

MICHIGAN CORN

# BETWEEN THE ROWS

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



# MCGA Your Membership Matters

SUMMER 2017

# BETWEEN THE ROWS

## Table of Contents

<b>Page 2</b>	From the MCGA President	<b>Page 8</b>	Legislative Activity from MCGA
<b>Page 3</b>	New MCGA/CMPM Officers, Call for MCGA Board Nominations	<b>Page 9</b>	MICent
<b>Page 4</b>	Member Spotlight – Kyle McCarty, Text Message Opt-in	<b>Page 10</b>	Agronomy Scouting Tips
<b>Page 5</b>	Golf Outings	<b>Page 12</b>	CMPM Assists with Wildfire Relief, CommonGround Volunteers Needed
<b>Page 7</b>	Sponsorship Opportunities, Free MCGA T-Shirt	<b>Page 13</b>	Between the Rows Tour
		<b>Page 14</b>	Michigan Corn PAC Update
		<b>Page 15</b>	New Intern, Outgoing Intern

## From the MCGA President

By: Jason McConnachie, President,  
Michigan Corn Growers Association

**T**he Michigan Corn Growers Association exists to make sure that corn farmers across Michigan are represented in Washington, D.C. and Lansing. We make sure your voice is heard loud and clear when lawmakers are considering legislation that will impact our farming operations and our livelihoods.

Advocacy takes many forms. It includes writing letters and making phone calls to our members of Congress, placing news stories and op-eds in local media, visiting D.C. or Lansing to meet in-person with legislators,

and hosting our representatives and senators on our farms to show them firsthand the challenges that we deal with on a day-to-day basis.

We've seen this work pay off on a number of issues, from pushing for access to international export markets, to protecting the Renewable Fuel Standard, to preventing states from passing fear-based GMO labeling bills, to pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to rescind the burdensome Waters of the US rule.

None of this would be possible with YOU!

The MCGA is a grassroots, membership organization. That means that we're funded and driven by our members from all across Michigan. The more members we have, the stronger our voice is, and the more influence we have with the legislators that represent us.



Thank you for your membership and for everything you do to help us advocate on behalf of Michigan farmers.

## The MCGA board needs you!

**W**e are in a critical time with issues such as maintaining trade relations, fighting to preserve the ethanol industry, pushing back against EPA overreach on a host of issues and securing new markets for Michigan corn. Your service on the board will help make sure Michigan corn farmers' voices are heard in Lansing and in Washington D.C. We encourage you to consider running for a position on the MCGA board.

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is seeking nominations for open board positions in the following districts:

- District 3 - Representing Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac and Saginaw counties
- District 6 - Representing Allegan, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Berrien and Cass counties
- District 8 - Representing Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Monroe counties
- At Large - Representing the entire state

In order to appear on the ballot, nominations must be received by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. All elected directors will hold office for a term of three years. To be eligible for a seat on the board you must be a regular MCGA member in good standing.

Please contact Penni Sweeney at [psweeney@micorn.org](mailto:psweeney@micorn.org) or 888-323-6601 if you would like to run or nominate someone for one of the above districts.

## CMPM AND MCGA ELECT NEW OFFICERS



President - Tom Durand, Croswell



Vice President - Paul Wagner, Grawn



Treasurer - Matt Holysz, Vicksburg



Secretary - Craig McManus, Eaton Rapids



President - Jason McConnachie, Deckerville



Vice President - Dan Cable, Maybee



Secretary/Treasurer - Janna Fritz, Bad Axe



# Member Spotlight: Kyle McCarty

For this edition, we wanted to highlight the work of a Michigan Corn Growers Association member. Kyle McCarty is a 4th generation farmer who grew up on a dairy farm near Deckerville, he now farms 330 acres with his father and uncle. They plant corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and oats and raise some beef cattle.



expanding markets for livestock feed and industrial uses, and doing research into new uses.

I'm a corn grower and a young farmer with a small operation, which gives me a little more time and flexibility. I wanted to get involved with my commodity and I also want to be sure my farm can be profitable going forward.

If we don't invest in our own industry and infrastructure we're not going to see progress. We need to invest time, money or whatever we can to make that happen.

The experience has been really cool so far. I especially enjoy meeting corn growers from other states and bringing the knowledge from my livestock background to the table."

## Why did you become MAEAP verified?

"We decided to get verified through the

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program because we are very concerned with stewardship. Our farm is just a mile from Lake Huron, and we get lots of summer tourist traffic. Many of those folks don't know much about agriculture. MAEAP was a way to tell our story and let our neighbors and those passing through know that we're doing the right things. Plus, it was a good double check to make sure we weren't missing anything in terms of protection."

## What's your favorite thing about being involved in agriculture?

"Agriculture is a passion like no other. Watching things grow and seeing the hard work that you've put in pay off is one of the best things about agriculture – and the most nerve wracking. Mother nature is always a hot topic in the coffee shop and the farm shop and every year is different. Plus, you won't find better, kinder, nicer people anywhere. Farmers will bend over backwards for you. You can see that reflected in the work that Michigan farmers have put in to help those affected by the wildfires in Kansas."

## What's the value of serving on an NCGA action team?

"I serve on the Feed, Food and Industrial Action Team. Our job is to promote corn and make it more profitable for growers through

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# Michigan Corn Growers Association

# GOLF OUTING

2 0 1 7

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN

**Friday, July 28, 2017**

**Centennial Acres**

12485 Dow Rd., Sunfield, MI 48890  
(517) 566-8055

## THUMB AREA

**Wednesday, August 9, 2017**

**Verona Hills Golf Club**

3175 Sand Beach Rd., Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-8132

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### With your registration you 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 truck
- Awards and opportunities to win door prizes

*Early registration ends July 21*

### SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m.** Registration, coffee and doughnuts  
**10:00 a.m.** Shotgun start  
**At the turn** Lunch  
**3:30 p.m.** Awards reception

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for more information.**





Michigan Corn Growers Association

# 2017 Golf Outing Registration Form

PLEASE REGISTER ME (MY TEAM) FOR THE:																					
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Central Michigan Outing, Centennial Acres, Sunfield – Friday, July 28, 2017</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thumb Area Outing, Verona Hills Golf Club, Bad Axe – Wednesday, August 9, 2017</b>																					
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a foursome (Please register all team members on one form) <input type="checkbox"/> Put me with other golfers																					
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge all golfers fees to one credit card <input type="checkbox"/> Charge all golfers fees individually <input type="checkbox"/> Pay by check																					
<b>GOLFER 1</b>	Name:			MCGA Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																	
	Farm/Company Name (if applicable):																				
	Address:																				
	Cell Phone:		E-mail:																		
	Card Type:	Credit Card #:	Expires:	CCV:																	
<b>GOLFER 2</b>	Name:			MCGA Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																	
	Farm/Company Name (if applicable):																				
	Address:																				
	Cell Phone:		E-mail:																		
	Card Type:	Credit Card #:	Expires:	CCV:																	
<b>GOLFER 3</b>	Name:			MCGA Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																	
	Farm/Company Name (if applicable):																				
	Address:																				
	Cell Phone:		E-mail:																		
	Card Type:	Credit Card #:	Expires:	CCV:																	
<b>GOLFER 4</b>	Name:			MCGA Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																	
	Farm/Company Name (if applicable):																				
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<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Early Registration*</b></td> <td><b>Late Registration</b></td> <td rowspan="5"> <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>            \$ _____  <i>Make check payable to MCGA or provide credit card information.</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>MCGA member golf &amp; dinner</td> <td># ____ @ \$40.00 ea.</td> <td># ____ @ \$60.00 ea.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-member golf &amp; dinner</td> <td># ____ @ \$75.00 ea.</td> <td># ____ @ \$100.00 ea.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dinner only</td> <td># ____ @ \$20.00 ea.</td> <td># ____ @ \$20.00 ea.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">*Early registration deadline is July 21, 2017</td> </tr> </table>							<b>Early Registration*</b>	<b>Late Registration</b>	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b> \$ _____ <i>Make check payable to MCGA or provide credit card information.</i>	MCGA member golf & dinner	# ____ @ \$40.00 ea.	# ____ @ \$60.00 ea.	Non-member golf & dinner	# ____ @ \$75.00 ea.	# ____ @ \$100.00 ea.	Dinner only	# ____ @ \$20.00 ea.	# ____ @ \$20.00 ea.	*Early registration deadline is July 21, 2017		
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Dinner only	# ____ @ \$20.00 ea.	# ____ @ \$20.00 ea.																			
*Early registration deadline is July 21, 2017																					



Please include your cell phone number on the form, so you can be easily contacted in case of bad weather.  
There must be at least one MCGA member registered with every foursome.

## REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

Online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org); fax the registration form to (517) 668-2670 or mail the registration form to:

2017 Golf Outings • Michigan Corn Growers Association • 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 5, Lansing, MI 48906

# Legislative Updates from MCGA

## Conversation and Corn Dogs at the Capitol

MCGA staff served corn dogs and information to Michigan's legislators at the 13th annual Ag Day at the Capitol celebration. MCGA was one of 33 commodity groups that joined together to celebrate Michigan's food and agricultural successes over the last 100 years. The groups stressed the importance of agriculture in Michigan while providing our states lawmakers with information about the industry.

"As corn growers in Michigan it is imperative that we educate our legislators on issues affecting our industry," said Eric Voisinet, MCGA Board member and corn farmer from



*Governor Snyder addresses ag groups and legislators at Ag Day at the Capitol.*

Laingsburg. "Ag Day at the Capitol gives those of us in the agriculture industry a prime opportunity to tell our stories to our elected officials and the information we provide them with will allow for better legislative representation of our states second leading industry - agriculture."

## Legislative Fly-Ins Provide Opportunities for Advocacy

Michigan Corn Growers Association Members participate in a number of fly-in events each year in Washington, D.C. These

events give us the chance to meet with our legislators, build relationships and advocate for specific policies that are important to corn growers.

Recently, Michigan growers participated in a fly-in with the Agricultural Leaders of Michigan where they discussed the



*Michigan Corn Growers spoke to members of Congress about the importance of the ethanol industry at the ACE Fly-In.*

importance of trade and exports and the upcoming Farm Bill. They also attended an event with the American Coalition for Ethanol to emphasize the importance of the Renewable Fuel Standard and discuss ways to continue growing America's ethanol industry.

*(Continued on p.8)*

## Michigan Corn Growers Association

**Return your updated contact information to the corn office to receive your free MCGA t-shirt!**

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\*Standard carrier message and data rates may apply

\*T-shirts available while supplies last

## Legislative Updates from MCGA (Continued from p.7)



*MCGA board members visited the House of Representatives during the March board meeting.*

### Michigan Corn Growers Association Host Legislators at the Capitol

During its March board meeting, the Michigan Corn Growers Association hosting a lunch for legislators and staff to stop by and visit with growers from their district. The board meeting and lunch were hosted inside the capitol building. Board members also visited the House of Representatives while they were in session to get a firsthand look at the legislative process.



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## 2017 Breakfast on the Farm

**June 24**

Ottawa County,  
J&J Dairy

**Aug. 19**

Gratiot County,  
De Saegher Dairy

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



## Janna Fritz Represents MCGA at Farm Bill Hearing

By: Janna Fritz  
Bad Axe, MI  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Michigan Corn Growers Association

**O**n May 6th, I was honored to speak on behalf of the Michigan Corn Growers Association at a U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee field hearing on the upcoming Farm Bill. Together with my family, we farm 1,200 acres of corn, soybeans, and edible dry beans in the Thumb.

The hearing was led by Chairman Roberts from Kansas and our own Senator Stabenow. Both the diversity of Michigan's farm production and its economic importance were evident from the testimony.

I shared that growers are now experiencing corn prices at or below the cost of production. Low prices mean lower revenues, and increasing stress for farm operations, their employees and rural communities. In this



environment, a strong farm safety net is critical. Fortunately, the safety net in the 2014 Farm Bill led by then-Chairwoman Stabenow has worked well for farmers like me. I also stressed the importance of strong market development efforts, including the USDA Foreign

*MCGA Secretary Janna Fritz, CPM President Tom Durand, and CPM Board Member Russel Braun at the May 6th hearing in Frankenmuth.)*

Market Development program and the Market Access Program to increase demand for corn and corn products.

It's hard to overstate the importance of the Farm Bill to Michigan's farm families and this hearing was a great opportunity to provide suggestions for improvement early in the process.

To hear Janna's full testimony, check out the video on the Michigan Corn Facebook page.



*Janna Fritz testifies before Sen. Debbie Stabenow (Michigan) and Sen. Pat Roberts (Kansas).*



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at 517-668-2676

or [tsisung@micorn.org](mailto:tsisung@micorn.org)

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

## DATES, TOPICS & LOCATIONS

### Session 1

#### Agronomy

January 9-11, 2018 • East Lansing

### Session 2

#### Technology

February 13-15, 2018 • East Lansing

### Session 3

#### Farm Management

March 13-15, 2018 • East Lansing

### Session 4

#### You Pick

June 26-28, 2018 • East Lansing

### Session 5

#### National Corn Growers Association

July 17-19, 2018 • Washington, DC

### Session 6 (Optional)

#### International Tour

2019 • Location TBD

**Registration fee: \$300 - optional session is extra, Lodging and meals provided.**



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# Understanding Field Variability Improves Early Season Decisions in Corn

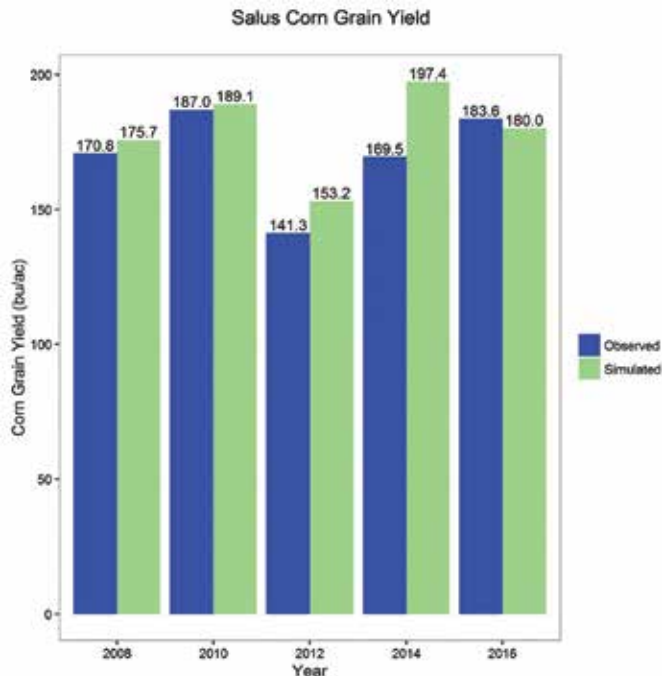
By: Natalie Rector, Research Coordinator, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

It's been said that a farmer has 40 chances in their career to get it right. What if you could take the last 40 years, analyze all the iterations of weather's impact on crop yield and add state of the art technology to increase your odds of making the best decision for nitrogen inputs this spring?

This is the dynamic system Dr. Bruno Basso at Michigan State University is researching and developing for the greatest variables on corn yields: water and nitrogen. Dr. Basso asks how we can predict yield variations and if one snapshot image of a field during the growing season is more useful than an historical yield analysis. His findings may surprise you, and are based on ground-truthing, a computer model on Michigan fields. Basso is confident that understanding the past will help predict current yields.

By combining historical probability with defined soil characteristics, Basso has created a system to predict yield response to daily management decisions. His research, partially funded by the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, differentiates itself from others by building yield stability maps for individual fields and linking this knowledge into a predictive model that helps explain the interaction between soil, weather, crop genetics and agronomic management.

The model will create yield stability maps that integrate information about yield observed on a field over the last few years. By including 5-6 years of data, the model can assess how each part of the field changes, or doesn't change, from year to year, regardless of crop grown. Over time, some parts of the field will react similarly every year and other parts will be so random that they cannot be predicted. Basso first focuses on the parts of the field that do show predictability because those respond to inputs more independently from the weather compared to the unstable zones. On these areas, farmers can



***SALUS has been used to predict yields during the growing season and is finding comparable results with as harvested data.***

implement variable rate technologies with higher confidence and less risk.

Basso reminds us that the results of all farmer inputs and environmental factors are ultimately measured through the plant with the final answer being displayed as bushels per acre. Yield is the key in understanding variability. Under variable conditions, if the plants integrate and/or do not respond to variability, there is no point in changing inputs. The ultimate truth is in the yield.

When quality yield maps are not available, the model can be tested with some sort of ground-truth yield information, (i.e. an in-season image to capture the spatial patterns from publicly available data, and/or historical yield, even if only a few points are available) and stability maps can be generated using his model. The model is called, SALUS (systems approach for land use stability).

The crop model incorporates soil type and calculates its water holding capacity, then adds up-to-the-day weather data, simulating

how a crop will respond to the conditions today based on historical data. Historical weather data is used from the most localized weather station to the specific field. The crop model looks at the daily interactions of soil, heat units, precipitation, crop genetics and farmer management on the defined stability zones. In the predictable zones, it will provide yield estimates based on different management scenarios and farmer inputs. The crop model will look at the four broad categories of probability for the rest of the season: wet and cold, hot and dry, wet and warm or cold and dry. The model reports daily information on soil nitrogen levels and soil water content. A

greater nitrogen use efficiency of 50% is easily obtainable, if corn is managed for profit and not just yield.

“Basically, you do not fertilize areas that do not respond to Nitrogen beyond a certain amount,” says Basso. “It seems intuitive that improving the amount of nitrogen fertilizer taken up by the crop is a win-win for corn yields, for farmers’ pocketbooks and for the environment. By doing this, we may reach the goal to get it right well before our 40th chance!”

Currently, most sensor technology gives information on conditions at one moment in time, in one specific location. This is great for targeting when and where to scout a field and defining problem areas, but it cannot predict your actions outcomes on the final yield.

Dr. Basso is also testing various sensors and imagery to learn how they can measure variables and alert us to plant stress before it can be detected with the human eye. Additional research will lend technology to differentiating stress factors around nutrients, water, disease, etc.

# Early Crop Scouting Tips

In-field scouting should begin as soon as corn emerges, as many concerns relate back to planting time issues. Early season evidence is gone if scouting happens after spotty stands are visible from the road.

- Check stands early, digging down the row to see if variable stands were a planting condition issue or damaged after emergence.
- Check for depth of seeding and trench conditions. Wet planting can create slick sidewalls in the seed furrow that can lead to poor seed coverage, water retention in the furrow, or difficulty for roots and

shoots making their way down and up and out.

- Slow germination and emergence leaves seeds and young plants vulnerable to insects and disease. Seed treatments may not be able to protect plants that take longer to emerge.
- Even after plants have germinated this season, they still might not survive due to damage to the roots from cool, wet conditions.
- Always dig into the soil to learn much more about the plant's conditions. This can reveal poor rooting, compaction,

damage to seedlings from surface crusting, and or below ground insects, etc.

- Poor rooting from any circumstance creates nutrient deficiency, even when soil nutrients are in ample supply. Plants will respond when roots reach new soil. 2017 is a good year for nutrients to be supplied at planting and early sidedress applications.
- Replanting is rarely profitable as the season progresses. Consider the cost efficiency of your time and inputs over appearances.

Basso is testing a variety of sensors, including thermal sensors, which are indicative of water stress or possible presence of diseases, UAVs equipped with Red-Edge sensors that measure the level of chlorophyll in the plants, and near

infrared sensors that detect total biomass and wellbeing of the crop. The spatial analysis of these sensors is then linked to the temporal variation obtained from the SALUS model.

Dr. Basso's SALUS has been in development over the last decade. A spring like 2017 reminds us of how difficult it is to manage an atypical year and how a computer system can help put some confidence into a stressful season.

## OUT HERE, THREE THINGS REMAIN CONSTANT: THE LAND, THE FAMILY WHO FARMS IT, AND THE LOCAL COOPERATIVE THAT HELPS KEEP IT PROFITABLE.



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## Corn Marketing Program Helping Coordinate Ongoing Wildfire Relief Efforts

In early March wildfires ravaged parts of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, burning more than one million acres and killing thousands of head of cattle and other livestock. Michigan farmers are stepping up by making donations and hauling much needed hay and supplies to this devastated area.

A grassroots group of Michigan farmers and people involved in the agriculture industry have formed the Ag Community Relief group, which is helping to provide much needed funding and supplies to farmers in the affected areas. These efforts include fundraising, organizing convoys of supplies to the area, connecting supply donors with convoys and organizing work groups to travel to the affected areas and help with labor.

Some of the most common needs include fencing materials, tools and basic household supplies. These supply needs will shift as the growing season and the rebuilding efforts progress. For an updated list of the supplies

needed, please contact the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan office at 1-888-323-6601.

The Ag Community Relief group also just launched a new fundraiser called the Tumbleweed Project. Barbed wire that was destroyed in the fires is being sent to Michigan where it will be made into decorative tumbleweeds. The tumbleweeds will sell for \$55 each which will be used to buy new wire for the ranchers that turned in the burned wire. For more information about the Tumbleweed Project and other fundraisers, visit [www.AgCommunityRelief.com](http://www.AgCommunityRelief.com).

The positive response to these efforts has been overwhelming, and the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan is assisting by acting as a clearinghouse for information about how farmers in Michigan can help the relief efforts. You can find a list of needed supplies, ways to donate and scheduled convoys leaving the state online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) or by calling the office at 1-888-323-6601.

## 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).

# BETWEEN THE ROWS TOUR

HOST	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Miller Family Farms	August 22	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	6757 Warren Rd, Elsie, MI 48831
Zwerk & Sons Farms	August 23	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	7647 Sanilac Rd (M46) Vassar, MI 48768
Gentner-Bischer Farms	August 24	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	5072 Finkle Rd, Minden City, MI 48456
John Ferkowicz	August 25	Lunch at TBD	9335 Merrill Rd, Silverwood, MI 48760
Main Farms	August 28	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	2364 N. Gravel Ridge Rd., Trufant, MI 49347
Berrybrook Enterprises	August 29	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	26761 Dewey Lake Street, Dowagiac MI 49047
North Concord Farms	August 30	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	3400 N. Concord Rd., Concord, MI 49237
James & Laurie Isley	August 31	Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	2683 S. Grosvenor Hwy, Palmyra MI 49268

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# Michigan Corn Growers Association Working For You!

**Advocating for  
pro-ag policies**



**Fighting to  
expand markets  
for corn**

**Pushing back  
on government  
regulation**



**Educating  
legislators about  
ag issues**

## The Power of the PAC

**Y**ou might be asking yourself, "What is the Friends of Corn PAC and why should I contribute to it?" The PAC is a non-partisan political action committee which provides support for political candidates. Our PAC is an important tool in our advocacy efforts and an investment that helps protect you from laws, policies and regulations that can cost your business thousands of dollars annually.

It is difficult for one person alone to influence lawmakers on issues that affect us, but collectively we can work to elect legislators who understand and support our issues and concerns. In order to effectively convey our message, we must have a well-funded PAC. Having a strong and respectful relationship with our legislators is crucial to ensuring that Michigan's corn farmers' interests are properly represented in the state and national political arena.

interests are properly represented in the state and national political arena.

We need your help to ensure that we are able to support legislators that are supportive of corn farmers' priorities. Legislators are inundated with messages from special interest groups who don't share your concerns. If you are silent how will your story be told? Please help us spread the real facts!

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Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Friends of Corn-PAC credit card contributions:

☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$75   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$1 a day/\$365   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card #:     -     -     -     CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are sending a personal check please make payable to Friends of Corn-PAC**

# Intern Emily Helsen Bids Farewell to Michigan Corn

By: Emily Helsen

As my internship with Michigan Corn comes to a close, I couldn't be more grateful for the many opportunities I have had while being here, from interacting with state legislators at the Corn Boil, helping organize the Great Lakes Crop Summit and being able to connect with corn growers across the state. Throughout the year I have learned how vital



of a role commodity groups play in the future success of agriculture and am proud to have been a part of that. After earning my degree in Agribusiness Management, I will be moving out of state to start my full-time position with John Deere in their Ag & Turf Marketing Representative Development Program. Although I am very excited for this

next chapter in my life, I will miss my time at the corn office and am thankful for the connections I have made.

I would like to thank the corn growers, members, board of directors and staff at Michigan Corn for such a great year. It truly has been an awesome experience and an internship that will be hard to top!

## Michigan Corn Welcomes New Intern – Amy Leitch

The Michigan Corn office is pleased to welcome Amy Leitch to our team. Ms. Leitch is a native of Huron County and is joining the staff as our summer intern. Currently, she is a junior at Michigan State University majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Agronomy.

Amy has been actively involved in 4-H and FFA, participating in many leadership and career development contests. In her free time,

she loves raising and showing pigs and helping her family with their maple syrup business. At MSU, she is heavily involved in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources where she is currently serving as the Student Senate President. She has coordinated many student agriculture events such as Small Animals Day and the Ag Olympics. These experiences have helped in directing her toward her career field.



In the future, Amy hopes to focus on consumer outreach and youth development through the livestock industry. She is excited to be working with Michigan Corn this summer and is looking forward to learning more about the industry and making new connections. She will be helping out at various events throughout the summer, so be sure to stop by and say hello!

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Corn Marketing Program of Michigan  
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**Tom Durand** – District 7 (President)  
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**Matt Holysz** – District 2 (Treasurer)

**Steve Lonier** – District 6  
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**Randall Poll** – District 1

**Heather Throne** – Ex-Officio  
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### Michigan Corn Office Staff

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**Tera Havard** – Executive Assistant

**Angel Jenio** – Communications Director  
**Natalie Rector** – Research Coordinator

**Theresa Sisung** – Advocacy and Outreach Director

**Penni Sweeney** – Membership & Events Director  
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