be provided to the class at a later date. The material will be in-depth, challenging and rewarding.

Participants may be nominated by their peers or they may nominate themselves. Upon nomination an individual will be notified and sent an application form. Forms are also available online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org). Applications are due September 28, 2018. Application review will take place in October and participants will be notified in November. Primary selection criteria includes the applicants' desire and ability to participate. Diversity among farm size, geographic location and agronomy background will be sought as well.

## DATES, TOPICS & LOCATIONS

### Session 1

#### Agronomy

January 8 - 10, 2019 • East Lansing

### Session 2

#### Technology

February 11 - 13, 2019 • East Lansing

### Session 3

#### Farm Management

March 12 - 14, 2019 • East Lansing

### Session 4

#### You Pick

June 18 - 20, 2019 • East Lansing

### Session 5

#### National Corn Growers Association Work

July 15-18, 2019 • Washington, DC

#### International Tour (Optional) Argentina

March 23 - 31, 2019

Registration fee: \$300 - optional international session is extra  
Lodging and meals will be provided.

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS

### Nominate your peers or yourself.

Please send all nominations to Theresa Sisung and they will be sent an application and more details about the program.

***Applications due September 28.***

## CONTACT INFO

Refer questions to Theresa Sisung at 517-668-2676  
or [tsisung@micorn.org](mailto:tsisung@micorn.org)

**For more information, visit [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org)**



CORN MARKETING PROGRAM

# CMPM

OF MICHIGAN

# MICHIGAN CORN GROWERS Member Series

Throughout the summer, Michigan Corn intern Hailey Andres visited farmers across the state to ask them why they've joined the more than 1,400 farmers in Michigan who are members of the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA). We featured photos of each member alongside their words on our social media through the month of July. Here are some of the best shots and quotes from the series!

If you're already an MCGA member, we thank you for your support! If you haven't joined yet, you can give us a call at (517) 668-2676 or visit us online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) to fill out your application.



## Greg Ackerman

Greg Ackerman, of Ackerman & Son Farms in Vassar is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer from Vassar. For Greg, farming is a family affair, and he takes tremendous pride in that. Greg's daughter Jade, son Mitchell, and various other family members help to run their corn, wheat, sugar beet, dry bean, and soybean operation.

"The biggest benefit of being an MCGA member is the lobbying that takes place on our behalf, as well as the education surrounding ethanol," said Greg. "When we are educated we can pick up the phone and help to inform others."

The Ackerman Family loves sharing their agricultural expertise and experience with the world around them. Greg serves as the treasurer on the Michigan Dry Bean Commission, his daughter Jade has returned to the farm upon graduating college and serves as a Tuscola County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Co-Chair, and his son Mitchell runs a Facebook and YouTube page called Farmable in which he shares video footage of life around the farm.

## Bryan and Jordan Heffron

Bryan and Jordan Heffron, of Heffron Farms in Belding, are 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmers and they help run the operation with their dad, Dennis. The majority of their corn goes to produce ethanol, and they even have a tank on the farm to fuel their farm trucks.

Bryan appreciates the research and lobbying that is conducted thanks to his membership with the Michigan Corn Growers Association. He explains that, "Our membership provides a unified force within legislation."

In addition to growing corn, hay, soybeans, wheat, and running a beef feedlot operation, they also own and operate four Heffron Farms Market locations. They take pride in delivering quality products to their customers and enjoy answering questions about food and farming.



# Spotlights



## Joel Fritz

Joel Fritz, of JDF Farms in Pigeon, is a 4th generation farmer, and he owns and operates a dry bean, corn wheat and soybean operation. Fritz explains that he always knew he was going to be a farmer, and heavily credits his father with granting him the opportunity. As a current Cooperative Elevator board member, Fritz takes pride in playing an active and educational role within the agricultural community

Joel appreciates that his MCGA membership provides “the opportunity for our voice to be heard in Washington D.C. and in Lansing while we are busy in the field planting.”



## Cade Klein

Cade Klein, of Cade Klein Farms Seed Sales LLC, is a third generation farmer who enjoys farming with his aunt and uncle, along with his wife, Eva, and son Evan. In addition to growing corn, soybeans, and raising freezer beef, Klein has been a Pioneer seed dealer for nine years.

Cade explains that “the biggest value of my Michigan Corn Growers Association membership is the opportunity for agricultural education.”

Cade serves on the Michigan Corn Growers Association Board, and also serves on the Breakfast on the Farm planning board.



## Clint Stoutenburg

Clint Stoutenburg, of Stoutenburg Farms in Sandusky, is a corn, sugar beet, bean, wheat, and beef farmer, as well as a local business owner. Stoutenburg Farms has been in operation for over 100 years, and they also hold various MAEAP verifications. Stoutenburg credits his employees for helping to make the operation a success.

Clint appreciates the educational resources that are provided thanks to his membership with the Michigan Corn Growers Association and says he values “being able to pick up the phone when there’s a question and get an answer.”

Stoutenburg takes pride in sharing his agricultural story with those around him, and encourages others within the industry to do the same. As Vice Chairman of the Michigan Bean Commission, he enjoys playing an active role within the agricultural community.

*Continued on p.6*



## Jake Drozd

Drozd Farms in Allegan, MI has been in operation since 1977, with their Pioneer Hi-Bred International seed corn business starting much earlier, in 1947. Today, the Drozd family still sells Pioneer Seed, along with being corn, soybean, and milo growers. Jake Drozd says they get great value out of the membership in the Michigan Corn Growers Association. "We appreciate the work being done on our behalf while we are in the field, and we also enjoy participating in the corn yield contest."

## Foster Blue Water Oil

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Lexington



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### LOCATIONS AT:

Richmond  
Lapeer  
Harrison  
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Bay City  
Mio  
Pewamo  
Midland  
Lexington



[fosteroil.com](http://fosteroil.com)

**1-800-552-4919**

[blueflamepropaneinc.com](http://blueflamepropaneinc.com)

**1-800-552-4919**



## We Need You to Host Your Legislator for a Ride Along in the Combine!

Every year during harvest, the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) invites legislators to ride along in the combine with a local farmer. These events are an opportunity to build a one-on-one relationship with your legislator and educate them about farming, agriculture and the issues that are important to you!

“Having that personal relationship with our legislators is so important when it comes to agricultural policy,” said Jim Zook, executive director of the MCGA. “Any chance our farmers have to talk to their legislators about what they do and why they do it will ultimately benefit our industry moving forward.”

The MCGA is looking for farmer volunteers who would be willing to host a legislator at their farm during this year’s harvest. To volunteer, call Penni Sweeney at (517) 668-2676 or send us an email at [corninfo@micorn.org](mailto:corninfo@micorn.org). If we have a legislator in your area that would like to do a ride along, we’ll be in contact to set up a time and date!

## Michigan Corn is Looking for Leaders!

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association are both farmer-led organizations that rely on the dedication and expertise of our farmer leaders to lead us forward. We’re looking for new leaders that are interested in opportunities to get more involved, roll up their sleeves and get to work to continue growing and pushing CMPM and MCGA.

There are lots of different ways to get involved for people of all different experience levels. A few examples of how you can get involved include:

- Run for a position on the CMPM or MCGA board of directors to guide the organizations
- Serve on a National Corn Growers Association action team to help set national priorities
- Attend trade mission trips with U.S. Grains Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation to help grow our markets overseas

If you are interested in getting more involved, call the office at (517) 668-2676 and we’ll help you take the next steps.





# Congratu

## Michigan Corn Growers Association



### Maria Blough

Maria is a junior at the University of Alabama and is a double major in News Media and International Relations with a minor in Spanish. She grew up on a cash crop farm near Lowell, MI with her parents and two older sisters. In the third grade she started raising shorthorn cattle with her sister Paula on their operation called T & R Shorthorns. After graduation, Blough hopes to work as a news reporter for a television news outlet. She wants to work her way up to one day being an international correspondent for a national news organization.



### Megan Carter

Megan is a senior at Breckenridge High School. While in school she has been involved in NHS, Student Council, Class Office and FFA. She has served as FFA Chapter Treasurer and Class President for two years. She is studying agribusiness management and accounting at the University of Northwestern Ohio.



### Justine Fisher

Justine is going to be a senior in Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University. She is actively involved in Agronomy Club and Sigma Alpha. She is very passionate about the agriculture industry and hopes that one day she will make a change for the better, whether it be big or small.

# Relationships TO THIS YEAR'S Scholarship Winners



## Loren King

Loren has been very involved in youth programs such as 4-H and FFA. He has had the opportunity to serve on committees or in offices at the State and National level through both organizations. He is currently a sophomore at Michigan State University where he studies for a dual degree in Non-Traditional Agricultural Education and Environmental Systems & Sustainability. He looks forward to continuing his work in agricultural technology and agricultural education through undergraduate research at Michigan State as well as pursuing graduate studies in the future.



## Kelly Ratajczak

Kelly recently graduated from Reese High School as Co-Valedictorian of her class. She plans to attend Delta College in the Fall of 2018 where she will be studying agriculture. With her degree, she plans to return to the family farm and help make it even more

successful. On her farm they grow corn, soybeans, sugar beets, and pickles. She also has dreams of having her own beef cattle farm and vegetable stand. She has always loved to farm since she was a little girl and plans to continue to farm in the future.

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# Apply Now for the Frank Lipinski Scholarship from MCGA

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) board of directors is pleased to announce that the Frank Lipinski Scholarship application is now available. This scholarship is geared towards full-time college students who don't come from an agricultural or farm background. Participation in either the 4-H or FFA organization does not disqualify a student.

Frank was deeply passionate about reaching out to young adults with non-agricultural backgrounds. He made it a priority to assist those wanting to enter our industry and educate young people about the various opportunities available in the agricultural industry.

This scholarship will be awarded for the 2019 spring semester with applications due Friday, November 2, 2018. For more information or to apply for the Frank Lipinski Memorial scholarship contact Michigan Corn by calling (517) 668-CORN (2676) or online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).

## Michigan Corn Representatives Tapped to Serve on U.S. Grains Council Advisory Teams

Several representatives from the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) and the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) were recently selected to serve on Advisory Teams for the U.S. Grains Council (USGC).

“Having a strong presence on these teams allows us to be deeply involved in setting priorities at the national level and ensures that Michigan farmers are heard,” said Jim Zook, executive director of CMPM and MCGA. “The work the U.S. Grains Council does for corn, ethanol and distillers grain is vital to the economic sustainability of our farmers. We are committed to growing these markets and a big part of investing in our partner organizations that work to expand existing markets and open new international markets to U.S. corn.”

The following representatives were selected for two-year terms:



**Ed Breitmeyer (Buckley)**  
– Value Added Programs A-Team



**Janna Fritz (Bad Axe)**  
– Middle East/Africa A-Team



**Richard Dobbins (Concord)** – Western Hemisphere A-Team



**Angel Jenio (Lansing)** – Trade Policy A-Team

Each advisory team is made up of grain producers, staff and agribusiness representatives that work together to identify opportunities, set priorities and chart the course for the USGC every year. Each of the seven A-Team has a specific focus: Asia, Innovation & Sustainability, Ethanol, Middle East/Africa, Trade Policy, Value-Added Programs and Western Hemisphere.

USGC develops export markets for U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) and ethanol. With full-time presence in 13 key markets and representatives in an additional 15 locations, the Council operates programs in more than 50 countries and the European Union. The Council believes exports are vital to global economic development and to U.S. agriculture's profitability.

Detailed information about the Council and its programs is online at [www.grains.org](http://www.grains.org).



## National Partnerships Bring Added Value to Michigan Corn

When you contribute to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan or become a member of the Michigan Corn Growers Association, your impact isn't limited to just the state of Michigan. These organizations invest some of your checkoff dollars and membership dues in national organizations that allow all of the corn states to join forces to educate, promote and advocate on your behalf at the national level. Below you will find a brief overview of some of these national organizations. You can visit their websites for more information about specific initiatives.



### National Corn Growers Association

[www.NCGA.com](http://www.NCGA.com)

Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents nearly 40,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who

contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its 49 affiliated state organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for corn growers. Members of state organizations, including the Michigan Corn Growers Association, automatically become members of NCGA upon joining.



### U.S. Grains Council

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

The U.S. Grains Council develops export markets for U.S. barley, corn, sorghum and related products including distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) and ethanol. With full-time presence in 13 key markets and representatives in an additional 15 locations, the Council operates programs in more than 50 countries and the European Union. The Council believes exports are vital to global economic development and to U.S. agriculture's profitability.

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan puts funding and staff support into the USGC to further their mission of expanding existing foreign markets and opening new foreign markets to corn, ethanol and DDGS.



### U.S. Meat Export Federation

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

The mission of USMEF is "to increase the value and profitability of the U.S. beef, pork and lamb industries by enhancing demand for their products in export markets through a dynamic partnership of all stakeholders." USMEF's strategic priorities include: trade support to facilitate contact between U.S. exporters and targeted buyers in export markets; buyer education for targeted buyers in export markets on the attributes of U.S. red meat and red-meat products to build buyer loyalty to products exported from the United States; increasing the presence of U.S. red meat and red-meat products in targeted export markets; establishing positive images for U.S. beef, pork and lamb with consumers in targeted export markets; and collaborating with industry partners to secure meaningful, sustained access to new and existing export markets using all available means.

*Continued on p.12*

Michigan Corn works with USMEF to increase demand for corn as livestock feed. Our funding helps enable educational and trade mission trips that build relationships between U.S. suppliers and foreign buyers.



## American Coalition for Ethanol

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

The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is a grassroots organization that works to

promote the increased production and use of ethanol, which benefits our environment, economy, and energy security. Since 1987, ACE has stood shoulder to shoulder to innovate, grow and provide tremendous opportunities for all Americans. Today, ethanol is the most successful renewable energy platform in the world.

In addition to providing funding for ACE, MCGA members participate in an annual fly-in to Washington, D.C. where they meet with legislators from Michigan to talk about the importance of pro-ethanol policies. On the promotion side, ACE works to push flex fuel with retailers to boost the overall sales and use of ethanol.



## Growth Energy

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

Growth Energy is a leading biofuel trade association in the country. It represents producers and supporters of ethanol who are working to bring consumers better choices at the fuel pump, grow America's economy, and improve the environment for future generations. Its growing membership base now represents nearly half of all American ethanol plants along with many of the largest and most prominent fuel retailers in the country and the industry's top associate members whose businesses support the ethanol industry.

Growth Energy not only advocates for policy, but they work with retailers to educate them on how to best sell higher blends of ethanol to consumers. Michigan Corn has been an active participant in many Growth Energy campaigns, including funding the American Ethanol brand and working with NASCAR to validate the benefits of ethanol.



## Renewable Fuels Association

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

The Renewable Fuels Association is a leading trade association for America's ethanol industry. Its mission is to advance the development, production, and use of ethanol fuel by strengthening America's ethanol industry and raising awareness about the benefits of renewable fuels. RFA's members are working to help America become cleaner, safer, more energy independent and economically secure.

With funding from Michigan and other corn states, RFA is able to produce data and studies on ethanol that help combat myths and inform policymakers.

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# Jeff Sandborn Re-elected to Serve on National Corn Growers Association Board

Portland farmer Jeff Sandborn was re-elected to serve on the board of the National Corn Growers Association. Sandborn is a past president of the Michigan Corn Growers Association and continues to be active in the organization.

“Jeff has been an outstanding advocate for Michigan corn growers over the years through his service at the state and national levels,” said Jim Zook, executive director of the Michigan Corn Growers Association. “He brings strong ideas and an unwavering commitment to improving the position of American corn farmers. We look forward to his continued leadership at the National Corn Growers

Association and know that he will continue to make sure Michigan farmers’ voices are heard at the highest levels.”

The NCGA Corn Board represents the organization on all matters while directing both policy and supervising day-to-day operations. Board members represent the federation of state organizations, supervise the affairs and activities of NCGA in partnership with the chief executive officer and implement NCGA policy established by the Corn Congress. Members also act as spokesmen for the NCGA and enhance the organization’s public standing on all organizational and policy issues.



## MICENT Goes to Corn Congress

As a part of the final session of the MI Corn Education, Networking and Training program (MI CENT) participants traveled to Washington, DC to learn more about the work of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and to meet with their legislators. As a part of the trip, attendees also toured the US Capitol,

attended NCGA’s Corn Congress meetings, learned about the future of the corn industry and interacted with other corn farmers from Michigan and across the country.

MICENT participants were grouped with current Michigan Corn Growers Association board members to visit Capitol

Hill and talk with legislators. During their visits, participants had the opportunity to talk about the importance of free trade, ethanol and the passage of the farm bill. MICENT participants who traveled to DC include Jake Lonier, Allyson Maxwell, Jason McConnachie, Ross Meyer, Jay Parr and Jake Wamhoff.

# Corn Disease Update

By: Martin Chilvers, Associate Professor, Michigan State University

*Tar spot symptoms on corn.*

## Tar Spot

**T**ar spot is a disease of corn previously reported in Mexico and Central America. In 2015 tar spot was found for the first time in the United States in Indiana and Illinois. Michigan State University (MSU) graduate student Austin McCoy with assistance of farmers and private ag consultants confirmed tar spot in Allegan County, Michigan in 2016 and 2017. Austin also assisted collaborators in confirming first reports of tar spot in Iowa, Wisconsin and Florida.

Keep an eye out for this disease as we approach harvest. Spore producing structures of the tar spot fungus form on corn leaves, and as the name suggests they resemble black spots of tar which feel bumpy to the touch and cannot be easily rubbed off. You can see our YouTube clip of symptoms by searching for “tar spot of corn”.

We have confirmed the causal agent of tar spot in the U.S. to be the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*. In Mexico, there is an additional fungal species, *Monographella maydis*, which forms a complex with *Phyllachora maydis* to cause greater yield loss. Thus far, this additional species has not been confirmed in the U.S. The impact of this disease is unknown given how new it is to the U.S.

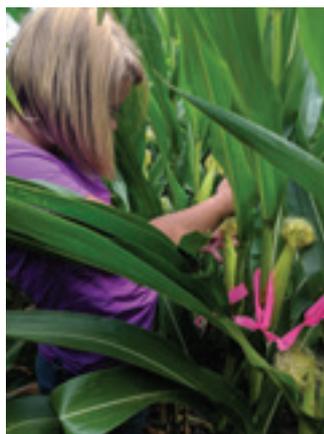
We suspect tar spot may be present in other parts of the state. If you see symptoms please submit a sample to MSU’s diagnostic clinic ([www.pestid.msu.edu](http://www.pestid.msu.edu)), or get in touch with us. Additional research is required on the epidemiology and management of this disease, including the screening of hybrids for disease resistance.

## Gibberella (Fusarium) Ear Mold

strains from both corn and wheat to determine which species are present and test their fungicide sensitivities and determine what mycotoxins they produce. Mikaela has found not only *Fusarium graminearum* present on ears, but also other species such as *Fusarium sporotrichioides*, and *Fusarium proliferatum*.

Mikaela is screening the *Fusarium* isolates for their sensitivity to new chemistries that so far appear to have excellent activity against these pathogens. These new chemistries may enable us to rotate modes of action to reduce the development of fungicide resistance. The information from this project will help us better manage these diseases, including the risk of fungicide resistance.

In addition to these efforts we have been working with agronomist Dr. Maninder Singh and entomologist Dr. Chris DiFonzo and graduate student Katlin Blaine to examine the use of fungicide application at silking for the management of corn DON levels. Although 2017 was a relatively quiet year for mycotoxins, an application at silking significantly reduced average DON levels from 0.83 ppm to 0.58 ppm, with a yield gain of 5 bu/A. DON Mmycotoxin levels in 2017 had a significant correlation with Western Bean Cutworm damage.



*Injecting corn ears to induce ear rot for research.*



*Graduate student Mikaela Breunig sampling corn fields for ear mold.*

The fungal pathogen *Fusarium graminearum* and related species cause ear mold in corn and head scab in wheat. Graduate student Mikaela Breunig has been collecting *Fusarium*

# Michigan Corn Intern Reflects on Experience at CommonGround Conference

CommonGround is a national consumer education and outreach program that was developed by farmers through two of our national checkoffs, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the United Soybean Board (USB). The program recruits volunteer female farmers from every state and trains them to have meaningful conversations about food and farming with consumers and the general public.

These days, the average consumer is several generations removed from the farm, which makes this sort of outreach more important than ever. It's up to us to make sure consumers understand how farming works and why farmers make the choices they do.

In Michigan, CommonGround volunteers participate in annual events including a large conference for nutritionists and dieticians and regional farmers markets.

Each year, CommonGround hosts a national conference for volunteers and staff. It's a chance for attendees to gain additional training to help them better tell their story. It's also a chance to network with other farmers and share ideas for how to better educate consumers about agriculture.

Michigan Corn Intern Hailey Andres attended this year's conference and had the following reflections on her experience:

"As long as it's grown in Non-GMO soil, I'm all for it." This statement shared by a Chicago mom panelist is something that caught all volunteers and state staff off guard at the recent CommonGround Summer Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Women Farmers from all over the United States gathered at this conference to do what they do best, educate consumers about agriculture. During this event, CommonGround volunteers had the opportunity to hear from panels of Chicago



Moms. A professional mediator asked these women questions about agriculture, and tried to determine what their concerns about the industry were. These panels were all in preparation for a hands on consumer event that was to be held later on in the conference. This event, held in Maggie Daley Park in the heart of Chicago, gave CommonGround staff and volunteers the opportunity to have a conversation with curious Chicago consumers about agriculture, and where their food comes from. While this event sparked new conversation, and insight, there is still much work that can be done when it comes to educating our consumer body.

*For more information about the CommonGround program, visit [FindOurCommonGround.com](http://FindOurCommonGround.com).*

## Find CommonGround with Consumers

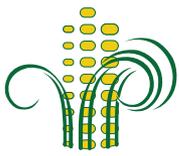


**About CommonGround**  
We are a group of farm women having conversations about the food we grow and how we produce it. Consumers are more disconnected from farm life than ever before. We share our personal experiences, as well as science and research, to help consumers sort through the myths and misinformation surrounding food and farming.

CommonGround is funded by farmers through two of our national organizations, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the United Soybean Board (USB). All of the women are volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include participating in events throughout Michigan as well as blogging and social media advocacy. We are always looking for women who want to tell their story.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION** please visit us online at [www.findourcommonground.com](http://www.findourcommonground.com). If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Tera Havard at the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan at 517-668-2676 or [thavard@micorn.org](mailto:thavard@micorn.org).



Corn Marketing Program of Michigan  
13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 5  
Lansing, MI 48906

## Board Members and Staff



### Corn Marketing Program of Michigan Board Members

**Blaine Baker** – District 3  
**Brett Brink** – District 4  
**Dr. Doug Buhler** – Mich. State University  
**John Burk** – District 8

**John Cnudde** – MABA  
**Tom Durand** – District 7  
**Matt Holysz** – District 1 (Vice President)  
**Steve Lonier** – District 5

**Jason McConnachie** – MCGA President  
**Craig McManus** – District 5 (Secretary)  
**Scott Miller** – District 6 (Treasurer)

**Heather Throne** – Ex-Officio, MDARD  
**Paul Wagner** – District 9 (President)  
**Ned Wyse** – District 2



### Michigan Corn Growers Association Board Members

**Carlton Blough** – District 2  
**Russell Braun** – At-Large  
**Dan Cable** – District 8 (Vice President)  
**Matt Cary** – District 2  
**Earl Collier** – District 6  
**Gabe Corey** – Industry Representative  
**Kevin Diffin** – Saginaw Co. President

**John Ferkowicz** – At-Large  
**Janna Fritz** – District 3 (Secretary/Treasurer)  
**Matthew Frostic** – District 3  
**Philip Gordon** – District 8  
**Mike Hard** – District 7  
**Tony Igl** – District 4  
**Dr. James Kells** – Mich. State University

**Mark Kies** – Hillsdale Co. President  
**Cade Klein** – District 6  
**Brian Kreps** – Monroe Co. President  
**Jason McConnachie** – Sanilac Co. President (President)  
**Josh Miller** – Clinton Co. President

**Ron Parks** – District 5  
**Jeff Sandborn** – NCGA Corn Board  
**Waylon Smolinski** – District 1  
**Eric Voisinet** – District 4  
**Paul Wagner** – CMPM President  
**Tom Ziel** – Huron Co. President

### Michigan Corn Office Staff

**Tera Havard** – Executive Assistant  
**Angel Jenio** – Communications Director

**Natalie Rector** – Research Coordinator  
**Theresa Sisung** – Advocacy and Outreach Director

**Penni Sweeney** – Membership & Events Director

**Jim Zook** – Executive Director



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