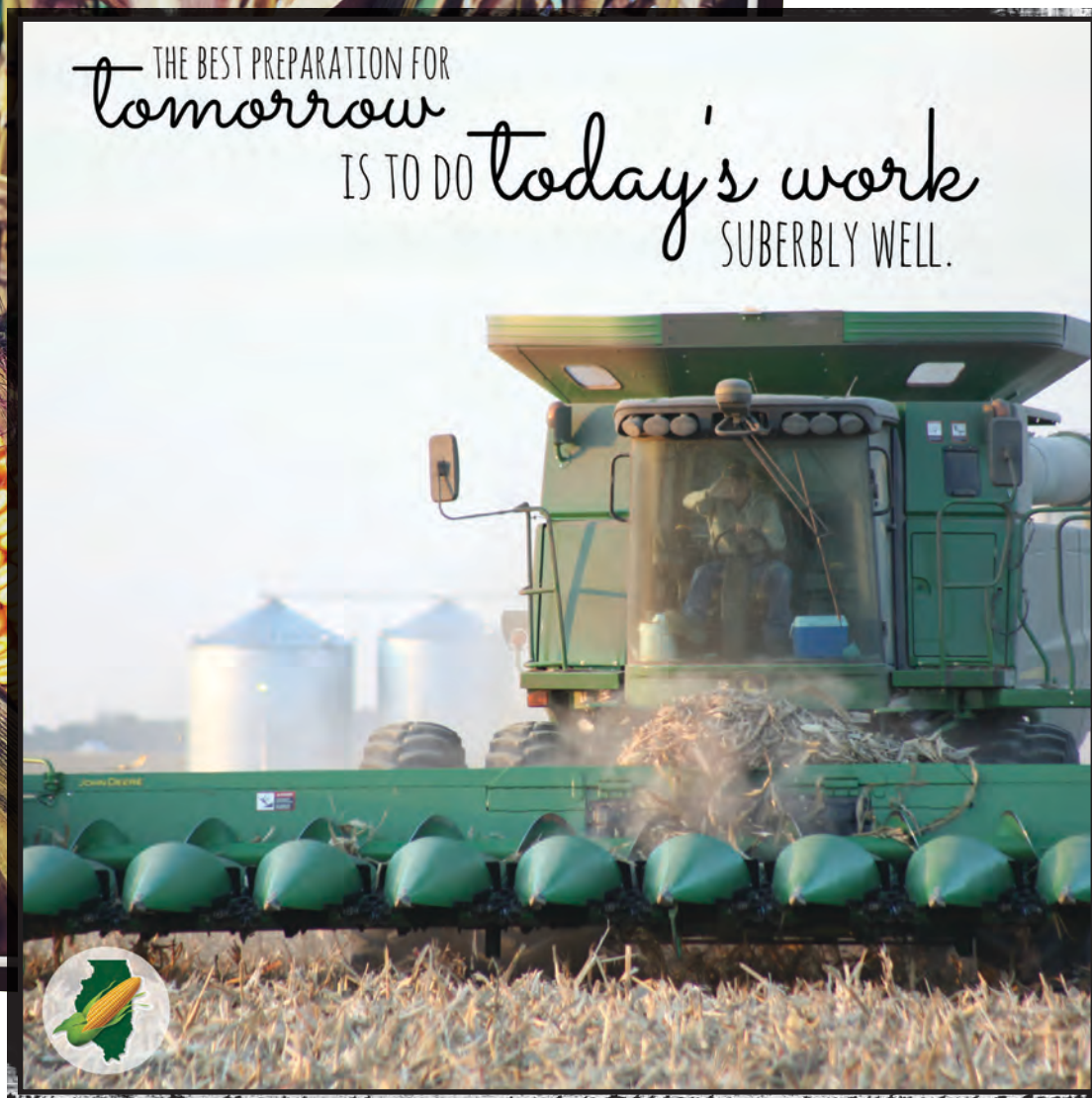


Snapshots *of Success*

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Let your light so shine before
me, and glorify you



THE BEST PREPARATION FOR
tomorrow
IS TO DO *today's work*
SUBERBLY WELL.



**Illinois Corn
Growers Association**

LUCK
IS A DIVIDEND OF
SWEAT
THE MORE YOU
SWEAT
THE **LUCKIER**
YOU GET.



Snapshots *of Success*



Kenneth Hartman, Jr.
President

I have always considered it a privilege to represent the corn farmers in southern Illinois on the Illinois Corn Growers Association Board. It was an even bigger honor to represent all of you throughout Illinois as your President this year. Thank you for the opportunity to work on your priorities, to accomplish small successes, and to grow as a leader through this association.

At the beginning of the year, I looked forward to many big wins I would report this fall. But, state budget concerns and a federal administration that doesn't see things our way prohibited the big wins I anticipated.

We worked very hard to bring more E15 infrastructure to Illinois. Politics in Chicago being what they are, the mandate for E15 at every Chicago pump was never brought before the City Council for a vote. I look forward to action on this issue next year.

I also hoped to talk about the Consumer Fuel Choice for Illinois bill, but the need for a state budget prevented our bill from seeing floor time or getting a vote. In the end, I know E15 will come to Illinois and will bring with it a boost in corn markets and a boost in corn prices, but 2015 wasn't the year.

Thank you for the privilege of attending rallies and hearings on the Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) issue as we attempted to bring our required ethanol usage back up to 15 billion gallons. Our progress is slow given our administration's negativity towards ethanol, but I hope for upcoming victories.

What we did accomplish was some very good work on water – both the Clean Water Act and on the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Water quality was a theme throughout the year and one that I know is very important. You will continue to see important work helping farmers understand and adopt best management practices from Illinois Corn in the coming years.

We also scored a small win increasing funding for river infrastructure by increasing the barge user fee to 9 cents. Though the current administration seems very much against a new start, we are at least getting everything in place so that when the opportunity for a new lock presents itself, we're ready.

It has been a joy to work with you and the Illinois Corn staff this year on each of these issues. I know we will continue to do good work on your behalf in the coming years, and I know that an association like this is needed more than ever. Please continue supporting your association and trust that your farmer leaders and staff are working tirelessly on your behalf to build a better industry for tomorrow.

The ***snapshots of success*** in the coming pages are your proof.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth Hartman Jr." in a cursive script.

Kenneth Hartman, Jr., President

Snapshots *of Success*

WATER QUALITY



The Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy requires **15% reduction** in Nitrates and **25% reduction** in Phosphates by 2025.

Something needs to happen on every acre in Illinois. That's the message that Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) carried to farmers in Illinois this year following the release of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. We took to the countryside, sharing the message at the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Roadshows and we tested your water samples at the Farm Progress Show in September. With any luck, through all the news articles, letters, postcards, and sessions you've seen, you now know that in order for the suggested practices to remain voluntary, EVERYONE must engage.

ICGA has partnered with the Council on Best Management Practices on water quality efforts and has supported the research being done by the Illinois Corn Marketing Board this year. While ICMB has been conducting watershed programming and tons of water flow monitoring and nutrient testing, ICGA hopes you were paying attention to our messages, and are ready to implement the voluntary practices that make sense for your farm in your region.



FARMERS GROW **87%**
MORE CORN PER OUNCE OF
FERTILIZER THANKS TO
INNOVATIVE FARMING
PRACTICES.



www.ilcorn.org

Many ethanol plants now
produce **2.8 gallons** of
ethanol and about
17 pounds of animal feed
(distillers grains) from each
bushel of corn.



Illinois Corn
ilcorn.org



Work hard in silence.

*Let success
make the noise.*



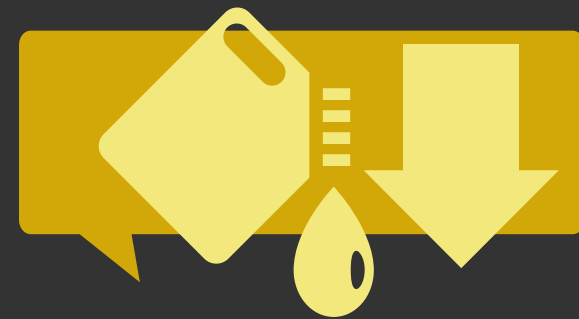
Snapshots *of Success*

ETHANOL

The work of increasing the ethanol market is never done, and it seems as though progress is hard to find. Though farmers seem weary of the fight for ethanol and are anxious for a hard won success, your association continues to work diligently, knowing that growth in the ethanol market is the quickest way to increased profitability for our members.

Preserving the Renewable Fuel Standard is a goal, and ICGA leadership participated in two rallies and a hearing this year, in Kansas City and in Washington, DC. Both featured the message “American Bushels, Not Foreign Barrels.” We’ve continued to talk to our elected officials monthly about the importance of the ethanol market to rural Illinois and the Illinois economy.

We’ve also worked hard within the state to build a better market for higher blends of ethanol. Although we didn’t see it pass this year, the Consumer Fuel Choice for Illinois bill stands a strong chance once we get our budget woes behind us. And ICGA and Illinois Corn Marketing Board worked together to help Illinois secure dollars through the Biofuel Investment Partnership grant from USDA that we’ll use to improve infrastructure throughout the state for higher blends of ethanol.



The reduction in RFS volumes over 2015 and 2016 equate to over **925 million bushels** of lost corn demand.



97.3% of Colombian corn imports came from the U.S. in 2014 vs **17.7%** in 2013 as a result of the Colombian Free Trade Agreement.

Snapshots *of Success*

TRADE

Selling more corn and corn co-products overseas is another important opportunity to increase the value of your crop. ICGA lobbied for the Trade Promotion Authority this year, the legislation that would allow the President to negotiate trade agreements on behalf of the U.S. As a result, we see a final Trans Pacific Partnership on the table! Although Congress won't be able to discuss the potential agreement until early 2016, the agreement has potential to significantly increase meat exports – value-added corn – which will impact your prices and profitability.



ICGA also remains interested in markets closer to home. This summer, an ICGA farmer leader accompanied farmer leaders from other ag associations and representatives from Illinois government on a mission to Cuba. The investigation into that market revealed significant potential, as farmers described the Cuban citizens as “starving.” Illinois corn is the most likely corn import for them given our easy access to the Mississippi River.

Lock and dam improvements saw slow and steady action this year, with notable gains legislatively. However we still fight uphill battles against the federal budget to get a new lock and dam construction project started.



There are no
SHORTCUTS
to any place worth
going.



IL Corn





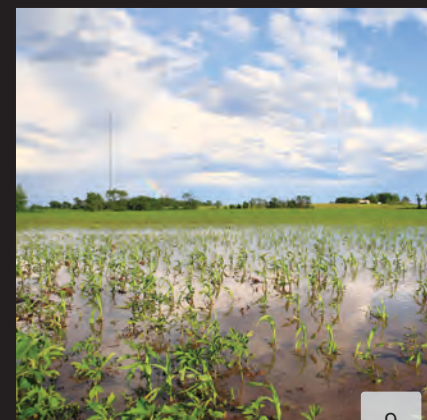
Snapshots *of Success*

ENGAGING ON REGULATION

Our members consistently tell us that preventing new and burdensome regulations is a top priority for their association so we have worked accordingly.

Our work preventing water quality regulations similar to the regulations now enacted on the Chesapeake Bay is most notable (see page 2), but we have also engaged in the efforts to prevent new Clean Water Act regulations via the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

In addition, your association President regularly submits comments on your behalf regarding government regulation and slow to act government agencies. ICGA regularly engages to encourage the EPA to quickly make new seed and chemical technologies available to farmers and to improve rules and regulations for auto manufacturers that encourage the use of ethanol and the production of Flex Fuel Vehicles.



Snapshots *of Success*



During Farm Progress Show, September 1-3, ICGA tested farmer water samples to promote our water quality efforts and encouraged farmers to write letters to Illinois Senators Durbin and Kirk in support of trade with Cuba and common-sense GMO labeling legislation.

Your association is very active on social media, sharing ag messages with non-farmers and inspiring farmers to do the same. In fact, the photos throughout this book were first shared on Instagram! Connect with us there or on Facebook, Twitter, or Pinterest!



ICGA consistently spreads the word that genetically modified foods (GMOs) are safe and healthy for all Americans. We support the Safe and Affordable Food Labeling Act that provides a national GMO certification program managed by the USDA.



One major legislative success this fiscal year brought us increased funding for improvements to the inland waterways system! A user fee increase of 9 cents per gallon went into effect in April 2015, providing needed funding for lock and dam infrastructure.

Illinois Corn Growers Association / Financials

Bloomington, Illinois . Year Ended September 30, 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$151,792
Short Term Investments	1,224,000
Accounts Receivable	24,195
Prepaid Expenses	16,524
Other Current Assets	855
Total Current Assets	1,417,366

Investments	92,862
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Net Property, Plant and Equipment	668,943
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Other Noncurrent Assets	108,756
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,287,927
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$20,503
Deferred Revenue	442,102
Accrued Expenses	50,658
Total Current Liabilities	513,263

Long-Term Liabilities

Management Services Contract Liability	341,536
Deferred Rental Revenues	226,805
Total Long Term Liabilities	568,341

Net Assets

Unrestricted - Board Designated	81,500
Unrestricted	1,124,823
Total Net Assets	1,206,323

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,287,927
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

REVENUES

Dues	\$153,459
Corporate Partners	1,450
Interest	2,050
Grant and Project Funding	1,681,000
Rental	13,918
Special Projects	395,726
County Projects	30,000
Equity Income (Loss)	(474)
Unrealized Loss on Marketable Securities	(42,696)
Other	25,970

TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,260,403
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EXPENSES

Exports Committee	424,604
Grassroots Committee	470,099
Industrial Committee	457,145
Special Projects	505,357

General and Administrative

Management and Clerical	85,264
Facilities	10,658
Other General and Administrative	18,311
Total General and Administrative	114,233

TOTAL EXPENSES	1,971,438
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NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$288,965
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Your Staff and Volunteers

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Your staff promoting Flex Fuel at the 2015 Farm Progress Show!
L-R: Caroline Wade, Phil Thornton, Jim Tarmann,
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Growers Association**

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