



NCGA 2020 Presidential Election: Donald Trump

Who We Are:

- 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 represents growers across 46 states.

- NCGA's membership provides a unique perspective into the priorities of rural America – an extremely important electorate which has demonstrated the ability to swing key districts and states in recent elections.

Why It Matters:

- Twelve states are identified as "swing states" by FiveThirtyEight. Of those 12 states, eight are in the top 20 in terms of corn production. Those states contain tens of thousands of NCGA's dues-paying members.

- According to NPR, the voting shift between 2008 and 2016 was larger in rural areas than amongst other constituencies.

- In a New York Times article, columnist Emily Badger noted rural America, "retains vastly disproportionate electoral strength."

- An understanding of corn growers' policy priorities will assist the campaign in aligning a message on agriculture policy which will resonate in rural America.

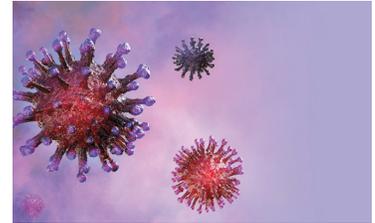
- The Trump campaign and NCGA have many shared priorities. We look forward to continuing to serve as a resource on agricultural policy going forward.



TRUMP Action: *The USDA provided assistance to producers of agriculture commodities who suffered a 5% or greater price decline due to the coronavirus as well as authorizing \$12 billion in aid to the American agricultural heartland under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.*

NCGA:

“Corn farmers are used to uncertainty and have been leaders in developing strong risk management tools to help farmers stay afloat during tough times, but the COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything we’ve experienced before. NCGA thanks the Administration for their quick action to develop and implement this important program and address the challenges currently facing farmers.” -NCGA President Kevin Ross (2020)



While NCGA’s chief focus is market-building activities that increase demand for corn, our industry appreciates the Administration’s relief programs to respond to extreme circumstances impacting farmers.

TRUMP Action: *Authorized the year-round sale of E15 gasoline which provided a boost to America’s corn growing communities.*

NCGA:

“Corn farmers have been long-time advocates of higher blends of ethanol such as E15, touting its benefits to both the farmer and the consumer. Farmers are facing some tough times which makes this announcement particularly welcome. We thank President Trump for following through on his promise to rural America and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and supporters in Congress for their outspoken commitment to year-round E15.” -NCGA President Lynn Crisp (2019)



However, as then-NCGA First Vice President Kevin Ross [explained](#) when President Trump visited Iowa in 2019, Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) waivers threaten to undo the Administration’s good work on E15. Beginning in 2017, EPA granted 85 RFS waivers covering 4 billion ethanol-equivalent gallons, undermining the law and decreasing corn demand. In January 2020, farmers won a decision in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals regarding RFS waivers.

Our policy priorities include correctly applying the Tenth Circuit Court decision on refinery waivers, continuing the precedent set in the 2020 RFS volumes of accounting for waivers to keep the RFS whole, following through on commitments to remove additional barriers to E15 and advancing pathways for higher blends of ethanol that make vehicles more efficient and save consumers money at the pump.

TRUMP Action: *Signed the Agriculture Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) into law.*

NCGA:

NCGA is most pleased to see the bill maintains support for a robust crop insurance program, our organization's top priority. The bill also provides increased funding for trade promotion programs that are especially important to agriculture at this time." -NCGA President Lynn Crisp (2018)



TRUMP Action: *Continued its focus on removing unnecessary and burdensome regulations (e.g. Waters of the U.S.).*

NCGA:

"We appreciate the Trump Administration's commitment to reducing regulatory burdens for America's farmers and ranchers. We fully support the repeal of the WOTUS rule. Farmers and ranchers care deeply about clean water, but this rule had significant flaws. It was arbitrarily written, legally indefensible, and extremely difficult to implement." -NCGA President Wesley Spurlock (2017)



TRUMP Action: *Signed executive order directing Federal agencies to streamline the agricultural biotechnology regulatory process.*

NCGA:

This order furthers policies that are important to farmers. Urging USDA, along with USTR and the Department of State, to work with our trade partners abroad to synchronize approval processes internationally and help remove barriers to trade created by non-transparent and non-science regulatory approval processes will expand markets for farmers. Additionally, it will aid furthering public acceptance through the creation and support of programs that promote the public approval of agricultural products created through biotechnology both at home and abroad.

USDA's SECURE Rule was a critical step in modernizing and streamlining the federal regulatory process for biotechnology products and NCGA awaits aligned actions from EPA and FDA.



TRUMP Action: *Announced a historic U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement to replace NAFTA.*

NCGA:

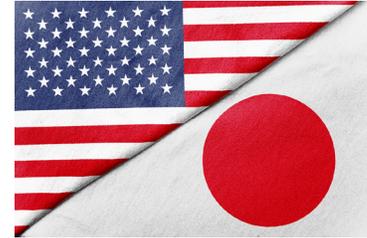
"This is a big win for America's farmers, our rural communities and the American economy. USMCA builds on our already successful trading partnership with Mexico and Canada. This agreement should serve as a template for opening the door to new market opportunities for U.S. corn. Corn farmers are grateful for the hard work done by the President, the U.S. Trade Representative and everyone in the Administration who made this possible." -NCGA President Kevin Ross (2020)



TRUMP Action: Negotiated a new United States-Japan trade deal with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

NCGA:

“Japan has been a strong trading partner and friend for American agriculture, now the second largest purchaser of U.S. corn. NCGA has long advocated for an agreement with Japan and, with many farmers struggling amid challenging times in agriculture, this is very welcome news. While we await further details, it seems this phase one agreement will deliver for corn farmers and build upon our successful partnership with Japan.”
-NCGA President Lynn Crisp (2019)

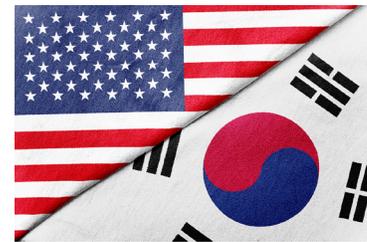


Phase Two negotiations with Japan and a proactive strategy for increasing the U.S. corn industry’s competitiveness in other rapidly growing Asian markets are critical to American corn farmers’ success and serve as opportunities for a second Trump term to deliver for rural Americans.

TRUMP Action: Revised the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS).

NCGA:

NCGA has advocated for continuing our trading relationship with Korea and appreciates President Trump and President Moon reaffirming the two countries’ important partnership. Korea is the third largest export market for U.S. corn farmers, and KORUS has been instrumental in solidifying this important market.



TRUMP Action: Releases Infrastructure Framework to Build a Stronger America.

NCGA:

Nearly three-quarters of U.S. grain exports are transported to port via the U.S. river system. We applaud the Trump Administration for prioritizing infrastructure and pledging \$50 billion to improve rural infrastructure. This announcement clearly shows the value the Administration places on rural communities, and NCGA looks forward to continuing to work together in the efforts to achieve this important goal. While we are pleased in the investment in rural infrastructure, we look forward to working through a plan to address water transportation systems which allows for the federal government to continue its role in constructing, operating and maintaining the nation’s waterways.

