

# 50 years serving ILLINOIS CORN FARMERS



**IL CORN**  
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**FIFTY YEARS**  
*of*  
**ILLINOIS CORN**  
**HISTORY**



**IL CORN**

*Compiled by Ann Hodgson & Mark K. Lambert*



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# *I*NTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to capture some of the highlights of fifty years of history of the Illinois Corn organizations. The idea to form a group called the Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) was first discussed in the middle of 1971, with the first official meeting held on Friday, Feb. 18, 1972, at the Knox County Farm Bureau building. Today, ICGA's mission statement reads: "Through grassroots advocacy, create a future for Illinois farmers in which they can operate freely, responsibly, and successfully."

The second organization, the Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB) began with the desire of ICGA members and corn farmers in Illinois to form a group for the purpose of expanding the use of corn. ICMB was established by the Illinois Legislature under the Illinois Corn Marketing Act which passed by a referendum vote on December 15, 1982. The mission statement for ICMB currently reads: "-Through strategic investment of Illinois corn check off dollars, grow demand, create new markets, foster understanding of corn farmers and the corn industry."

In the final analysis this is so much more than a historic record of an organization. It is a story of people - thousands of people - and a testament to the clear vision, persistence, teamwork, and external partnership building that makes Illinois Corn an exemplary grassroots organization.

We don't get easy issues. Without the organized, dogged representation of people like those in this book, corn farmers wouldn't stand a chance in today's world and the industry would look completely different. We have spent literally decades knowing the issues and the key players because we can't afford to be ignored.

The organizational people capital, leaders, members, those who support the corn checkoff and dedicated professional staff should all celebrate this historic milestone. Over the years the knowledge and contacts made continued to pay dividends to the organization as corn farmers and staff entered high profile strategic positions in the industry, as elected officials and across government service. Thank you to each and every one of you for your contributions.

This book is organized into decades and within that, by organization. Because several of the projects involved a joint effort from each organization, Chapter Three lists those programs. In addition to highlighting some of the organizational structure and activities during the past 50 years, interviews were conducted with current and past leadership from each decade in an effort to outline some of the individual stories and hopefully add some human interest. We would like to thank those who shared their insights and views on how being a part of the Illinois Corn organizations helped them to grow personally. Also included in this book are a few pictures of some of the leadership and events that have taken place.

At the back of the book, you will find some different listings. The first listing includes all those who served on either the Illinois Corn Growers Association Board of Directors or the Illinois Corn Marketing Board of Directors or on both boards. Please note that the last column headed “Special Note” lists those who served as president or chairman of either of the Illinois boards, one of the National Boards, or was one of the original incorporators. The second listing summarizes all the who served the organizations over the years. The third listing showcases each Illinois farmer that has led the organization throughout our 50-year history. The final listing consists of those who received the “World of Corn Award” which was presented each year, beginning in 1991, at the ICGA Annual Meeting.



## *A*CKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As the author of this history document, I would like to note that I really enjoyed visiting with those individuals who shared highlights in this document and appreciate them taking the time from their busy schedules to either meet with me or chat by telephone. Had the time allowed, it would have been fun to visit each and every director but to keep the document to a manageable form, it was necessary to limit the number. However, a big note of thanks goes to each and every person who served on one or both of the Illinois Corn boards. Each person was important in making the organizations what they are today, and the corn industry owes them a debt of gratitude for their commitment.

In addition, I would like to thank Rich Clemmons for obtaining information on the legislators involved with creating the enabling legislation for the checkoff program and the actual documents. Another person I need to thank is Allison Carr, Research Specialist/Corporate Archivist from the IFB Information Research Center, who helped me with some of the early history and in locating some of the photographs which are listed as being provided by the IFB Family of Companies.

On a personal note, let me acknowledge that I truly enjoyed the interaction with all of the board members who served as directors for the organizations over the 26 years that I served as a staff support. It was an honor to serve the Illinois corn industry, and I have many fond memories and experiences that I will treasure always.

In trying to incorporate pictures into this document, we obviously had to choose from the numerous ones that were collected over the years. Pictures from the early years were rather limited, and a few of the early ones were obtained from the Illinois Farm Bureau Family of Companies (those are acknowledged under the captions). There were a few pictures where we could not identify the correct name, so we apologize for that.

A lot of acronyms have been used in this document, and I tried to acknowledge that the first time they were used. However, I thought it might be good to include a listing of the main ones here.

<b>ICGA=</b>	Illinois Corn Growers Association
<b>ICMB =</b>	Illinois Corn Marketing Board
<b>IFB =</b>	Illinois Farm Bureau; legal name is IL Agricultural Association (IAA)
<b>AFBF =</b>	American Farm Bureau Federation
<b>NCGA =</b>	National Corn Growers Association
<b>NCDF =</b>	National Corn Development Foundation
<b>USFGC =</b>	U.S. Feed Grains Council; later changed to U.S. Grains Council (USGC)
<b>USMEF =</b>	U.S. Meat Export Federation
<b>USA PEEC =</b>	U.S.A. Poultry and Egg Export Council
<b>AAM =</b>	American Agriculture Movement
<b>IFU =</b>	Illinois Farmers Union
<b>NFO =</b>	National Farmers Organization
<b>IDA =</b>	Illinois Department of Agriculture
<b>DCCA =</b>	IL Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
<b>EPA =</b>	Environmental Protection Agency



# *Chapter One*

**1972-1982**

## **ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

Incorporated July 30, 1971

In preparing the history for the corn organizations, it became apparent that the one person who was really instrumental in getting the Illinois Corn Growers organization established was Rollie Main from Altona, IL. Rollie belonged to an investment club from Knox County who decided to go to Springfield and file for a charter for the organization. That way, they would have the name reserved to hold it without any political ramifications. Names of the original incorporators were:

John W. Curry, Victoria  
Housel Roberts, Altona  
Rolland Main, Altona  
John R. Block, Gilson  
Donald Love, Galva

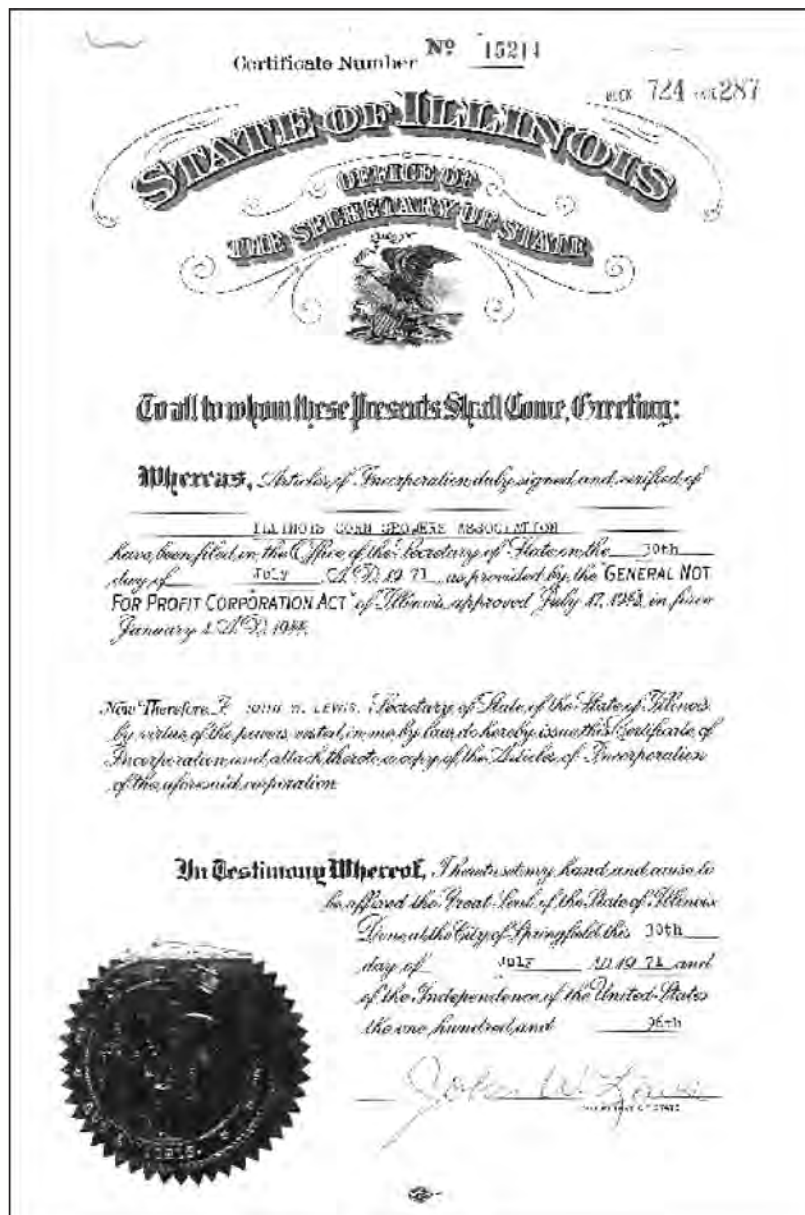
A copy of the incorporation papers can be found on the following two pages.

Previous to the filing of the charter, Rollie Main indicated that he was invited to a National Corn Growers board meeting in 1969 or 1970 where he was asked to serve as a director. At that time, he was serving as president of Knox County Farm Bureau, and he indicated that he did not want to take on any more responsibility until his tenure with Farm Bureau was over.

A second invitation to join National Corn came from Rollie's friend John "Bill" Curry, and he decided to get involved. First, here is some background on the National Corn Growers at this point in time, according to information from Rollie and confirmed by others interviewed. The founder and originator of the National Corn Growers Association and also the U.S. Feed Grains Council was Walter Goeppinger from Boone, IA. As Rollie stated, "Walter was a highly intelligent, influential and well-educated man whose family made a fortune from their carriage and buggy or wagon manufacturing business. Walter had a travel agency and advertised in *Prairie Farmer Magazine* and other national magazines for nice trips to different countries, which appealed to people who had the resources to travel in their maturing years. Through this business, Walter met a lot of interesting people from different states whom he invited to join his 'Corn Club'. Then

Walter began sponsoring a national corn grower contest where he identified some of the hands-on, good producers from various states. Walter was also a personal friend of Henry Wallace who was the Secretary of Agriculture back in the 40's under Franklin D. Roosevelt. He had a desire to perpetuate corn and was a great ambassador for corn."

In the beginning, Walter's "Corn Club" consisted mainly of producers from Iowa with seven or eight on their board. Rollie believed that the national organization had to change and become a federated organization, with state representation based on membership that elected their representatives. In 1971, Rollie agreed to accept a position on the national board. He noted, "Concurrently at the IFB annual meeting, a resolution was passed to have a corn growers organization."



Filing Fee \$25.00

FORM NP-29

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
UNDER THE  
GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ACT**

BOOK 724 PAGE 288

(These Articles Must Be Filed in Duplicate)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

Date Paid 7-30-71  
Filing Fee \$ 25.00  
Clerk *[Signature]*

To JOHN W. LEWIS, Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois.

We, the undersigned,

(Not less than three)

Name	Number	Street	Address City	State
JOHN W. CURRY	R. R. 1		Victoria,	Illinois
HOUSEL ROBERTS	R. R.		Altona,	Illinois
Rolland Main	R. R.		Altona,	Illinois
John R. BLOCK	R. R.		Gilson,	Illinois
DONALD LOVE	R. R.		Galva,	Illinois

being natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more and citizens of the United States, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the "General Not For Profit Corporation Act" of the State of Illinois, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

- The name of the corporation is: ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION
- The period of duration of the corporation is: Perpetual  
(Please state "perpetual" or a definite number of years)
- The address of its initial Registered Office in the State of Illinois is: R. R. 1  
Victoria, Ill. (61485) County of Knox and  
(Zip Code)  
the name of its initial Registered Agent at said Address is: John W. Curry, R. R. 1, Victoria, Illinois 61485
- The first Board of Directors shall be 5 in number, their names and addresses being as follows:  
(Not less than three)

Name	Number	Street	Address City	State
JOHN W. CURRY	R. R. 1		Victoria,	Illinois
HOUSEL ROBERTS	R. R.		Altona,	Illinois
ROLLAND MAIN	R. R.		Altona,	Illinois
JOHN R. BLOCK	R. R.		Gilson,	Illinois
DONALD LOVE	R. R.		Galva,	Illinois

- The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are: To further the use, market development, proper marketing, protection, legislative position, tariff consideration and efficient production of corn and furthermore, to do everything within the capabilities of the association which will benefit the commodity corn, as well as those who grow, transport, handle, sell, feed, process, export or otherwise come in contact with it.

Prior to a corn organization being formed, Rollie Main had several private discussions with Dr. Dale Butz, head of the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Commodities Division and Harold Steele, president of IFB because there were some within Farm Bureau who had the desire to bring corn under the IFB family. Rollie's biggest concern was that since the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), IFB and Iowa Farm Bureau were the strongest farm organizations in the country, it would be hard for them to represent different commodities, such as dairy and corn, and be fair to each one. So even though Illinois Farm Bureau had done more for Illinois farmers than anyone else, Rollie believed corn growers should have an independent corn organization because it was their primary source of income. This organization could involve more people and have greater representation. Rollie felt that Dale Butz was probably the bedrock of what ultimately happened because he helped immensely.

In Rollie's words, "As an organization, corn growers were as poor as church mice in the formative years." Rollie didn't want to have a turf war over this organization so he made it clear that if IFB started this and wanted to take that name, they would just turn it over to them. Rollie's philosophy was that it needed to be a united organization for those who raise corn. He further noted, "Corn is the number one crop grown in the United States in relation to dollars of products bought, seed purchased and all the inputs it takes. In life there has to be a balance and you have to share things. When everyone wants to be number one, it really poses a challenge. There was a lack of team spirit for the first two or three years the organization began, because everyone wanted it 'my' way. It was just like it is today with our 'me' society instead of a 'we' society."

Larry Groce, who was hired by IFB in July of 1970 as the Assistant Director of the IFB Commodities Division for grain, was assigned to work with ICGA as a staff support in late 1972. In an interview with Larry, he thought it interesting to remind people of some of the history of events which took place in the late 60's and early 70's: Viet Nam War, man landed on the moon in 1969 and returned, assassinations during the 1968 presidential campaign with Robert Kennedy, lost people through various tragedies in that era, the country was struggling in many ways and there were huge carryover stocks at that time. The developing countries around the world offered opportunities for the United States to build those markets, to create markets, and to plant more grains. In the early 70's there were set-asides with about 50 million acres which were not planted, and more than half of that was devoted to corn. If you wanted to be in the USDA farm program, there were various supports which you needed to adhere to, including not planting all of your acres. That changed totally by the years 1973 and 1974, because of grains sales to Russia. In July of 1972 there were 700 million bushels of grain in total shipped to the former Soviet Union, and that dried up and then farmers began to farm fence row to fence row. Set-asides were eliminated, prices rose, and there was a great inflation period, with interest rates going from 5 or 6 percent up to 15 percent for mortgages by the early 1980's.

## **1972-73**

The first meeting of the Illinois Corn Growers Association was held at the Knox County Farm Bureau Building in Galesburg, IL on Friday, February. 18, 1972. Incorporators present were John Block, Rolland E. Main, John W. Curry, Don Love and Housel Roberts. John Block was chosen as

chairman of the meeting and Robert Tracy as secretary. The first office for the association was at the Knox County Farm Bureau building, and John Campen was the Knox County Farm Bureau manager. In an interview with John, he noted that Knox County Farm Bureau kept track of the membership records and all the other records when ICGA was first organized. Then when the ICGA signed a contract with the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) for management services, all the record keeping was moved to the IAA Building in Bloomington.

Officers were elected at the second meeting of the association held February 9, 1973. They included: John Block, President; Rolland E. Main, Vice President; and Robert Tracy, Secretary-Treasurer. Initial members of the newly formed group included: John Block, Rolland E. Main, John W. Curry, Don Love, Housel Roberts, Al Lambin, Ralph Froelich and Robert Tracy. Rollie Main noted, "In the early days the walk was frail and board members had to be strong in their philosophy, beliefs, and faith. The initial board was a good group of people who came in with the right attitude. All their expenses were paid on their own, as they received no per diem or compensation for travel reimbursement. The level of commitment and dedication was good."

The third meeting of ICGA was held October 1, 1973, and a working relationship agreement between ICGA and the Illinois Farm Bureau was discussed and was formally approved on December 11, 1973. Gerald R. Kleine was named acting Executive Secretary. Larry Groce, who was the Assistant Director of the IFB Commodities Division for grain, was assigned to work with ICGA. Larry was very instrumental in getting the framework started for the first board of directors which consisted of 18 members, 1 director for each of the 15 director districts with 3 at-large directors, one of which being an interlocking director from IFB. Larry drew up the districts for ICGA based on an agreement between IFB and ICGA using a hand calculator. Taking into consideration the corn production by county using a 5-year average, the state was grouped into districts to more or less represent production on somewhat of a balanced approach. Larry noted it was somewhat difficult to do because they were trying to consider whether this was a good match-up for these counties as far as working well together and ease of travel from one county to the next within the district. The original agreement stated that all directors were to be Farm Bureau members in good standing and that IFB would provide management for ICGA.

Next, the organization needed to get some members and adopted annual membership dues of \$10.00 for corn producers and \$25.00 for non-corn producers. It should be noted that at this period in time, ICGA was organized outside the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) umbrella, which meant that Illinois Corn members were not members of NCGA. DeKalb and Macon Counties were very instrumental in helping to get the membership going for ICGA

## **1973-74**

At a meeting held on March 15, 1974, new bylaws were adopted to replace the original bylaws of the association, and it was decided to set the first annual membership meeting for April 5, 1974, in Bloomington. Larry L. Groce was named as Coordinator for ICGA.

The first election of ICGA board members was done at the annual meeting, and they were as follows: Jim Carmichael, Bill Fordham, Rolland Main, Orin Taylor, Emil Steiner, Dain

Back row l-r: Lewis Asher,  
Orin Taylor, Richard Stone,  
John Ford, Marvin Campbell,  
Housel Roberts, unidentified;  
front row: Bill Furry, Harold  
Mooberry, Rolland Main,  
unidentified, Bill Fordham,  
Dain Friend



*Picture provided by IFB Family of Companies*

Friend, Harold Mooberry, Lewis Asher, Ken Gorden, Bill Furry, John Ford, Ken Stumpf, Marvin Campbell, Richard Stone, Housel Roberts, Jack Young, and Morris Barnard. The first committee structure appointed was three standing committees: Programs, Membership and Communications. Minutes recorded the total membership numbers on April 14, 1974, at 365, representing 48 counties. Of this total, 17 were associate members. Election of members to the board was done through caucuses held in each district. Following the annual meeting regular board meetings were held. (insert picture from Chapter One Pictures/A1-ICGA Officers 1974)

During the early years the board concentrated on building membership and held several membership drives. Many times, these membership drives were conducted within counties. Information on their activities was published in the “News for Corn Growers,” which was distributed four times per year.

At the July 15, 1974 meeting of the board, the following action was approved: to publish “Corn Grower News” four times per year, to request membership in the U.S. Feed Grains Council, to work for consent for a corn checkoff, to exhibit at the Illinois State Fair, and to set ICGA’s annual meeting to be in conjunction with the IAA annual meeting in December, 1974 in Chicago. President Main was directed to meet with IFB President Harold Steele concerning ICGA’s need for information services, stressing the importance of the same to Farm Bureau and pointing out the financial inability of ICGA to pay for such services.

### *Highlights from Larry Groce*

Larry noted that in addition to his work with ICGA, he also worked with the Illinois Soybean Association in trying to get the soybean checkoff passed. He was there for a failed checkoff referendum and then the one which passed in the winter or early spring of 1974, about the time the initial statewide ICGA Board was elected. As a sidebar, Larry noted that in his years of running the Ag Companies Export Division, he hired Lyle Roberts who had been with Growmark. Larry left IFB in the spring of 1979 and later Lyle Roberts moved to Illinois Soybeans.

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*



Larry Groce



Larry Groce on a crops tour

Larry related he attended the National Corn Growers annual meeting held in Des Moines, IA in March of 1974. He noted that he was probably not the most popular person there, because at that time ICGA had not joined with National. He met with Walter Goeppinger, who was the first chairman of the USFGC, in 1960-61 and was a long-time leader. Larry noted that he had the honor of serving on the USFGC for over twenty years and was chairman in 1993-94 with Eldon Gould as vice chairman representing the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. The first USFGC chairman from Illinois Corn was Maurice Gordon from Rantoul in 1989. Other chairs for the organization, now called the U.S. Grains Council (USGC), from Illinois included: Eldon Gould, Terry Wolf, and Wendell Shauman with Ron Gray in the officer chain to become chairman in 2014

### 1974-75

The second annual meeting of ICGA was held December. 12, 1974 in the Adams Room at the Palmer House in Chicago. The estimated U.S. corn crop production was 4.6 billion bushels and Illinois was at 860 million bushels. Membership at the end of the year was listed at 497.

At the February 1975 meeting, President Main and Coordinator Groce were authorized to prepare a statement calling for an immediate end to the U.S.D.A. monitoring system on corn. It was at this meeting that Larry Groce announced he would have limited time to function as coordinator for ICGA and Jeff Gain, who was the Director of Marketing Programs for IFB, offered his services until a replacement could be hired. There was also discussion at the meeting about moving the ICGA office from the Knox County Farm Bureau.

In March of 1975 Article V of the ICGA Articles of Incorporation were changed to make the purposes of ICGA substantially similar to the purposes of IFB so that services could be given on a free or less than cost basis to ICGA by IFB. Coordinator Groce announced that the IRS had granted ICGA tax exempt status under Section 501 c (5). President Main reported that there was

no problem with keeping the ICGA office in the Knox County Farm Bureau Building. IFB hired Mike Wagner in the IFB Commodities Division to work with ICGA, Illinois Contract Marketing Association (IMA) and Illinois Milk Producers Association (IMPA). Larry Groce resigned as Coordinator to become Assistant Manager of the Illinois Agricultural Service Company's Export Division. There was a problem identified for explaining the ICGA and NCGA relationship, and President Main agreed to prepare a uniform statement for the board to consider.

Other action approved in March included: 1) to be a sponsor of the 1975 Legislative Breakfast, and ICGA participated in that event annually after that; 2) encouraged the forming of county organizations; 3) to consider a voluntary checkoff program on corn production; 4) to develop a slide presentation to inform members and potential members of the successful market development programs carried out by USFGC; 5) to consider more frequent disseminations of Corn Grower News. The NCGA 1975 Annual meeting was scheduled to be at the Fort Des Moines Hotel, Des Moines, IA on April 2-4, 1975.

It was at the meeting held in April 1975 that the board voted to promote the concept of a checkoff for seed corn. But not until August of 1977 did, they officially authorize President Main to initiate negotiations for a seed corn checkoff. This was one of Rollie Main's original goals, because he thought a checkoff on seed corn wouldn't be political since they already collect from everyone. However, in the interview with Rollie, he noted that he lost that battle due to the influence of Owen Newlin from Pioneer.

Action taken by the board at their June 1975 meeting included moving the office from Knox County Farm Bureau to the Illinois Agricultural Association (IAA) Building, effective July 1, 1975; changing the title for Mike Wagner to Manager. They also sent a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, supporting his action in the investigation of a grain inspection scandal. In the interview with Mike Wagner, he indicated his first action for ICGA was moving the ICGA office from Knox County Farm Bureau to the IAA Building. At that time, John Campen was Knox County Farm Bureau Manager. During this same time period, a statewide membership campaign was started which was supported by IFB.

*Picture provided by IFB Family of Companies*

It was at the July 2, 1975, meeting of the board that there was discussion of the possibility of a national organization for corn. A suggestion was made to call it National Corn Growers Association.

The first travel mission approved by the board was to cooperate with the Illinois Soybean Association to sponsor a trip to Brazil. In order to increase membership, it was decided to hold a membership drive from December 1, 1975, through May 31, 1976, with a goal of recruiting 2800 members.

### *Highlights from Mike Wagner*

When Mike started working with corn growers, he and Jeff Gain from the IFB Commodities Division helped to get the original



Mike Wagner

structure for ICGA's relationship with IFB set up. IFB played a crucial role in getting the corn growers association going by offering a contract for office space and management for ICGA, and they were influential in getting the story out to the grassroots on why a state corn grower organization would be helpful. There were questions regarding the relationship and signing of a contract, including: What if ICGA and IFB had a different view on farm policy, and each was on a different side? So, it was put into the contract that each organization would notify the other if there was a disagreement and that satisfied those who had some qualms. This contract remained in place until 2021, when ICGA put its own management contract in place.

Rollie Main was president at the time Mike Wagner was working with ICGA, and Mike couldn't say enough about Rollie. As Mike stated, "Rollie was the most important leader in his forward thinking of where corn growers, both in the state and nationally, are today." In the beginning, ICGA had no funds for Rollie to attend any U.S. Feed Grains Council meetings or any other travel, and Rollie paid his own way to attend USFGC meetings and his own travel expenses. He spent a lot of time and effort in his role.

*History of National Corn* as related by Mike Wagner – As noted previously, the national organization in the beginning really consisted of Walter Goeppinger and a few of his friends. Mike drove the ICGA car to Boone, IA and picked up the national records from Walter and moved them to Illinois as they made the transfer to the new structure for National Corn Growers Association. The two states most involved and who put in the most time and effort in restructuring the national organization were Iowa and Illinois under the leadership of Therman Gaskill from Iowa and Rollie Main from Illinois. Mike noted, "Both of these states are really important to NCGA today. It was Rollie's idea to spend a weekend a month, usually in Chicago, to figure out the structure of the new National Corn Growers Association. One of the hardest parts was getting the two groups in Iowa to agree. Rollie was the person that led the compromise, had the thick skin, and did all that, although other states involved were Wisconsin, Indiana and Nebraska. At the end of the year, they had a structure that is similar to the organization today. The number of votes was based on participation or money, although this all took place prior to the checkoff in Illinois. Rollie Main, along with John Bill Curry, volunteered to have the first annual meeting of the NCGA in Illinois. The only stipulation was that Mike Wagner be in charge of the meeting in doing the planning and that he report to Rollie and Bill. So, the first meeting was held in Peoria, IL, with the first delegate session on December 15, 1977. Mike approached John Deere and got \$10,000 from them for the trade show and the opening reception to put on the meeting. That was the core of starting the National Corn Growers." Other states came to the meeting and Mike worked with the hotel to allow each state president a suite at no extra cost.

The other area in which Mike was involved was laying the groundwork for getting the Illinois checkoff passed. When Mike took Jeff Gain's place as Director of Commodity Programs with IFB under Dr. Dale Butz, John Campen became manager of ICGA, with corn growers being under Mike's administration in his position with IFB. ICGA played a vital role after getting the national organization started and in growing their membership to lay the groundwork and the need for a checkoff.

If you look from the early 1970's up through the next 25 years, Mike believes there are three individuals from Illinois who served in key leadership roles either in the state organization or the national organization who were responsible for taking the history of corn growers to where it is today. Those individuals were Rollie Main, Bill Mullins and Eldon Gould. In the beginning, Illinois had no funds and at one of the meetings Bill Mullins challenged all the board members by writing a check for \$10,000 and asked everyone to follow him. As Mike said, "that was a commitment and that statement and check really put a fire under the ICGA. Those three guys take the history of Illinois Corn up to modern days. Eldon and Rollie's foresight and understanding of agriculture put the wheels under the organization."

Mike's tenure as the staff support for ICGA was important in a lot of ways. He helped get NCGA where it is today, and he stayed involved even after moving to Ohio. He noted that when Missouri wanted to pass a national corn checkoff, ICGA Executive Director Scott Bidner, offered to fund the cost for printing a letter to all National Corn Grower members explaining their opposition to a national corn checkoff. Then Ohio Corn Growers mailed the letter and helped to defeat the initiative

### *Highlights from Rollie Main*

In relation to the national organization, Rollie noted there was an infamous meeting held at the Amana Colonies in Iowa. He had submitted a recommendation ahead of the meeting to change the image of the national corn growers, because it was known as the Walter Goeppinger Corn Club. In addition, he further recommended that this needed to be a federated organization with charters from states who belonged to the organization. Unbeknownst to Rollie, Mr. Goeppinger had lobbied all his friends to not support this recommendation, because he could see the end of his dominance. So, when the recommendation went to vote, it was defeated. However, over lunch Rollie visited with everyone, including Earl Foot from Kansas and Clayton Nichols from Wisconsin, who he considered to be a supportive father figure, noting that it was voted



Rollie Main

unanimously a year ago to start a federated organization but today they had defeated that decision. Rollie offered to tender his resignation because he felt in all good conscience he couldn't serve. After the meeting reconvened, Mr. Foot moved to reconsider the motion, Mr. Nichols seconded it and the motion carried. With this humbling experience, Rollie felt his actions were transparent and he committed to work hard to see that Illinois was committed to the national organization.

When the organization first began, Rollie noted one of the first important things to do was to hold a board meeting in Washington, DC to help the board members understand where decisions are made, how and why. Len Gardner from IFB helped set this up. Prior to going to DC, the effort was made to get a picture of a corn field to take to the representatives from Illinois as a way to get corn growers introduced on the national scene. They also focused on the benefits of having a true team in national corn growers.

In August of 1974, Larry Groce and Rollie attended the summer meeting of the USFGC which was held at a ski resort in the mountains of Vermont. ICGA was going to join the Council because they finally had enough money from membership dues. Two days before they left, Rollie's youngest son was involved in an accident and in critical condition. Rollie called Larry and said he couldn't go, but Larry thought he should be there. After talking with the doctor and his wife, Rollie decided to go ahead and attend the meeting because his son was going to be in intensive care for three more days. When he arrived at 1:30 in the morning, they didn't have a room for him, but did find a place for him to sleep. The next evening at the banquet, a TV was brought in which showed Richard Nixon resigning. Rollie noted, "He had never seen such chaos, because there were no outside lines except for three pay phones, and everyone was standing in line."

Another interesting chapter of Rollie's involvement with ICGA occurred in the early 80's when John Block was the Illinois Director of Agriculture. After the November election, Rollie found out that Earl Foot was instrumental in the reconsideration of the federated corn growers. He was also a close friend of Bob Dole from Kansas who was President Reagan's right-hand man on agricultural issues. Mr. Foot became a close personal friend of Rollie and called him every Monday to see how his crops were. Earl liked John Block and asked Rollie if Jack would be a good U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Rollie indicated that he would be, as he was a farmer. The rest is history and John Block was an influential player at that point in time. When Mr. Foot passed away, Bill Mullins and Rollie chartered a plane, along with two past presidents of National Corn Growers Association, to go to the funeral. While standing in a lengthy line at the visitation, they noticed Bob Dole in line six people ahead of them. As Rollie noted, "It is surprising at how the world turns."

Another incident happened in planning a national meeting in Lincoln, NE. They needed a very visible keynote speaker. Earl Foot, who was later chairman of Kansas Corn Growers, said he thought he could get Mr. Dole to come if they would like to have him. However, there was one stipulation and that was that his travel would be at the expense of corn growers. Earl checked into the cost and noted it would be \$5,000. Earl put a check for \$500 in the hat and passed it around, and they raised enough money. That was quite a thing, to get that kind of money. It really showed the dedication, commitment and spirit of the organization. One historic thing Rollie noted was, "Farmers are independent and have their own identity, but sometimes that is an albatross."

When Rollie served as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee for National Corn, they were looking for a way to help inspire membership and create a team organization. A meeting was held at the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago, and this was at each person's expense. Rollie asked each person to bring a sample of their best corn in a zip lock bag to the meeting, noting that it couldn't have any personal identification such as confetti or die or anything like that. Then everyone was told there would be a contest announced after everyone arrived. Rollie indicated he would personally pay \$1,000 to anyone who could draw a perfect 3 7/16 circle free hand. Of course, no one did this; and Rollie said that proved no one is perfect. There was even an engineer present with all the tools. Then they broke for lunch, and Rollie requested that they leave their bags of corn by their nametag. The corn was then put in a bowl with the identification on the bottom of the bowl. Rollie stated, "Everyone thinks they have brought the best corn. Anyone that can pick out their own corn and do that without cheating gets \$1,000." Of course, that didn't happen either. Rollie then stated, "Therefore, at least for this group, in the eyes of God all committed that none of us is perfect. In other words, corn is not better in Nebraska than Indiana. So we have to accept the fact that all of us have to be team players – it is a 'we' thing, not a 'me' thing." This was the message Rollie didn't want them to ever forget.

Another situation Rollie remembered was the time when Walter Goeppinger wanted him to go to DC to give testimony at a congressional hearing. Rollie was to testify right after the wheat millers and bakers' union who had their presidents, CEO's and whole entourage of support present. Rollie was to give testimony that had been prepared by Walter and had already been submitted to the members of the committee. So, Rollie indicated to those present that he could read the testimony; but he felt it was redundant in his opinion because everyone had a copy. He further indicated he was a producer from Illinois, affiliated with National Corn Growers and had a problem with the process of talking about farm programs when the people present didn't begin to understand all of this. Rollie further indicated that rather than telling them what to do he would be glad to share his opinions. He thought it was the government's role to support the constitution and create an environment that could be competitive. The chairman of the committee indicated that Rollie didn't need to read the testimony, but he did have a couple of questions. This created the most pleasant environment, because Rollie then had a dialogue with the committee. When they were through with their questions, the chairman asked Rollie to come out and shake hands with the committee members. This was something that was never done, and that blew Rollie's mind.

Since Rollie was unable to get a seed corn checkoff put into place, he wanted to get a checkoff created in Illinois. However, in order to start a checkoff in Illinois, permissive legislation needed to be obtained from the legislature. (A note of information - Kansas had the first checkoff program and Iowa the second.) After a lot of work on the legislation, it was finally passed, and the date had been set for a referendum vote. Rollie was at a meeting in Bloomington and was driving home when he heard on the radio that President Jimmy Carter had just imposed the corn embargo. After all the challenging work to get the checkoff legislation passed, this was devastating news; and in Rollie's words, "He knew they were dead in the water to pass a checkoff vote, as he knew enough about politics to know it would be voted down. So, he had to put on a game face, but this was the last straw." He thought in 10 years with the organization he had given his best shot and it was now time to move on. Not only did he lose the seed corn checkoff but now the corn checkoff. At about

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*



Rolland Main



USDA official, Lewis Asher, George Anselm, unidentified, Dain Friend

that time, Bill Mullins came on the scene from DeKalb County, and he was what Rollie called his lifesaver.

In summary, Rollie noted that serving on the ICGA was very satisfying and he had the opportunity to meet so many interesting people. Some of the benchmarks noted above are memories Rollie will never forget.

Even though Rollie didn't accomplish his goals for the organization, it should be noted that he laid the groundwork for the organization, which is going strong today.

### 1975-76

The third annual meeting was held December 11, 1975, at the Palmer House in Chicago in conjunction with the IFB Annual Meeting. Awards were presented to the top three counties for outstanding membership: Bureau, Tazewell and Christian, and a meritorious service award was presented to Knox County for their work in the formative years.

The committee structure was changed at the January 1976 meeting to three new committees called membership, research and market development. The legislative breakfast for this year was scheduled in Springfield for April 14, 1976, and the board sent a letter to the Department of Ag expressing concern with the date being during planting season. At the February meeting there was discussion about the pros and cons for a checkoff, and three distinct types of checkoffs were identified: legislative, volunteer and seed corn. It was suggested to contact soybeans, Iowa Corn, sorghum and wheat to get copies of their programs.

The board decided to meet in Washington, DC February 29-March 2, 1976, to do legislative visits but it was noted the cost of the trip would be paid by the board members. The manager was encouraged to make more concerted efforts to get wider media coverage. Also, at this meeting

it was noted that Harold Mooberry, Housel Roberts and Rolland Main had met with Iowa Corn Growers Association and Bill Curry, NCGA President, about forming a structurally improved National organization.

In June of 1976 it was voted to adopt a Market Development and Research Fund and a committee was appointed to manage the fund. One of the first actions was to fund \$1,000 toward Lowell Hill's research project at the University of Illinois.

When the board met in July of 1976, it was announced that the U.S. Feed Grains Council had a tour scheduled to the Far East – Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia and Hong Kong—on August 27-September 17. A meeting was to be scheduled with the states of Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana and Illinois to discuss the possibilities of a national organization. Resolutions were recommended to be presented to the IFB Tentative Resolutions Committee.

Total membership listed at the August meeting was 1736. Bureau County had inquired about the possibility of sending out their own dues notices and keeping their own records. The board voted to authorize a pilot project for those counties interested in doing their own billings to have the State Office send the notices to the county. The county would send them out and collect the money and would then transmit the dues to the State Office on a monthly basis. A cost analysis would be done for this process. It was also voted to change the dues. A change in the membership dues was announced. A regular membership would increase from \$10 to \$20 and an associate membership from \$20 to \$25, with all new members signed as of August 1, 1976, paid through 1977. An incentive program for signing new members included: 1 member = corn top pen; 5 members = thermometer or briefcase; and a goal for the annual meeting was for each director to sign 10 new members and a goal of 100 new members per district.

It was noted that proposed bylaws for a National Corn Growers Association had been drafted, and a couple of meetings of states had been held.

### *Highlights from William (Bill) Mullins*

Bill indicated he got started with Illinois Corn Growers because of the low price for corn and the lack of profitability. His dad was president of DeKalb County Farm Bureau for eighteen years. Illinois Farm Bureau had a Corn Committee, but Bill felt it was important for corn to be represented as a commodity themselves. IFB was supportive of ICGA in the fact that they gave them the first staff support – Larry Groce. Eventually, the organization grew away from IFB and became a stand-alone organization and hired their own executive director. Both IFB and ICGA



Bill Mullins speaking at Past Director Event in 2012

were important, as IFB could have a general impact on agriculture, while ICGA could have a specific impact on the corn commodity.

Bill's dad always said if you want to get something done, you need to begin doing it. Since Bill was interested, he started DeKalb County Corn Growers. The first director from DeKalb County on the ICGA board was Joe Faivre. Bill served as president of DeKalb County and later as secretary of ICGA.

Bill always thought it was a promising idea to affiliate with National Corn Growers, but he felt it needed to be a true national format. Bill Curry was the first president of National before the new structure began. The NCGA bylaws adopted June 16, 1981, put in director terms of 3 three-year terms. At that time, there were forty-six people on the NCGA Board. Bill served as Legislative Vice President in 1979 and then became president and later the first chair of the National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF). He felt that he tried to represent Illinois while serving on National. However, he noted he did have to be careful publicly that it didn't appear he was in a click with the Illinois group. When Bill served as president, he had a spot for everyone in the organizational structure, because they didn't have any staff. He felt that's how you learned who the dedicated leaders were. It was an interesting time. Bill stated that a lot of farmers don't have the capability, knowledge and experience to put things into wording, so staff can do the research to help with that. However, you need involvement of both the grower and staff.

Bill noted that at the end of 1979 National Corn Growers Association had a loss of \$69,000 and had to borrow money to pay their staff. So, as has been noted earlier in this document, Bill borrowed \$60,000 in 1980 and co-signed the loan with the NCGA board. At this time, there was a lot of support from agri-industry as they saw value in corn growers being represented in Washington. For example, someone from Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) cannot be as effective as corn growers in speaking for an issue related to the corn industry. As long as there was agreement with the issue, National would make an effort to go out and support agri-industry. Staley and Cargill took Bill to Washington in their private plane a couple of times to testify to give extra support.

Representation of states to National was based on production and membership. It was important that Illinois increase their membership to get grassroots producers on the board. The Corn Yield Contest used to be the generator for finances for NCGA, and it still is a key factor today, but the grassroots needed to be involved as well. The people serving on the national board are representing both production and politics, which are both important. Bill made several trips to Des Moines, IA because Iowa withdrew twice from NCGA. According to Bill, with Iowa being one of the few states with a checkoff, they became frustrated with other states telling them what to do when they didn't have the resources to support NCGA. The concession to get Iowa back within the NCGA fold was to move the office to Des Moines, IA. However, the other states weren't comfortable with that, and a survey was conducted. From the survey, it was determined that St. Louis was the geographic center of corn belt production and Missouri took more of a neutral position on issues; so, the office was moved to St. Louis. Bill had to convince Iowa they were much stronger united than as separate entities. Bill said he can't imagine how much Illinois, Iowa and National Corn have made farmers. They improved their profitability and things that had to be done.

What concerned Bill the most was when the checkoff grew and NCGA got money, they hired more staff. The growers then tended to be more complacent because the staff was doing things. However, a good balance of staff was needed to keep the organization professional, and growers were needed to keep the grassroots flavor. Also, because the checkoff dollars could not be used for legislative work, which made it necessary to split NCGA leadership between membership and checkoff, thus creating NCGA and the National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF). In DC, NCGA had an executive director (Mike Hall) and one secretary (Maude) who both did a tremendous job. The organization today has professional staff, but they also have committed grower participation.

As Bill noted, "Illinois passing the checkoff helped with the balance in the National organization because of our size and it neutralized Iowa. Nebraska and Minnesota were strong, and Wisconsin came in with good leadership. It just kind of healed some of the wounds that were there. Therman Gaskill was very instrumental in getting the Iowa checkoff program. Originally, there were two Iowa corn grower organizations and Jack Parsons from Burlington, Iowa was the president of the group, which accepted affiliation with National. He was more of a unity type thinker. In the two Iowa organizations, there was an old guard in one place and new guard in another. Therman got control of Iowa corn growers and brought in some of the old guard which became more effective in the transition. "

On January 4, 1980, President Carter put on the grain embargo to the Soviet Union. Bill was out in Secretary of Agriculture Bergland's office at the time, and Secretary Bergland was not aware President Carter was going to put the grain embargo on. As a result of the embargo, all the representatives that had sales to Russia didn't have a buyer for their corn and the farmers were in a financial bind because the price of corn went down at a time when it was not profitable to raise corn. Bill noted, "NCGA got permission to go to Moscow, without any governmental authority, to try to open the lines of communication and Mike Hall and I met with the Export Club (purchase entity for Russia at that time). This was in October and the embargo was put on in January. They were anxious to meet with them and were treated very nicely. The protocol was to go to the Ag Attaché from the United States, who claimed he had not received any communication from the Export Club. However, the next morning the Ag Attaché was in the Export Club office and that opened up the opportunity to begin trying to heal the wound, fix the problem, and build trade back again." Bill gives Corn Growers a lot of credit for taking the initiative to do that.

During Bill's term on NCGA, he made thirty trips to Washington in two years testifying and meeting with different people. Following Bill's return from Russia, there was too much corn in government storage, which depressed the prices even more. Bill had an appointment with John Block from Illinois, who had been appointed Secretary of Agriculture and he remembers sitting in Secretary Block's office and saying, "We need to do something about set-aside." Block indicated he didn't have the budget for it. Bill said to him, "You have 6 billion bushels of corn, you loaned the money out, and now you have received the corn and are storing corn which is going out of condition. It's costing you to store it. Why don't you give that corn to the farmer for not producing corn this year?" That was the beginning of the payment in-kind and how the government got funding to create that program. Block wanted to be more conservative and implemented a two-year effort to get back to a reasonable carryover. Then there was a drought the

same year as the payment in-kind so in the end, that all happened in one year. Then, according to Bill, corn prices were up to \$5.00 from \$2.00. He noted that Corn Growers had a big part of making that happen.

In Bill's words, "One of the big projects to come from Corn Growers was creating the ethanol industry in the United States. Iowa Corn had one of the first checkoff programs, and they had done a lot of research on ethanol. The corn from Iowa was kind of land locked, making them one of the last ones to sell because geographically, Illinois corn was closer to the river. National was promoting individual states to have checkoffs so that they could fund on a national basis. Illinois fought hard to get the Illinois checkoff passed." In Bill's opinion, the first vote failed because Illinois was going for a bigger checkoff at ½ cent per bushel. This was a higher rate than any of the other states with a checkoff. Bill did show me a published article from the NCGA annual meeting in Minnesota that talked about Illinois going for a bigger checkoff. (Note: Although I could not find documentation of the ½ cent rate, it appears that the rate may have later gotten changed in the Enabling Legislation to ¼ cent. From what I could gather, this may have been a compromise to get other organizations in the state to be supportive of a checkoff program.)

The NCGA convention in 2013 had 6,000 people, which is now a combined meeting including corn, soybeans, wheat and sorghum. As Bill noted, a lot of our membership belongs to both ICGA and Illinois Soybean Association. Allen Aves from Illinois was president of American Soybean Association (ASA) when Bill was president of NCGA, and they saw each other more at the airport than when they were back in their own county.

To show how industry and corn worked together, Bill showed me a picture of John Block meeting with President Reagan, himself and Martin Andreas who served on the Corn Grower Industry Committee. Bill had indicated it would be good for them to get together and talk to each other before talking to President Reagan, so Martin paid for a room for this discussion, although he was not present in the meeting. Others included in the meeting were the IFB President, Soybean President, and Wheat Growers President. It was decided the President was going to go around the room to let each farm organization or commodity group make a statement of their industry. All of them made statements that could be agreed upon by the others so that there were no controversial issues. When it came time for a press conference, Bill and the IFB President had previously agreed that IFB would be the spokesman instead of having each of the commodity groups speak and that's what happened.

Bill also noted that Orion Samuelson from WGN was instrumental in helping corn growers communicate with their constituents. It was a two-way street with Bill communicating with Orion and Orion communicating with Bill any time they had a meeting or something newsworthy. Bill knew that by contacting Orion the



ORION SAMUELSON

WGN 720

Orion Samuelson, media



John Block on right  
talking with attendees



Dinner at NCGA  
Convention in 1977

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*

information would get out. Bill would call him before his flight back from Washington to give him fresh news. In turn, Corn Growers got big coverage because Orion was the top farm broadcaster for the Midwest, and Bill thought working with industry and getting communication out was good.

By serving in the corn organizations, Bill stated that he gained a broader perspective of how state and national organizations work, how Springfield and Washington work politically, and gained leadership experience in serving in the offices of secretary on the ICGA board, NCGA legislative chair and NCDF president. All of this was a big learning experience and made him feel like anyone who is willing to participate, is in the right place at the right time, and has a good opportunity can make some changes as a result.

Some of the most prominent issues which Bill felt happened during his term were: passing the Illinois checkoff, re-establishing trade with Russia, helping to create the payment in-kind, the set-aside program, expanding the ethanol industry and building NCGA to an effective entity in the corn industry. Building membership for the national organization was a priority, and Illinois helped to start county organizations, which made Illinois more effective. Promoting the yield contest made it easier to get memberships.

Larry Groce and Mike Wagner helped the ICGA get started. Bill remembers an Illinois convention in Bloomington (or Springfield) where they had a square-dancing activity in the parking garage of the hotel. It was quite well attended.

## **1976-77**

In November of 1976, the board voted to contract with a company called Comco to produce their newsletter on an issue-by-issue basis. It was noted that ICGA would host a Korean Swine Industry Team on Nov. 10-13.

The fourth annual meeting was held on December 9, 1976, at the Palmer House in Chicago. It was voted to affiliate with the newly organized National Corn Growers Association and to send \$10 per member to NCGA.

Mike Wagner was directed at the January 1977 meeting to send out ICGA activity information to all the county farm bureaus on a monthly basis.

At the February meeting, it was voted to have President Main appoint a committee to meet with the Land of Lincoln Soybean Association to discuss the possibility of a joint annual meeting of ICGA and Land of Lincoln Soybean Association, but later in the year Soybeans indicated they were not interested. The board met in DC on February 21, 1977, for legislative visits. The membership total at that time was listed at 1157. DeKalb Ag Research gave ICGA \$4,000 to use for programming and the board allocated \$1,000 to Lowell Hill's BCFM research project. The board came up with a cost of production per bushel of \$2.28.

Gerald Carney reported on meetings he had attended regarding Lock and Dam 26. A board member attendance policy was adopted.

In July of 1977, the board voted to change their agreement with IFB in regard to a conflict with ICGA and IFB policies and gave the Executive Committee the authority to make the final approval of a new manager. However, it was noted that Dale Butz and IFB would screen the applicants. John Campen was hired as the new manager to replace Mike Wagner.

Checkoff Discussion – Bill Mullins reported on the checkoff committee discussion at the August 1977 meeting, and he listed the possibilities for checkoffs. At the November meeting it was voted to give President Main authorization to instruct the Executive Committee of ICGA to bring forth a plan on a corn checkoff program.

NCGA - With the newly formed NCGA, the board had to determine who would be delegates to the meeting. It was determined that the first twelve delegates would come from the ICGA Board, the 13th delegate would be appointed from the largest membership county, the 14th delegate would be an ICGA board member, the 15th delegate would be from the second largest member county, the 16th delegate an ICGA board member, etc. Terms for the NCGA directors were drawn by lot with the following results: 1-year terms for George Anselm and John Curry, 2-year terms for Harold Mooberry and Rolland Main and 3-year terms for Dain Friend and William Mullins. It was voted to invoice NCGA for those transferred from National to State membership at \$5 per member.

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*



Shows tallying of votes for the referendum



John Campen

### *Highlights from John Campen*

When Mike Wagner moved to a different position within the Commodities Division, someone was needed to work with ICGA, and John expressed an interest and was subsequently hired by IFB. At that time, Jeff Gain was the number two man within the Commodities Division with Dale Butz being the Commodities Division director. Then Jeff Gain was hired by American Soybean Association (ASA) as executive director. Mike Wagner moved to his position, and John moved to Mike's position as manager for ICGA.

John noted when he was hired, he was the only paid staff for Illinois Corn. Secretarial help was provided by the Commodities Division of IFB. During the time of promoting the second referendum vote for the checkoff, a communications person was hired by the name of Melody Taylor to help put together a campaign to get a favorable vote. Melody and John went down to Springfield to watch the tally of votes for the referendum.

To get a checkoff program in Illinois, enabling legislation had to be approved in Springfield which ultimately had to be signed by the governor. The first step for the ICGA board was drafting the enabling legislation, and that process took a couple of years. Then the legislation was introduced and passed in the legislature. It was noted that at this time in history, Jack Fisher was in the Commodities Division of IFB as well as Richard Clemmons and the Division was headed up by Dean Sears. All of these people helped to get the legislation passed.

As previously noted, the original board members and original leaders footed the cost for their own expenses for attending ICGA board meetings, USFGC meetings, and any other meetings attended on behalf of ICGA. These were dedicated leaders to use their own funds to work for the association and also to get the checkoff put into place. This was their contribution to get the organization started, and John noted this is probably not recognized often enough. In fact, no expenses were funded to board members until after the checkoff referendum program was put into place.

Funding for both the first and second referendum votes was obtained from independent agribusiness members of the U.S. Feed Grains Council (USFGC), primarily the seed industry and companies such as ADM. In John's opinion, the major impact on the failed vote in the first referendum was the 1980 grain embargo. This affected the general attitude of farmers. The first referendum vote was a walk-in vote at County Extension Offices and the second was done by mail-out ballot to around 250,000 producers. About 70,000 ballots were returned. This was probably one of the largest statewide mail-out ballots done by the IL Department of Agriculture, who handled the referendum using an ASCS list. The Department spent a lot of time weeding out all of duplicates from Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) list, and it was quite an undertaking. One thing that helped to pass the second referendum was the timing and the fact that 1982 was a huge production year and it appeared there would be a huge surplus of corn. Growers had more of an attitude that they needed to have a checkoff to find a home for all the surplus corn. Also, the general attitude of producers with the mail-out ballot approach was key in getting the referendum passed. More producers were favorable toward the checkoff at this time but like everyone else, producers could get busy and not have time to drive to a polling place, or even forgot to make the effort on a certain date.

After the enabling legislation was passed, the Illinois Director of Agriculture appointed a Temporary Corn Marketing Committee to help the Department of Ag set up the logistics. This committee then created the Illinois Corn Marketing Act which spelled out how the board would be set up and was the governing document and basis of the formation of the ICMB and the districts it would use. Those appointed to serve on the Temporary Committee were Director of Ag Larry Werries, Lou Faivre from Malta, Clarence Buchanan from Lawrenceville, William Keltch from Clifton, Dain Friend from Warrensburg, William Fordham from Ohio, Gerald Carney from Girard and Marvin Campbell from Coulterville.

After the referendum passed, the first board of directors was elected which included a director to represent each of the fifteen districts. Upon commencement of the first board, they had no funds until they started collecting them from the first purchasers. Therefore, the ICGA used their own budget to cover the refunds for several months and for covering costs of printing forms sent to the elevators and all the mailings. Once ICMB received their money from the first purchasers, they reimbursed ICGA. ICGA's main source of income at that time would have been membership dollars.

When the Illinois Corn Marketing Board began, ICGA submitted projects to ICMB just like other organizations requesting funding. Within the first year or so of the ICMB's existence, they got involved with funding of national organizations such as NCGA, USFGC, and U. S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). The main focus for checkoff dollars was to be used for utilization focused research rather than production research. One of the significant research projects that John Campen recalled was on grain quality with a researcher from the University of Illinois by the name of Lowell Hill. At that time, the U of I had a major program in the whole quality area. Other projects John recalled were with Western Illinois University (WIU) on doing better marketing of corn and a couple of projects with Southern Illinois University (SIU) with one on fructose and one on livestock.

## 1977-78

Membership reported at the January meeting was 1900. Membership drives were scheduled between January and March 1978 with the same incentives. At the June meeting it was voted to change the membership dues to \$30 for regular members for 1 ½ years and \$37.50 for associate members for 1 ½ years effective June 20, 1978.

Dale Butz from IFB presented a proposal to the board on Commodity Group Relations at the June meeting. Rather than accept the proposal, the board recommended a study committee made up of ICGA, Land of Lincoln Soybean Association and IAA to look at improving our effectiveness in representing our respective organizations. At the July meeting, the board voted to pursue the development of a policy communication committee between IFB and Illinois commodity groups. Consequently, the IAA Business Services Committee met with members of ICGA and the Land of Lincoln Soybean Association (LOLSA). At its November 14 meeting, ICGA voted to adopt the proposal on the IFB Commodity Group Relationship.

Market Development – Action taken at the July meeting was to accept resolutions to support the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of USDA for invaluable assistance in foreign market development programs, to urge Congress to appropriate more funds for market development and urge FAS and USDA to present more aggressive budget requests.

At the April meeting it was voted to hold a joint annual meeting with LOLSA at the Annual Corn-Soybean Conference and that was later scheduled for Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 1979, in Champaign. Advance registration for the conference was \$35 for a couple and \$25 for a single. The ICGA board voted to give an award for the most innovative new use for corn.

The Legislative Committee reviewed the NCGA resolutions at the July 1978 meeting and the board accepted resolutions on target price, energy, farm organization cooperation, transportation, foreign markets, grain agreements, gasohol, aflatoxin, crop rotating and chemicals.

*Checkoff* – The executive committee had met and discussed a legislative seed corn checkoff with no referendum with the producer being able to receive a refund upon request. The board voted at their January meeting to pursue a checkoff. At the February meeting, it was noted that Bureau and DeKalb Counties had sent letters to ICGA asking for a corn checkoff. Rollie Main reported at the March meeting that he had met with Funk Seeds Company concerning a corn checkoff. A corn checkoff proposal was presented to the Business Services Committee noting that this would be at the first point of sale via referendum, proceeds would be refundable upon request, and there would be a producer referendum. It was voted at this meeting to proceed with a corn checkoff program as outlined. In April, the board reviewed the legislative public act which had to be passed by the General Assembly in regard to a corn checkoff and suggested some changes. Bill Mullins reported at the June meeting that things were moving slowly in regard to the checkoff, and it was voted to embark on a course of action to change the IFB policy to read that a referendum was not required prior to the effective date of a corn checkoff. Then in July approval was given for Jack Young to ask for suitable wording of benefits of no referendum, before pursuing a legislative checkoff. He was also to recommend a time schedule, costs, and availability of refund for the proposed checkoff program.

At the August 2, 1978 meeting, the board voted to support a legislated corn checkoff for market promotion, development, research and education, if such legislation provided for the following: producers could get a refund, the program was to be administered by a board with a majority to be bona fide producers, a provision that checkoff monies could be spent for the purpose intended, and a provision calling for producers to periodically vote or in some way indicate whether the program should be continued.

Further discussion regarding the corn checkoff took place at the November 14, 1978, meeting. A meeting was held the day prior to the board meeting with Dick Davidson. Then at the December meeting John Campen reviewed the checkoff enabling legislation and the board voted to make some changes including setting the maximum rate at  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per bushel and require a producer referendum in subsequent years to raise the rate above  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per bushel, suggested some wording for Section 16 in regard to the checkoff rate, and a change in Section 6 to read: "a proposed amendment to an existing corn marketing program may be requested by petition to the Director by five percent (5%) of the affected producers from each respective district".

NCGA - ICGA was entitled to 15 delegates to the NCGA annual meeting. The board reappointed John Curry and George Anselm to three-year terms on NCGA and also added Bill Furry as a director. At the November meeting, the board voted to send \$100 to NCGA to defray expenses of Russ Arndt's trip to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva.

## 1978-79

The Annual Meeting Committee was authorized to go ahead with plans for the 1980 Annual Meeting. At the April meeting, it was voted to set up a separate account for promotion funds. The board voted to participate with LOLSA in an Annual Soy-Corn conference at their June 1979 meeting, and the tentative date was set for Feb. 6-8, 1980.

In regard to membership, each director was challenged to take one county in his district and sign 100 new members, coordinating that with someone on the county farm bureau board. Each county farm bureau would receive a \$5 refund per new member.

The USFGC meeting was scheduled for Aug. 19-22 in Vail, CO; and the board voted to oppose the suggested changes in the USFGC bylaws.

*Checkoff* - Both old and new members of the Executive Committee met with Leonard Gardner and Wilbert Engelke from IFB on February 8, 1979, to discuss the checkoff. Representative Richard H. Brummer, a Democrat from the 54th District introduced the legislative bill, HB903, into the Illinois House of Representatives on March 14, 1979. Legislation language listed the checkoff assessment at  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per bushel with a provision that after 5 years of operation, a vote of  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the entire corn marketing board could increase the rate not to exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per bushel. (A copy of this legislation is on file at the State Office.) Senate sponsors of the legislation were Senator Terry Bruce (Democrat-54th district) and Senator Stanley B. Weaver (Republican-52nd district). An article published in the February 25, 1980, IFB FarmWeek publication, along with the photo below, noted that Governor Thompson had received 102 bushels of corn, 1 bushel



Rollie Main, Governor Thompson  
and Director of Ag John Block

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*

from each county in the state, symbolizing the amount of corn produced in the state annually. Money from the sale of the corn was donated to the University of Illinois for use in corn quality research. The article also noted that the governor had proclaimed March 3-7 as “King Corn Week.”

John Campen gave a checkoff update at the April 5 meeting, and there was discussion on the checkoff amendments and Friday’s hearing. The board voted at their June 13, 1979, meeting to empower President Main to make a recommendation to the Director of Agriculture for temporary corn marketing committee members. It was noted members should be composed of four ICGA members and one representative from each of the following organizations: American Agricultural Movement (AAM), IFB and Illinois Farmers Union (IFU). In a checkoff update at the July meeting, John Campen noted that IAA was supportive of the checkoff program. Overall support was good, and the governor would possibly sign the bill next week. On August 14, the governor signed the legislation. At the August meeting which was held at the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield, minutes noted that the publicity plan and revised timetable for the checkoff were reviewed.

NCGA – The board voted to continue with the past policy for selection of delegates to the NCGA annual meeting. Rollie Main and Harold Mooberry were elected to another one-year term on NCGA, and Maurice Gordon was elected to replace John Curry for his unexpired three-year term. The NCGA resolutions were reviewed by the board.

## 1979-80

President Main appointed the following to a Special Funding Study Committee: Lou Faivre, Chairman; LeRoy Rieke, Maurice Gordon, Gerald Carney, and Ken Dalenberg. The committee reported at the September meeting that they were placing a strong emphasis on seed corn companies' representation hoping to sign up all seed corn dealers as members. Lou Faivre was authorized to approach DeKalb Ag with an offer of \$30 per farmer-dealer or no less than \$20. This same committee also met with IAA regarding the relationship between ICGA and IAA.

The membership total reported at the Nov. 20, 1979, meeting was 1477. The 1980 membership program was adopted, noting the intent to return funds to county farm bureaus or county corn grower organizations, providing they showed an interest in the program. A membership plaque was awarded to Will County for their outstanding efforts in their membership drive. At the June meeting, the board adopted a membership program for a ½ year membership as of July 1, 1980. They also discussed the county organizations and voted to give them one-half of the state's share of dues collected, provided they met the goal of the membership drive. At the July meeting, it was voted to support the NCGA dues increase.

At the November meeting, guidelines on the Farm Bureau-Commodity Group relationships were discussed and the revised guidelines approved.

At the Jan. 4, 1980, meeting, it was voted to send a telegram to President Carter, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bergland and our senators concerning the embargo. Also, the board voted to support the bill to eliminate the sales tax on farm machinery. In August, the board voted to send a letter to Ken McMillan expressing ICGA's appreciation for his support on the sales tax bill.

The board approved sending a letter to USFGC asking them to change the name of their organization so as not to imply a government agency. It was also decided to cooperate with LOLSA and Iowa on a Corn-Soybean tour to be held Aug. 20-21, 1980.

One of the promotional programs begun this year was on fructose. The board voted to proceed with some fructose promotions – one in the quad Cities as a co-sponsor with the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and the other at a Physician's Practice Opportunity Fair by preparing a folder on fructose. John Campen was asked to inform county farm bureau marketing committees and women's committees of the availability of our fructose promotion program. Further, Mr. Campen was requested to explore a program with ADM and/or Batterlite to design a fructose promotion presentation for High School Home Economics classes.

*Checkoff* – John Campen reported on the “fly-around” and other aspects of the checkoff publicity plan. The first referendum vote on the checkoff held on March 6, 1980, was unsuccessful. The voting was done by a “walk-in” vote at the county extension offices. The vote was: yes - 6,272 (30%) and no – 14,635 (70%). The Board voted to thank the IAA Board of Directors and the Agribusiness Committee for their support and cooperation on the corn checkoff referendum.

At the March board meeting, President Main appointed a committee consisting of the members of the Executive Committee and chairmen of each committee (members were Rolland Main, Dain Friend, Louis Faivre, Maurice Gordon, George Anselm, Gerald Carney and Richard Faivre) to

develop plans for a voluntary checkoff. The committee's proposal for the voluntary checkoff was approved at the April 8, 1980, meeting.

NCGA - Dain Friend and Williams Mullins were elected to another term on the NCGA Board.

## 1980-81

At the June meeting, the Executive Committee was authorized to negotiate for management services for the yield contest, National office and NCGA Annual Meeting. In December, it was approved to pay for the basic hotel room expense to the 1982 NCGA Annual Meeting for the group of directors signing the most new members.

*Membership* - In November, the board voted to increase Illinois' membership dues to \$30 effective January 1, 1981. In addition, the board approved supporting county corn grower organizations with \$5 for each new member signed and \$1 for each renewal, upon request by that county and provided the board deemed they had conducted a worthwhile program. The board also approved pursuing a membership program through seed corn company dealer lists and to request \$5 from the company or dealer. John Campen presented a progress report on the membership expansion program, showing a letter which was sent to seed corn dealers. The possibility of getting a list of names of corn growers state-wide which could be used for a direct mailing was discussed, but there was some concern about limiting the number to be practical. It was voted to change the bylaws at the July 7, 1981, meeting in regard to dues. This was to change the membership year to be payable on or before the first day of the member's membership year and to add a three-year membership for annual dues of \$75.

A successful membership drive was held in Champaign County recruiting 115 new paid members. Other counties which had membership drives were Knox, Ogle and Lee. A new incentive for signing members was a vest to be given to those signing ten new members. In December, there was an emphasis placed on organizing county associations in all counties, especially those with a membership over 50. Counties identified were Bureau, Champaign, Christian, Coles, DeKalb, Henry, Knox, Lee, Macon, Ogle, Tazewell and Will. ICGA would provide up to \$5 toward a meal for each member attending an organizational meeting up to a maximum of \$500. However, this kick-back would supersede the counties right to the normal \$1 and \$5 return of dues. The board voted to hold county membership drives in Districts 5, 9, 11 and 14, and assigned the respective district directors to serve as the chair for each of these drives along with other directors in their area as assigned.

It was approved to send a telegram to the Secretary of Agriculture and the President of the United States supporting the lifting of the grain embargo. In addition, it was recommended that letters addressed to President Reagan, Secretary Block and Secretary Haigh, along with petitions, be sent to members, farm equipment dealers and elevators requesting an end to the embargo with the letter to be forwarded through NCGA.

Plans were presented for the third annual Soy-Corn Conference to be held Feb. 3-5, 1981. The state yield contest winners were to be honored, ADM was to be recognized for a special award of



Fructose exhibit



Board members - front row: Floyd Schultz, Jerry Carney, Tim Trotter, Fred Werts, Maurice Grodon, John Campen, Melody Taylor; back row: George Anselm, Norris Lesley, Dain Friend, David Gaines, Rolland Main, Lou Faivre, John Beatty, Lewis Asher, Ernie Linden, Bob Frazee, Jim Hoeft, Gary Bohn, Bill Furry

the recapturing of CO<sub>2</sub> and recycling it for use in hydroponics and a Distinguished Service Award was to be presented to Senator Percy (this award was done jointly with LOLSA).

Several board members met with Doug Schneider and Marty Andreas of ADM to discuss ways of increasing the visibility of ICGA.

Fructose promotions were held in different areas, and the board voted to promote fructose at the summer meeting of the Home Economics Association. The board approved the design and purchase of placemats to be used for various promotions and it was decided to send fructose samples and placemats to each director. Also, the board voted to send letters to county farm bureau managers, women's committee chairwomen, marketing committee chairpersons and seed dealers about the availability of fructose information.

*NCGA* - It was decided to use the same procedure as in the past for selecting delegates to the NCGA Annual Meeting. In July, George Anselm, William Furry and Maurice Gordon were elected for another three-year term on the NCGA Board. It was also approved to have the Illinois delegates present a resolution to the NCGA Annual Meeting that National Corn Growers be willing to adopt a dues structure for three- year memberships, or at least give a one-year notice for

dues change. In addition, the board voted to encourage NCGA to request a study by the USDA on the effects of the embargo on American agriculture and the economy. At the August meeting, the board approved to run the NCGA Corn Yield Contest beginning in 1982.

## 1981-82

Rollie Main announced his decision to resign from the board within the next few months to pursue other goals. With the election of officers at the February 4, 1982, meeting, a new succession of presidents for the association began with Dain Friend being elected. Dain indicated that he had a goal of passing a corn checkoff referendum by the end of 1983.

The board voted at their July meeting to hire additional personnel until January 31, with subsequent employment to be reviewed at a later date and authorized the Executive Committee to act on the manager's recommendation. Melody Taylor was hired for this position. At the September meeting, the board approved reimbursement of partial expenses to each ICGA board member attending the USFGC meeting and also to reimburse all expenses relating to checkoff activities. It was approved at the November meeting to purchase D & O insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000 for one year.

Extension Ex-Officio Directors - Charles Engelhardt was the original ex-officio member from Extension serving on the board. At the September meeting it was announced he had resigned and would be replaced by Bob Frazee from Marshall-Putnam County Extension. Walt Townsend replaced Bob Frazee in 1986, Mike Plumer replaced Walt in 1992 and served through 2010, and Russ Higgins replaced Mike in 2011.

Checkoff - Dain Friend announced the Executive Committee would be meeting with the IFB Business Services Committee on March 17. On the same date they also met with Keith Heffernen of the Iowa Corn Growers Association regarding background on Iowa's corn referendum. It was approved to continue to pursue preparation for a checkoff and to form an Agri-Business Advisory Committee. Dain Friend noted that a meeting had been scheduled with Director Werries for March 23.

At the meeting in June, Dain Friend and Lou Faivre updated the board on referendum activities, noting that the legislation was on the governor's desk for signature. Twenty-five hundred signatures of producers were needed to support the referendum and were necessary to ask the Director to appoint a temporary board. The board moved to proceed to initiate a corn checkoff referendum and it was noted that IFB & ICGA would work together to make all the plans for the referendum. Fred Werts suggested a letter be drafted to Harold Dodd of Illinois Farmers Union indicating that ICGA was proceeding with plans for a checkoff referendum and that we would like to meet with his organization for their help in developing the program. After discussion, it was suggested this letter also be sent to all farm organizations and committee groups stating ICGA's intentions to sponsor a corn checkoff, asking for their support and seeking dates to sit down with their executive committees to resolve any differences for the betterment of agriculture in Illinois. Also, it was voted to send letters and petitions to county farm bureau managers and the ICGA membership announcing that ICGA was pursuing the establishment of a corn checkoff program



Director of Ag Larry Werries  
pictured with checkoff ballots

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*

in Illinois. SB1212 was the legislative bill for the Corn Marketing Program, and it was suggested letters be sent to Senator John Maitland, Representative Gordon Ropp, and Dean Sears and his staff, thanking them for all their help in getting this passed in the House and Senate.

At the September meeting, the referendum backgrounder was distributed to each board member. It was announced that informational hearings on the checkoff would be held Sept. 13-16, 1982, and a statewide hearing was scheduled for Sept. 20, 1982, in Springfield. The board approved support of the Proposed Marketing Program established for the Temporary Corn Marketing Board. It was decided to conduct the referendum vote by a mail-out ballot. Therefore, a list was obtained from the ASCS office and ballots were mailed to 250,000+ producers on November 24, 1982. Ballots were to be returned to the Department of Ag by December 15. The referendum passed by a 59.1 percent margin with 38,811 “yes” votes and 26,856 “no” votes.

*NCGA* - At the December 1, 1981 meeting, Lou Faivre was elected to the NCGA Board.

### *Highlights from Dain Friend*

Dain first got involved in the Macon County Farm Bureau, which helped form Macon County Corn Growers. Macon County was one of the counties who helped get membership for the Illinois Corn Growers Association, and Bob Muehling was the manager of the Macon County Farm Bureau at that time. From Dain’s recollection, all of the county farm bureaus helped to select the original board members for the Illinois Corn Growers Association, and Dain was one of those.

An organization was needed to represent corn growers on issues concerning them as well as promoting the product, because everyone growing corn thought they were not getting enough return on their time, effort, and investment. In the early days there was a lot of IFB involvement, especially with staff, and there was a lot of discussion



Dain Friend

about whether corn growers should stay under IFB. The Illinois Soybean Association was in place several years before ICGA started. IFB had an organization that represented all kinds of Ag issues in Illinois, but there was a substantial difference in philosophies between livestock and corn. Over time as commodity prices had declined, land values had followed suit.

One of the biggest issues Dain recalled was some very heated discussions on ethanol, and it took a long time for ethanol to become a true national product. Dain recalls a big event encouraged by Iowa Corn Growers Association, and held at ADM, focused on ethanol and its potential use in gasoline. A lot of people, including Illinois Farmers Union, participated in this event trying to kick off the use of ethanol. There was a lot of ethanol discussion, but no action steps resulted.

Dain reiterated that ICGA participated in getting the National Corn Growers formulated into a true national organization, as it was a challenge to get it moved away from Walter Goeppinger and his cronies. The general process started at the county level, to the state level, and up to the national level. A great deal of time was spent in negotiations to get the national organization formed. Illinois and Iowa corn growers were instrumental in that effort with Illinois somewhat leading the charge, because national was based in Iowa for a long time. A lot of time was spent traveling to Iowa during this time.

When it came time to work on the checkoff program, the board had a lot of discussions in trying to draft the legislation. There was quite a bit of debate among ICGA, IFB, and Harold Dodd, President of Illinois Farmers Union (IFU) because each organization's philosophies were different. Dain believed one of the reasons the first referendum for the checkoff was defeated was because of negative publicity put out by IFU. Prior to the second referendum vote, meetings were held with IFB to gain support, and one of the factors which made it favorable to IFB was the right to refund. Dain remembers presenting testimony at a congressional hearing held in Springfield and people didn't like his statement that all the corn that was to be shipped to Russia should be dumped in the ocean. The corn market was depressed for a long time. Dain noted, "At that time, everyone believed it was the role of the government to market the corn. The country really needed an aggressive push finding new markets and that was one of the big themes used in promoting the checkoff. The USFGC was instrumental in getting money for the referendum from their member companies, and the Council was incredibly involved in promoting the checkoff. Pioneer was supportive with a lot of their senior staff involved, as well as other seed companies. Of course, the USFGC knew they would be benefactors which made them very supportive. Several meetings were held with them before things got going. Other companies involved with helping support the checkoff effort included Bill Stolle, senior executive from John Deere, and Monsanto. Support from the University of Illinois was solicited as it was pointed out they would benefit in research dollars coming to them. Most of the U of I research was focused on production research and how to grow more corn. However, the checkoff legislation said dollars could only be used for utilization research. The Farm Broadcasters were supportive throughout the campaign on the checkoff referendum. When the checkoff passed, Rick Tolman of USFGC was the contact person who spent a lot of time in giving advice and was the go-between in getting the money to fund the referendum vote. There were two referendum votes before the checkoff program passed."

*Pictures provided by IFB Family of Companies*



Director of Ag Larry Werries with Dain Friend



Mike Hennenfent and Dain Friend

In summary, Dain noted that it took quite a while to get the organization off the ground. Then the next focus was on getting the checkoff. In Dain's opinion, there were challenges in getting ICMB up and going, and they didn't want to have much to do with ICGA. It took quite awhile for some people to come around to the fact that everything was for Illinois corn. Some of the people on ICMB had never been involved in any farm organization, so it was an educational process for them. According to Dain, "This all created a little strife early on, but every organization has growing pains."

### **1982-83**

It was announced at the November 1982 meeting that Sheila Taylor had been hired as a new staff person to help with office operations.

Effective January 1, 1982, there were 322 memberships which had expired. Therefore, the committee felt more emphasis needed to be put on retaining current members. Upcoming membership drives were scheduled in Grundy, Madison, St. Clair, McLean, and Douglas Counties with optional drives for Randolph, Livingston and Edgar Counties. It was noted that Illinois did offer to manage membership for NCGA, but Iowa had a lower bid. A membership incentive program was approved at the November meeting, offering a free registration to the Soy-Corn Conference for any member who signed up ten new members.

It was decided to pursue the idea of sending the newsletter to more than just the membership. The board also approved participation in the National Association of Farm Broadcasters meeting in Indiana by the manager and three directors. A news release was to be sent out urging farmers to participate in the set-aside program.



John Campen visiting with John Block  
at a reception with Meredith Worner  
at back left and Ila Asher back right

At the June meeting, it was approved to sponsor a new program presented by Art Sechrest from WJBC Radio called “News for Corn Growers”. This was a radio program with distribution to a Legislative action approved during the year included: sending a letter to the membership urging support of the Reduced Acreage Program (RAP); sending a press release on ICGA’s position on the Schnittker Report and Reduced Acreage Program; sending the Schnittker Report to Illinois Congressmen along with a cover letter; supporting compliance of present farm programs and supporting any new and innovative programs that would help support the surplus we have.

Ray Stanhope with A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company met with the board at their June meeting. He noted that Staley’s was working on a dry corn sweetener which should be available in five years, as they believed the liquid sweetener was much too sticky and not economical to use.

The board voted to send a letter to the entire membership inviting them to join the corn-soybean tour, but it would be on a first-come basis since there was a limited number that could be accommodated.

During this year, there was discussion at more than one meeting regarding the elevator bankruptcy legislation. Fred Werts had suggested the possibility of a checkoff for a grain recovery fund, but the board voted to let a private insurer be responsible for individual losses due to elevator failures. Maurice Gordon suggested the possibility of meeting with the ASCS concerning the Uniform Certification date.

NCGA - Harold Mooberry and Rolland Main were elected to the NCGA Board. It was noted that NCGA expects attendance at their annual meeting to be between 2,000 and 2,500 with approximately 250 booths. The board recommended that NCGA manage the convention.

## *Chapter Two*

### **1983-1992**

**B**eginning with the year 1983, much of the history on administrative issues affected both the Illinois Corn Growers Association and the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. You will find this history recorded at the beginning of each chapter.

One of the first issues after passing the referendum and the creation of the first Illinois Corn Marketing Board was discussion about a contract with ICGA for management and administrative services. ICGA already had a 14-month contract in place which would give ICMB ample time to get started and determine their satisfaction with the arrangement. It was decided the Executive Committees of ICMB and ICGA should meet to negotiate a contract and bring it back to the boards for final approval. However, it was noted that the importance of maintaining separate and distinct identities for the two organizations should be kept in mind.

A management contract was approved, effective April 15, 1983, for management and secretarial services for a period of seventeen ½ months. In addition, a five-year contract for equipment was approved with an agreement between the two boards that ICMB would assume the office lease and purchase the equipment should the two organizations separate.

To aid in managing this agreement, it was decided to form an eight-member Business Services Committee with four directors from the ICGA Board and four directors from the ICMB board. The first ICMB members appointed to serve on this committee were Meredith Worner, Wayne Bechtel, Lawrence Woessner and Clem Newton, treasurer. ICGA's initial policy included two officers to be selected by the four officers and two directors selected by the entire board.

In July of 1986, the contract agreements between ICGA and ICMB went to a 50-50 split rather than 80-20 at which it began. The ICMB Board had some discussion about whether it was necessary to go through IAA for management services, but it was pointed out that IAA already had a benefit package, a credit union, and a good library which could be utilized for research material. It would be more costly for Illinois Corn to provide these benefits by themselves. At the September 1986 meeting, ICMB approved the agreement between ICMB and IAA.

The next issue for discussion was the major concern of whether the office should remain in the IAA Building. Apparently, some of the ICMB directors had learned during the referendum vote there was concern by some producers that ICMB should have an office located somewhere other



Campen Washington St



ICGA-ICMB Office Signs



Jana Smith & Scott Bidner at Washington St Office

than the IAA Building. In a discussion about the location of the office, Dain Friend noted that ICMB should be the one to determine the location and it was decided that the office should be in Bloomington. A three-year lease was signed for office space at 2415 E. Washington Street in Bloomington, effective May 15, 1983

*Illinois Checkoff History* - In June of 1990, the board voted to hold a referendum asking for an increase in the Illinois checkoff rate from  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. The actual vote was conducted on March 5, 1991, by walk-in vote at Extension Offices, and it was defeated with a vote of 44 percent in favor and 56 percent opposed.

In fiscal year 1986 there were some concerns regarding staffing, and the ICMB board voted to retain an employee consulting group to help with this and to determine the effectiveness of the checkoff program. The consulting group hired was the Mountain State's Employer Council. It was also decided to form a Human Resources Committee consisting of four members from ICGA and four members from ICMB. The first ICMB members were Gerald Carney, Larry Harbaugh, Joe Hampton and Curtis Bradley and the ICGA members were Jim Hoeft, Mike Hennenfent, Tim Trotter and Steve Wentworth. In June of 1986, ICMB voted to become the agency that employed the staff and ICGA would have the opportunity to contract with ICMB for staff services.



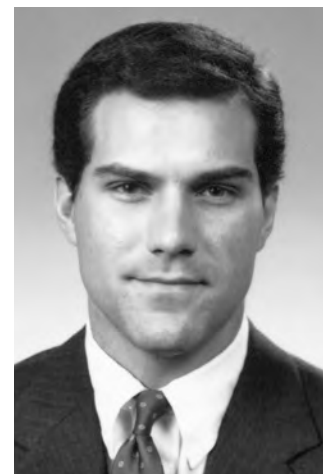
L-r: Rod Weinzierl, Jana Smith, Diane Thompson, Scott Bidner, Ann Hodgson, Mark Lambert

At the June, 1987 meeting, a new staff position called Field Services Director was approved.

A history of programming staff positions during this decade was as follows:

- 1986 Melody Taylor resigned as communications director  
Ginny Shriver hired as communications director
- 1987 Job description approved for a new staff position called Field Services Director  
John Campen resigned as Executive Director to become Domestic Market Development Director at NCGA  
Scott Bidner, Director of Market Development named Acting Executive Director
- 1988 Scott Bidner named Executive Director  
Rodney Weinzierl hired as Market Development Director  
Mark Lambert hired as Communications Director
- 1990 Scott Bidner resigned as Executive Director  
Jack Fisher hired as Executive Director
- 1991 Jim Eichhorst hired as the first Field Services Director
- 1993 Jack Fisher resigned as Executive Director  
Rodney Weinzierl named Executive Director

Most years both boards participated with some type of exhibit at the Illinois State Fair, and every two or three years there was an exhibit at the Farm Progress Show. A history of that participation is outlined in this next section.



Scott Bidner,  
Executive Director



Jack Fisher,  
Executive Director



Rodney Weinzierl,  
Executive Director



Pictured are Orion Samuelson next to the corn cylinder, Kent Chidley 4th from the left and Larry Chamness next with others being county representatives



Director of Ag Larry Werries with ethanol tractor

*ILLINOIS STATE FAIR* - The exhibit in 1984 included a cylinder filled with corn as shown in this picture.

In 1985 an ethanol tractor was on display at the Illinois Corn exhibit.

In 1986, a proposal was presented for a Commodity Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds and both boards voted to participate. Other commodity groups involved, in addition to ICGA and ICMB, were Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board, Land of Lincoln Soybean Association, the Illinois Beef Council, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers, Inc. and American Dairy Association of Illinois. Representatives from each group staffed booths and handed out appropriate literature. In addition, this building housed food stands selling tasty products prepared by Pork Producers, Beef Council, Dairy Association and the Lamb Producers, with ICMB providing fructose packets to sweeten iced tea at each area.



l-r: Scott Bidner, Gene Lane, Ciba-Geigy representative, Kent Chidley at State Fair



Exhibit at Commodity Building



McKee race car at State Fair



l-r: Terry Taylor, Terry Ferguson, Fred Reichert, Gov. Edgar

In 1988, it was decided to have a booth on the first floor of the Illinois Building at the State Fair which would be a static display. In addition, for the exhibit at the Commodity Building, it was decided to bring in an ethanol race car and a flex fuel vehicle for the state fair display. Biodegradable bags were also distributed to those visiting our exhibit.

In 1989, it was decided to have an ethanol car at the display in the Commodity Building. In addition, Orion Samuelson drove a flexible fueled car from Chicago to the State Fair and talked about this on his Noon show. It was noted that Fred Werts made the contacts to get the car.

1990 - For the exhibit at the Commodity Building at the State Fair, it was decided to use one of the corn-carts, and these go-carts appeared in the parade. Other entries which appeared in the parade included a DENR float pulled by an ethanol powered tractor and an Illinois Corn display on the Iowa pick-up that ran on two hundred proof ethanol. Funding was approved for two ethanol powered vehicles for the office and promotion use.



Corn carts in parade with Fred Reichert in lead



Corn cart with billboard

Exhibit at the Commodity Building





E85 car exhibit at State Fair



Ribbon cutting at Ethanol Expo



Pictured at the State Fair exhibit in the front row are: Heather Hampton, IL Senator Frank Watson, Jim Eichhorst and LaVern Jordal; middle row: IL Director of Ag Becky Doyle, John Little (IFU), Governor Jim Edgar, Scott Durbin; back row: Daryl Reid, Joe Hampton, Chris Hampton, Jack Fisher, county person, Terry Taylor



l-r: Director of Ag Becky Doyle, Gov. Edgar, GP Transit head, Scott Durbin, Jack Moore, DENR



Gov Edgar speaking at Ethanol Expo

1991 - An exhibit was placed in the Commodity Building

1992 - The governor produced the idea for a new Ethanol Expo Building. Since the governor had been supportive on ethanol issues, the boards decided it would be good to be involved with this project and committed funding toward it.



l-r: Sec of Ag Ed Madigan, Leland Behnken, Bob Fitzpatrick, Mike Hoeft



Vice President Al Gore



Vice President Al Gore

Illinois Corn had two exhibit areas at the fair this year, one at the Commodity Building and one at the Ethanol Expo. Items on display in the exhibit were the ethanol car, an over-the-road truck, a city bus and a tractor. “Ethanol Day” was declared for August 22 and dignitaries at the fair included Governor Jim Edgar, Vice President Al Gore, Senator Carol Moseley Braun and Congressmen Richard Durbin and Glen Poshard. A press conference was held at the State Fair announcing an ethanol powered GM vehicle, the Chevrolet Lumina.

*FARM PROGRESS SHOW* – These shows were held in alternating years in the states of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. For the first year, the board approved participation in the Farm Progress Show in an invitation only booth space. One suggestion was to have the CORNucopia exhibit. It was felt this would be an opportune time to educate farmers on the differences between ICMB and ICGA, as well as NCGA and NCDF. Approval was given to purchase a six-panel tabletop display for use at the Farm Progress Show. In addition, the board approved funding a Soviet Trade Team visit to the Farm Progress Show. White caps with the ICMB logo were purchased for ICMB directors to wear at the show and candy corn was also given away.

Thereafter, both ICMB and ICGA had a joint exhibit at each Farm Progress Show held in Illinois which in the beginning was in various parts of the state. In 2005 the Farm Progress Show opened a permanent site in Decatur, Illinois, located near Richland College.

1991 - With the Farm Progress show being in Illinois, it was decided to place some ethanol billboards in the areas of travel to the show. The Volkswagen Jetta E85 car arrived in time for the Farm Progress Show. Also on display was the corn cart and the corn character, Captain Cornelius.



E85 Jetta for office staff use pictured with IL Senator O'Daniels and Terry Taylor



Jim Eichhorst talking with a trade team



Clem Newton with a trade team



Paul Compton with a trade team

*TRADE TEAMS* - At the December meeting in 1983, it was proposed that a joint committee of ICGA and ICMB directors be appointed to draw up guidelines for handling trade teams. ICMB decided at a meeting in 1984, to gather information for working with trade teams, to send a questionnaire to each of the directors to obtain background information about their farming operations as well as interest in hosting trade teams. The Board also approved joint sponsorship of foreign trade teams between ICMB and ICGA.

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1983 | Trade teams from Japan, Nigeria, and Bulgaria were hosted |
| 1991 | Japanese Trade Team visited the farm of Paul Compton      |
|      | Egyptian Trade Team visited Farm Progress Show            |

## **ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**1983-84**



Officers - Jim Hoeft, Floyd Schultz,  
George Anselm, Tim Trotter

SPECIAL NOTE: Dain Friend was commended by the board for his services and his leadership in getting the checkoff passed. Also, the board extended a debt of gratitude to Bill Mullins who had announced his retirement from the board.

The date of April 6, 1983 was selected as the first meeting of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. ICGA decided to host a dinner for the new ICMB board on April 6.

A reimbursement policy for board members, effective in the new fiscal year was as follows: Covered actual room rate, twenty cents per mile and no food costs for all state meetings and national meetings except the Washington, DC meeting; reimbursement for expenses to the Washington, DC meeting included air fare. However, if the director received reimbursement from another source, they were not eligible for reimbursement by ICGA. In addition, travel expenses for directors attending the National Board meeting in Minneapolis on Sept. 14-16, 1983, were to be covered.

To help with increasing membership, it was decided to concentrate on forming county organizations, with a goal of getting ten county organizations established by April of 1984. Possible counties identified were Champaign, Grundy, Knox, Tazewell, Ogle and Madison, although it was not limited to just those counties. Champaign County Corn Growers and Grundy County Corn Growers held their first meetings on March 24, 1983. It was approved to invite county organizations to designate a representative to attend ICGA board meetings.

*Dues* - In March it was voted to change the return of dues to active county associations who turned in a program of work to be as follows: \$4 for each new member signed for one year; \$6 to each three-year new member signed; \$1 for each one-year renewal and \$3 for each three-year renewal. Each member signing a new member would receive \$10 but the county would not receive any return of dues for those members.

The newly established Grundy County Corn Growers held a successful field day on Sept. 1, 1983, called the first Corn Power Show which featured an 80-acre corn variety plot in Mazon, Illinois with hybrids from twenty-three companies. Attendance was approximately 3,000 people. This became an annual event for several years.

Some of the action in the legislative area included: 1) Support the PIK program; 2) Develop a questionnaire to be mailed to membership regarding policy development; 3) Draft letters on the Quayle bill, blended credit programs for corn and cargo preference; 4) Support the concept of the Bedell bill, which based taxes more closely on the amount the vehicle was used rather than ownership; 5) Send a telegram to Secretary Block urging reduction of acreage down to the point of attaining a 15 percent stock to utilization ratio, accept sufficient acreage to allow for 20 percent RAP only participation and to accept enough whole base bids to attain a 50 percent reduction in base corn acres in any county; 6) Go on record in opposition to the Cargo Preference legislation; 7) Recommend NCGA support a freeze on target and loan prices for the upcoming year.



l-r: George Anselm, Floyd Schultz, Tim Trotter, Terry Taylor, Cong Bruce, Joe Hampton, Dain Friend, Gerald Carney

On September 18, 1983, PepsiCo, Inc. announced it would be increasing the amount of fructose (corn syrup) in its fountain syrup of Pepsi-Cola and Regular Pepsi Free from 50% to 80%.

At the annual meeting a Distinguished Service Award was given to Illinois Farm Bureau. The ICGA booth promoted membership and a PIK computer program was also available.

NCGA - The NCGA convention in Springfield was scheduled for July 17-19, and it was noted that NCGA would be managing the convention. Dain Friend was appointed to explore a plan with NCGA regarding expansion of NCGA into other states. At the March board meeting, it was approved to expand ICGA's present contract with NCGA to include personnel and/or informational materials to aid various states with checkoff programs.

## 1984-85



Officers Mike Hennenfent, Floyd Schultz, Jim Hoeft, Tim Trotter



l-r: Floyd Schultz, Tim Trotter, George Anselm

A major membership push was done at the Farm Progress Show to help with increasing membership. Also, it was approved to work with seed corn companies on a promotion program for Corn Grower memberships. A new county group was established March 1, 1984, in Wayne County.

In the legislative area, the farm bill was one of the major discussions. The board voted to go on record to support the 1984 Farm Program to the maximum. To prepare for the 1985 Farm Bill, it was decided to hold an Ag Forum on June 18, 1984, for the purpose of drafting input. The board established a policy development and resolutions committee composed of delegates from county associations, with two delegates for up to one hundred members and one delegate for each additional one hundred members. In addition, George Anselm testified before the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in Springfield on the 1985 Farm Bill. In his opening comments, he addressed the goal of the Corn Growers Association, which was to improve and protect corn markets and to build a better business climate for farming.

The Sierra Club had filed a lawsuit against the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, which involved revoking eight new barge fleeting permits issued to Naples Terminal Company. This company serviced more than 4,000 farmers and 250 grain elevators in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and other nearby states. After discussion, the board voted to contact IFB on voicing opposition to the lawsuit. Further action was to send letters to the membership asking them to write letters of opposition to the Sierra Club and to their congressmen.

A new by-product of the wet corn milling process coming to the forefront was corn gluten feed. It was noted that gluten feed was proving to be an effective and economical feed source for both beef and dairy operations, and for gestating sows. At this point in time, the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) was the only marketer of this corn-gluten feed. To help awareness of this product, ICGA, ICMB, and Illinois Dept. of Agriculture sponsored a series of six informational and educational seminars for any interested persons. ADM agreed to pay part of the costs and provide speakers. The seminars were held in March in Okawville, Litchfield,

Jacksonville, Macomb, Woodhull and Freeport. The overall attendance at these seminars was reported at 465. In addition, DeKalb County held a corn gluten meeting with approximately seventy-five farmers in attendance. Approximately seventy tons of corn gluten was being used in 1984.

Other significant facts which happened during this year were: 1) USDA announced that corn syrup demand was expected to increase 10 percent by 1984, which would call for an additional 24.2 million bushels of corn; 2) Coke moved to increase the amount of High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) in its bottled and canned Coke and Caffeine-Free Coke from 50 percent to 75 percent; 3) Gerald Carney attended a Sweetener symposium meeting in Chicago, which was the first meeting of its kind.

NCGA - It was indicated at the July meeting that the Corn Yield Contest contract would remain in Illinois for at least one more year.



Back row, l-r: Bob Fitzpatrick, Walt Townsend, Daryl Reid, Arlen Ruestman; second row: Floyd Schultz, Mike Hennenfent, Sterve Wentworth, Scott Dubin, Bill Furry; front row: Larry Chamness, Kent Chidley, Jim Hoefrt, Tim Trotter, Gene Lane, Fred Werts

## 1985-86

A third classification for membership, called "Supporting Members," was adopted for agri-business with annual dues set at \$500. The first seven members were: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., (Illinois-Wisconsin Division), Pekin Energy, Burrough's Trucking Company, Bo-Jac Hybrid Corn Co., P-A-G Seeds, Wyffels Hybrids and A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company.

Knox County Corn Growers held their organizational meeting on March 12 and Macon County Corn Growers organized in June. Annual meetings were held by Winnebago County Corn Growers and Wayne County Corn Growers, who announced results from their county crop tour. Wayne County also converted an International Harvester tractor to run on two hundred proof ethanol and displayed it at numerous Ag shows. Will County handed out fructose samples and snacks made with fructose at the Joliet Mall.

Significant activity of board directors included: 1) John Beatty was appointed to a Governor's Task Force seeking long-term and short-term solutions to farm problems in Illinois; 2) Jim Hoeft submitted written testimony regarding the Illinois Department of Transportation's proposed drainage regulations; 3) Larry Chamness, along with other farm leaders including IFB President John White, Jr., participated in a closed door session in Indianapolis with Secretary of Agriculture John Block where they urged the secretary to take administrative action to provide financial relief to debt-stricken farmers; 4) Steve Wentworth participated with other members of the Governor's Task Force to lobby for a farm program which would allow farmers to obtain one-third of the price support loan money this spring, generally not available until fall.

ICGA along with Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Beef Council, Associated Milk Producers, Illinois Farm Bureau and similar commodity organizations in Indiana, participated in a "Salute to Agriculture" event sponsored by the Chicago Bears and WGN held at the August 17 Bears/Indianapolis Colts Exhibition Game at Soldier Field.

NCGA - Dain Friend was elected NCGA President.

### 1986-87



Board members, back row l-r: Ginny Shriver, Leland Behnken, Rollie Moore, Kent Kleinschmidt, Bob Fitzpatrick, Walt Townsend, Arlen Ruestman, Ron Grabowski, Daryl Reid, Larry Chamness, Ann Hodgson; front row: Duane Noland, Gene Novack, Fred Reichert, Gene Lane, Kent Chidley, Dean Shields, Scott Durbin, Scott Bidner

A new membership program called "Adopt-A-County" was approved. Under this program, active county associations were to choose a neighboring county to help get established. Current county groups at this time were: Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Knox, St. Clair, Wayne, Will, Winnebago and Macon. McLean County Corn Growers Association formed on March 7, 1986.

The four county corn grower associations from DeKalb, Winnebago, Will and Grundy passed out educational information to over 35,000 people who attended the Chicagoland Home and Flower Show at McCormick Place from March 6-9, and the sample fructose packets were well received. McLean County, in cooperation with the County Extension Service, held an "Ag Expo '86". Wayne County helped farmers in Lancaster County, South Carolina generate a total of sixteen boxcar loads of hay for rail shipment to the drought-stricken farmers.

President Tim Trotter presented plaques for lifetime membership to Gerald Carney pictured on the left and Dain Friend on the right



Also, in the membership area, it was approved to give a lifetime membership to past national presidents in keeping with NCGA's policy. The two past national presidents recognized were Gerald Carney and Dain Friend.

County reimbursement of dues were continued at \$1 for each one-year renewal, \$3 for each three-year renewal and \$6 for a three-year new; changed to \$3 for a one-year new; and a new reimbursement of \$50 for a county signing a supporting member. The amount of dues submitted to NCGA was \$15 for a one-year membership and \$30 for a three-year membership.

The board voted not to form a Political Action Committee (PAC) after surveying the membership. However, the board noted it needed to more clearly identify how legislative activities and the work of the Legislative Committee were managed.

A success came in ICGA's effort to change the date of closing the LaGrange and Peoria locks on the Illinois River for rehabilitation work from January and February 1987 to July and August. U.S. corn exports were more reliant on the Illinois River during the January to March period, averaging over the last five years 76.6 million bushels of corn shipments during the January-February period versus 33.3 million bushels in July-August.

It was announced during this year that Staley Continental, Inc. developed a line of crystalline fructose sweeteners which would allow partial replacement of dry sugar in selected processed foods. The product, called "Crystar," was to be produced at A. E. Staley.

Terry Taylor presented testimony before two U.S. House Agriculture Subcommittees on the issue of grain quality.

NCGA - National requested Illinois continues overseeing the corn yield contest for 1986.

*Highlights from John Beatty*



John Beatty speaking

Originally, John got involved with the organization because he was appointed as the interlocking director from IFB to serve on the ICGA board. Being a corn producer, he found they were trying to help corn farmers improve their lot. When he went off the IFB Board, he could no longer serve on ICGA. So, he then got involved a few years later by serving on the ICMB board.

While serving on the board, John had the opportunity to meet a lot of people from different farm organizations, and he noted he was amazed about the number of board members he was able to visit with during that period of time. Not only did he get acquainted with Illinois board members but also members of other states on a national level, such as representatives to USFGC, USMEF and USAPEEC. John noted, “You soon realize there are a number of people influencing a lot of different parts of agriculture and dealing with the U.S. government. For example, you see the value of the USFGC which travels around the world to market our product. The funding it receives from the member organizations are matched by the government. Only about two percent of the people are in Ag production, but Ag employs a lot of people, and you cannot help but want to be a part of it.”

Through being involved with Illinois Corn, John was able to meet with a lot of talented people and learn from them as well as learning to collaborate with them. He met John Block and got to be a friend of his when they were both young farmers in IFB. John then met with him while he was Secretary of Agriculture in DC. As John noted, “You become better informed of what is going on around the world which makes you a better person.”

One of the assets John noted while serving on the board was having good staff members that kept the board members informed. With Illinois being a big state, there are a lot of different ideas, depending upon the area and this allows for meeting with people and learning to work out a solution to a lot of problems and challenges. One of the research projects John remembers funding through ICMB was about zein. The biggest issue was ethanol which was developed by Illinois Corn and the Ag industry, and he felt that was the issue which really came to the forefront. Every fifth row of corn goes into ethanol. John noted that he has a car that burns E85 and as a dedicated supporter, he has promoted it forever.



Beatty passing out gift to trade team member  
with Cheryl Niemeyer in back

Beatty on an overseas mission -  
pictured to far right

While serving on ICMB, John participated in a USGC mission to China and Russia. It was a business trip where they met with government officials and had experiences that John will never forget. As John noted, “Those people like to converse with the actual guys who grow the corn and get their hands and feet dirty. They do not particularly want to deal with politicians and really seemed to like the interaction with the actual farmers. However, most of those wanting to buy corn from the U.S. were talking about volumes that an individual farmer could not handle, as even a barge load is 55,000 bushels of corn.” For this reason, grain companies along the river in Louisiana and Mississippi handle the shipping of grain. One of the big problems in grain shipment is cracking of the corn by the time it gets to the destination, but John feels that containerized shipping has helped that considerably. Consolidated Grain & Barge would call John up and deal with him when he had a grain dealer’s license. John further noted, “When a group visits the U.S., they would have about thirty people for one translator and that poor translator wore out because those people chatter so fast.” John knows a person in Springfield who brought a lot of people to the Springfield area to see corn production and U.S. agriculture.

John was favorably impressed with the board members during his whole time of service. And John noted he has been around long enough to know that many people get elected for their own purposes, which is not a good thing. As he noted, “A vast majority participated in the discussions.

I felt like you could be on opposite sides of an issue, but when discussions were over, then go out and eat dinner together. It was a good and diverse group of corn producers, with some just growing and selling corn and others feeding hogs or cattle. So, not everyone had the same viewpoint, but they always came to an agreeable solution.” When John served as chairperson of a committee, he would call the office to review the agenda and try to get a timeline put together for a committee meeting, then do the work of the committee and give a report. John further noted that the amount off checkoff money in today’s world is miniscule to other things that he does, and he feels the checkoff gets a big bang for their buck. When you consider NCGA has about twenty-seven affiliated states, putting all the money together makes a good force.

### 1987-88



Board members, l-r: Ann Hodgson, Gene Novack, Mark Fulton, Larry Chamness, Paul Compton, Mike Wagner, Kent Kleinschmidt, Walt Townsend, Rollie Moore, Dean Shields, Dennis Bogner, Rodney Weinzierl; front row: Scott Durbin, Fred Reichert, Leland Behnken, Daryl Reid, Scott Bidner, Bob Fitzpatrick, Kent Chidley

Effective January 1, 1987, a board member attendance policy was developed. A change in the bylaws was adopted to match NCGA’s policy on term limits: officers could serve only two consecutive years in the same office but be re-elected if out of office for one year; directors were allowed to serve three consecutive, three-year terms with portions or unexpired terms not counting towards the three years.

*Dues* - A change was made in the reimbursement of dues to counties to increase the amount from \$3 to \$5 for a one-year new membership. A membership incentive program was adopted to send along with renewal notices. A person renewing their membership could get \$5 off their membership if they enclosed a check for one new member, and if they enclosed the membership dues for six new members, their membership would be free. Another program adopted was called “Seeds for Progress,” which gave all seed companies in Illinois an option to give a one-year membership to all customers who increased their seed corn order by ten bags from the previous year. The newest county organization to form was Kankakee County.

A successful "Corn Day" was held on June 2, 1987, at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Stationary exhibits were on display showing the utilization of corn and there was a lunch for the public and media. Circulation of the annual and quarterly reports was increased to include all farmers who planted 50+ acres of corn.

A voluntary legislative contributions program began. This was done when the association identified a need to expand efforts of the legislative activity. One of the major lobbying needs now was the U.S. sugar program. With some of the contributions received, ICGA hosted a dinner for Congressmen, Senators and their agricultural legislative aides in Washington, DC during the NCGA meeting in March.

The possibility of the next major impact on corn yields was reported by several Midwest universities as the ammonium form of nitrogen. Ammonium taken into the roots combined with sugars to form an amino acid and since these sugars are produced by photosynthesis in the stalk and leaves, by pulling these sugars down to the roots, you stimulate the plant to produce more. It was believed by researchers at this time that yield could accelerate as more information was gained about how hybrids responded to fertilizer.

A ruling was made Friday, March 6 by the Canadian Import Tribunal that U.S. corn exports were causing material injury to Canadian corn farmers and the Canadian government. With that decision, permanent countervailing duties of 84.9 cents per bushel were to be assessed on all U.S. corn exported to Canada.

A series of commercials on corn sweeteners aired on the Paul Harvey News on the WGN Radio Network from March - September. It was noted at this period that corn sweeteners were a major market for corn, using 530 million bushels annually.

Because of a low sign-up, it was decided this year to drop the annual crop tour. M&W Gear Company started a pilot project in Illinois and Iowa in cooperation with National and Illinois Corn Growers. The company was to host a series of breakfast meetings for growers to improve farming, discuss soil management, new markets for corn and its Earthmaster Conservation Program.

On the legislative front, it was noted farmers needed to have conservation plans written by 1990 and in place by 1995.

## 1988-89



l-r: Daryl Reid, Leland Behnken, Scott Durbin, Fred Reichert, Kent Kleinschmidt



Executive Director Rod Weinzierl presenting county award plaque to Paul Rasmussen of DeKalb County



Dain Friend speaking at ASA Rally

At the end of the year, membership was reported at 3,527 which included thirty supporting members. A new county program was adopted to give awards to all counties for the areas in which they met requirements: 1) submit a program of work; 2) legislative; 3) membership; 4) public relations; 5) market development. Tazewell County had an organizational meeting on August 24. An example of the plaque presented to counties is shown in the following picture.

Gene Lane hosted the Chicago Farmers annual picnic at his farm on September 10. They had expressed an interest in letting their members know more about corn and its uses and heard the latest information on ethanol, corn sweeteners, and biodegradable plastics.

A new program called, "Sweetener Awareness Campaign," was designed to help maintain the present sugar program. Corn grower members appeared on various radio talk shows on Illinois radio stations telling consumers about the importance of corn sweeteners and their importance in maintaining the sugar program to help control the amount of subsidized sugar entering the U.S. A television advertising campaign was supported in part by ICMB. It consisted of four commercials, each lasting about thirty seconds. Each commercial had the theme "Corn Sweeteners Mean Good Things for Illinois". An American Sugar Alliance Rally was held on August 3 at Staley's in Decatur.



Degradable bag with ethanol message



Shows products made with corn

In the legislative area, all indications pointed to many changes coming in the Farm Bill, and it was felt the acceptance of a marketing loan program was inevitable.

In plastics, Market Development Chairman Bob Fitzpatrick met twice with Illinois Senator Jerome Joyce (D) on biodegradable plastics and testified in Springfield in support of corn starch-based plastics. Biodegradable bags were passed out at the State Fair.

New promotional supplies were ordered, including bumper stickers saying, "Ethanol Doesn't Need an Escort" and a new brochure entitled "More Fructose Facts". This brochure was developed with updated information on both liquid and granular (crystalline) fructose, including health information about the benefits of granular fructose.

County promotions were done by Knox County Corn Growers and Grundy County Corn Growers. Knox County conducted a grocery store promotion spotlighting food items containing corn which reached an estimated 5,000 shoppers in the store and up to 50,000 area residents through the media.

Grundy County did an innovative ethanol mail promotion by mailing a cardboard tube to every farmer in the county. Upon opening the carton, a corn cob fell out. The cob was a curiosity tool to entice the recipient to check out the other contents which included a poster with the message, "Where's The Corn?" That is right, FS sold the corn as Super Unleaded Gasoline (which contains 10 percent ethanol) and an informational sheet detailing the positive benefits of ethanol use was included. Ethanol buyers received a 10-cent per gallon discount during the promotion with a minimum delivery of two hundred gallons and a maximum of three hundred gallons. Kendall-Grundy County FS co-sponsored the project.

NCGA - The ICGA board adopted a policy that national directors from Illinois were required to participate in four ICGA board meetings per year in order to maintain their status as NCGA directors.

### *Highlights from Gene Lane*



Gene Lane working an exhibit

Back in 1974 Rollie Main went to DeKalb County to try to form a county corn grower group. When he left, the county decided to form a corn growers organization, and a local farmer encouraged Gene to join that group. Gene served on the DeKalb County Corn Growers Association for eight or nine years and went through the officer rotation. Then when the District 1 position became open, Gene decided to join the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

As far as personal growth, Gene noted that farmers have a different idea on how to do legislative work and deal with Washington. Agriculture has a lot less representation in Washington and Springfield nowadays and with the small number of farmers, Gene sees that farmers must let legislators know their problems by visiting and communicating with them. When Gene first became involved, he thought legislators from his area should know what his area looked like. Therefore, he did not feel it was necessary to call them all the time. But Gene learned you get further ahead by visiting with them, whether in Springfield or Washington. Gene noted that when you left a meeting with a legislator, they acted like they agreed with you. However, after the visit, you weren't sure whether you got your point across but at least they seemed like they were supportive, or at least got educated.

The year Gene served as president was hot and dry, and the local farmers told him they would give him that year if he could get the price of corn to \$3.00. Then, when the price got there, they didn't have the bushels of corn to sell because of the drought. Also, that year Gene was getting ready for a Chicago Farmers event at his farm in July when he fell off a ladder. That ended most of his activity for the remainder of the year. Since Gene lives close to Chicago, he was asked to host the Chicago Farmer group.

When Gene served on the board, there was some consideration given to building an office for Corn Growers. However, that didn't happen until later years after he was already off the board.

Gene related that during his year as president it was tough working with ICMB. ICMB seemed to want to watch their funds, which they felt were theirs to disperse. Although Gene realized that ICGA dealt with legislation and ICMB with research, he felt the money needed to be shared because membership dues couldn't cover all the expenses needed for programming. He thought ICMB should listen to the Corn Growers' side a little bit more. From Gene's perception there was a lot of power on ICMB, and they didn't give any of the Corn Growers the opportunity to participate in any foreign missions. Gene felt sure most corn growers felt their corn was being checked off too. As far as Gene was concerned, it was a little tough to communicate with ICMB board members.

Kent Chidley presenting past president plaque to Gene Lane



## 1989-1990



Officers Leland Behnken,  
Bob Fitzpatrick, Daryl Reid,  
Duane Noland

For the second year, Illinois received top membership status in the United States with a total membership of 3886. A new membership incentive program was offered through the ICMB Quarterly Report which included either a free ethanol sign for the farm or a red corduroy hat. Macon County Corn Growers formed. The return of dues to county associations was changed to

\$5 for one-year memberships and \$15 for three-year memberships (new and renewal), provided the counties met certain qualifications.

Some of the county programs for the year were: the table-top display constructed by Kankakee County, continued to be used in such places as bank lobbies as well as promotions on fructose and sweeteners throughout the year; Livingston County distributed Burma Shave ethanol signs and posts to be installed near Dwight, Flanagan, Streator and Fairbury; Macon County presented certificates for a dinner for two at their annual meeting to patrons of the Corn Belt FS company who purchased more than 1000 gallons of ethanol blended fuel in 1989; McLean County distributed thousands of ICGA placemats; Kane County sold hundreds of trees and when they were distributed, promoted degradable plastics made from corn; Kankakee County had a go-cart built to look like an ear of corn and used it in parades and promotions, with the car being made available to others for rent; Woodford County held an extravaganza for fourth graders, and Kent Kleinschmidt participated in that event. Livingston County also won the ICGA membership award of a \$500 scholarship for the biggest increase in members. One of their programs was to have a plot and the following pictures depict one of those plot tours.



Livingston County plot day





DC visit - pictured Joe Hampton, Jim Hoeft, Kent Chidley, Sterling Saline, Leland Behnken, Gene Lane, NCGA Board (2)

Public relations work through radio and TV was done for the NCGA “Clean Breeze Across Illinois” project.

The Legislative Committee, along with President Chidley, again went to Washington, DC and there was the largest attendance ever at the Congressional Reception, with about fifty people participating. During the visits, Corn Growers learned that the downstate Congresspeople were very receptive and familiar with ICGA activities and objectives. The urban Congresspeople were very receptive also, and their interest level was exceptionally good as a result of increasing exposure for ethanol and degradable plastics. Illinois Women for Agriculture became a notable ambassador for the corn-based biodegradable bags.

In the wake of the 1988 drought, increased attention was brought on crop insurance and the problems with the current program. A field hearing was held at Illinois State University, and Kent Chidley represented corn growers.

Gene Lane was appointed to an NCGA Environmental Task Force which had the mission to track environmental issues and provide factual feedback to corn growers. Scott Bidner represented ICGA and ICMB on the program of a conference called “The World Around Us: The Uncertain Future of the Environment”. This conference related to environmental issues and Mr. Bidner discussed the potential that agricultural resources like corn could have for providing sensible solutions to society’s environmental concerns.

With concern out in the countryside about problems experienced with herbicide carryover, the ICGA continued to monitor this situation. FMC and American Cyanamid officials agreed to process all damage claims involving their respective herbicides, Command and Scepter. The Illinois Department of Agriculture established a pesticide hotline which farmers could call.



Daryl Reid, Rollie Main and Scott Bidner  
meeting with Zimbabwe delegation



NCGA Board - back row, l-r: Larry Zabel, , David Meyer, Jack Kintzle (IA), Andy Quinn, Jr. (MN), Rod Gangwish ((NE), Marion Hartman (OH), Floyd Schultz; front row: Gene Lane, Randy Cruise(NE), Phil Aylward (MO), Tim Trotter, Pete Wenstrand (IA),

Representatives of the Commercial Grain Producers Association (CGPA) of Harare, Zimbabwe met with ICMB and ICGA to discuss U.S. production techniques, grain handling and traffic and the growing world of new uses for corn. Illinois leadership involved included Daryl Reid, ICGA president, Rolland Main, past ICGA president, Eldon Gould, ICMB vice chairperson and Scott Bidner, Executive Director. It was noted that Zimbabwe not only feeds its people but exports an increasing amount of corn.

NCGA - Steve Wentworth was elected chairperson of NCGA.

## *Highlights from Kent Chidley*

Kent speaking at Past  
Director Event in 2012



Kent got involved in Corn Growers through being on the county farm bureau board, and someone decided Corn Growers needed a representative from his district. Although Kent didn't remember the person's name, he had worked for International Harvester in the past and Kent remembers their discussion about John Deere versus International Harvester. Kent believes he was appointed to ICGA in the spring at about the same time that ICMB started, and he did get expenses reimbursed for attending meetings. As has been noted previously, Kent indicated that Bill Mullins spent a lot of money out of his own pocket to get things started. Bill's dad was incredibly involved in DeKalb County Farm Bureau. When Kent was first involved, the National Corn Yield Contest was managed in the Illinois office.

Kent noted that he grew personally by serving on the Corn Growers, both statewide and nationally. In his words, "This was the best time of my life, as I got to meet lots of people both within the state and all over the country. All my trips to DC were obviously very influential in learning all the ins and outs about what you had to do to get any farm legislation passed." Kent really enjoyed all the experiences he had with Corn Growers, more so than any board he served on.

One of the things Kent remembers most was at that time ICGA didn't have much money to get things done. At the same time, ICMB couldn't fund any lobbying work, or anything done on a national or state basis for supporting legislation. When it was learned that ICMB could sponsor programs that Corn Growers could operate, that's when ICGA received enough money to have good programs to accomplish things. As Kent noted, "Without funding from ICMB, ICGA certainly would have been unable to do all that they could finally do for corn growers."

The beginning of ethanol happened when Kent was first elected to serve on the board. There was a lot of discussion on what to do to get it promoted. Because of competition, there were continual fights with the petroleum people. Kent remembers hearing Jeff Gain say he was told by one of the oil companies that they had lots of attorneys in Chicago, and they would use all of them to fight Corn Growers to keep them out of their market. Ethanol was the center of board discussions and concerns for a long time. Kent remembers stating when he got off the board that we would have



Kent (in middle) pictured with media



Kent pictured with Decatur mayor  
in front of ethanol bus

a fight forever on ethanol. He noted this was evident when it was decided to try to market E15, as this gave the petroleum companies another reason to start arguing about it. Kent felt that the cost of getting blender pumps made available would make it a slow process, and the fact that the legislation was enacted to cover only newer vehicles produced in 2001 and later complicated the whole situation.

When ethanol was brought into Kent's county, he and Leonard Carmichael, who served on the IFB Board, both stored ethanol on their farms. Kent was running 20 percent ethanol in an old Buick, and the only problem he ever had was when he went out to dinner one night and it got cold while they were in the restaurant. The car didn't want to start right away. Later he found out you needed higher compression to burn ethanol more thoroughly.

There were all kinds of different problems to solve with ethanol. Kent remembers meeting with all the car manufacturers in DC one time, trying to convince them to build vehicles to run on ethanol. We now have some auto manufacturers producing flex fuel vehicles, and 10 percent ethanol doesn't seem to bother anyone other than those who just think ethanol is bad. Kent remembers being at a gas pump in the wintertime when a guy next to him came out of the store carrying a bottle of de-icer to put into his tank. When Kent told him he didn't need that because he had just filled up with 10 percent ethanol, the guy said he didn't think about that. Kent noted he is flying an "American Ethanol" flag beneath his American flag at his farm, because someone brought him one. As he noted, "E15 is better than methanol which they used all those years in racing."

On one of Kent's visits to DC, his group, which included a couple of young guys, was assigned to visit with environmental groups. Kent stated, "It was one of the worst days I ever had in Washington, having to listen to those people." By the end of the day, Kent felt he was getting a little more vocal than he should. In the visit with one group, he learned there was no point in talking about ethanol with one of the girls they were meeting with because she had no use for a car, wanted to live in a commune, and wanted to go back sixty years in time and live with no modern conveniences.

Kent noted that he moved on from Illinois Corn Growers before he needed to make room for Randy Adkins to come onto the board. Also, Kent was also serving on NCGA at that time. He thought Randy was good for the board.

## 1990-91

Duane Noland, treasurer, was elected as a State Representative to the General Assembly.

In a meeting with the Land of Lincoln Soybean Association, it was decided to discontinue the Soy-Corn Conference with each organization holding its own independent conference. The board decided to hold its own conference called "Illinois Corn Conference '90" during the third week in November. County awards were presented, and Congressman Bruce spoke at the meeting as pictured below.



County award plaques presented to - front row: Jerry Mathews (McLean), Norman Jordan (Macon), LaVern Jordal (DeKalb); back row: Mike Hoeft (Tazewell), Al Klepk (Kankakee), unidentified, Alvin Eckhoff (Livingston)

Pictured from left are Daryl Reid, Jack Kintzle (IA) and Cong Bruce speaking



*Checkoff Issues* - In Regarding a National Checkoff, the board decided to vote as a block in opposition at the NCGA Conference. There was considerable discussion on this issue at the annual convention but in the end, it was voted not to seek a National Checkoff program. The board did agree to help the states of Kentucky and Michigan in passing a checkoff for their states.

A new all-time high membership of 4,382 was reached during the 1990-91 year. A new incentive was adopted to reward a member who signed thirty new members with \$300 and to those signing twenty members with \$200 toward spouse expenses to the Corn Classic. Membership ads were placed in IFB's FarmWeek and Illinois Agri-News. Livingston County held an ethanol promotion.

Biotechnology (Sustainable Ag) – ICGA joined with the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Illinois Department of Ag, Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources, IFB, Cooperative Extension Service and others in sponsoring a "New Technology for Agriculture Sustainability Conference." Participants went on a biotechnology tour which included stops at research projects currently underway at the U of I, as well as a seminar with speakers. The conference concluded with a panel on how five farmers were integrating new production technologies.

McDonald's Corporation and Wendy's International announced switching to low-fat, low cholesterol corn oil for cooking their French fries.

In the legislative area, Kent Chidley and Daryl Reid attended a meeting in Chicago regarding federal crop insurance. Fast Track Authority was one of several issues ICGA lobbied for in DC. ICGA coordinated personal contacts as well as telephone and letter writing campaigns to help bring the fast-track issue to a positive conclusion, with a trade agreement with Mexico. Fast-track was extended for two years to be applicable to negotiations in Geneva to reform the global trading system under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).



DC Visit with Senator Simon -pictured l-f: Leland & Ann Behnken, Bill Bradley, Senaor Paul Simon, Daryl and Ella Louise Reid, Gary Schmalshof, Scott Durbin and Jack Fisher

An Illinois Ag Legislative Breakfast was held each year, and the following photo shows Executive Director Jack Fisher at this event.

IL Ag Legislative Breakfast



Fred Reichert hosted a nine-member delegation from Washington, DC to help educate them on how farmers use chemicals. This exercise was an important educational process in finding areas of mutual agreement to develop solutions that would benefit everyone.

A new promotional tool developed was a go-cart shaped like an ear of corn with funding being provided by ICMB. The carts were housed in the counties of Wayne, Macon, Tazewell, Grundy, Will, Kankakee, Livingston and Kane. They appeared in the Illinois State Fair parade with a pro-ethanol message and were also used in other parades.

Promotions during the year were done on fructose, corn oil, ethanol, and degradable plastics.



Board member Mike Wagner pictured at ISU Earth Day



Exhibit picturing degradable plastics items

## **1991-92**

A meeting was held at the State Fair regarding the possibility of a multi-commodity conference with lamb and wool, beef, soybeans and corn. However, for the year 1991 it was decided to hold Corn Conference '91 in conjunction with the Peoria Farm Show.

Board member involvement in different groups during this year included: a new group called the New Uses Council with Terry Taylor appointed to serve as ICGA's representative; Leland Behnken participated in an Agricultural Mission sponsored by the IL Department of Ag to Warsaw, Poland and Budapest, Hungary; and Kent Chidley was appointed to a committee to work on the NCGA Ethanol Expansion plan which covered national regulation issues, state regulation issues, federal legislative issues, state legislative issues and research and development.

ICGA supported NCGA's dues increase of \$5 per one-year membership and \$20 per three-year membership. A new membership incentive program for a certificate of \$50 off a seed order when redeemed with companies participating in the program was adopted. New county associations working to form were Kendall, Champaign, Peoria, Sangamon and Gallatin. The membership number was reported at 3797. A new requirement for counties to receive a return on membership dues was adopted that a county needed to sign at least ten new members to receive the return. There was a new membership incentive program for the period Oct. 1, 1991, through April 30, 1992. An individual signing ten new members received two tickets to a Cardinal baseball game and one-night hotel accommodations for two people in St. Louis. For the three top membership signers, a \$500 savings bond was awarded to first place, a \$250 savings bond was awarded to second place and a \$100 savings bond was awarded to third place.

County involvement included: Tazewell County Corn Growers Association did an Ethanol/ Fructose promotion; Livingston County did an Ethanol Mechanics Training Program and an ethanol promotion along with FS. County awards were given at the annual meeting. Those receiving the awards are pictured below.

Pictured receiving county awards are - front row: Fred Reichert (Sangamon), Bob Bluer (Will), Norman Jordan (Macon), Paul Routh (Champaign), John Fulton (Kankakee); back row: Bill Wykes (Kendall), Terry Taylor (Wayne), Mike Berkland (Grundy), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Doug Wilson (Livingston), Dave Bateman (Kane)



Legislative issues –The board supported the National position on set aside for the 1992 crop year at 7 ½ percent and urged NCGA to support extending the fast-track negotiation authority to enable multi-lateral trade negotiations to move forward. Further expansion of corn exports called for increasing federal loan guarantees available for export credits. The board supported research for development of biodegradable plastics, with a goal of 100 percent corn-based degradable materials, urged improvement of crop insurance, recommended labeling of all oxygenates above 1 percent by volume as recommended by the National Council of Weights and Measures and supported Illinois Senator Rea's IL SB0142 for an appropriation of \$15 million for research development and demonstration of forms of energy other than that derived from coal.

For the first time, ICGA held a board meeting in Washington, DC in March of 1992. Select members, especially those who had served on the Legislative Committee, had made congressional visits in previous years but this was the first year for the entire board. This practice continued throughout the years and many times a few of the ICMB members also participated. Beginning in 1993, it became the practice to also include county representatives in these visits, and later media were also added.



DC Visit - back row, l-r: Terry Taylor, Jim Hoeft, Dean Shields, Floyd Schultz, Joe Hampton; front row: Chuck Pizer on staff for Senator Dixon, Kent Chidley, Gene Lane

DC delegation including board wives; back row, l-r: Dean Shields, Joe Hampton, Lew Asher, Leland Behnken, Terry Taylor, Cong Bruce, Terry Ferguson, Steve Wentworth, Daryl Reid, David Meyer, Floyd Schultz, Gene Lane; middle row: Tim Trotter, Kent Chidley, George Anselm; front row: Marilyn Saline, Donna Anselm, Ann Behnken, Arlene Chidley, Sterling Saline



## Chapter Two

The following pages are pictures of different events that took place during this decade, including a delegate session at the NCGA Classic and political visits.



Scott Durbin presenting an ICGA hat to Cong Tom Ewing



Rod Weinzierl with Senator Paul Simon



Pictured facing forward are:  
Terry Ferguson, Sen Paul Simon,  
Floyd Schultz, Larry Zabel



Tim Trotter family with Captain Cornelius



Picture from President George H W Bush visit to the State  
Fair: Tim Trotter, Jack Fisher, President Bush



Delegate Session at NCGA Corn Classic - pictured in front row: Randy Adkins, Mike Hoeft, Gary Fritz, (Will County), Steve Pigg, Steve Wentworth; second row: Bob Fitzpatrick, Bill Bradley, Stan Blunier; third row: Fred Reichert, John Diedrich, Greg Guenther, Leland Behnken

Delegate Session at NCGA Corn Classic - pictured in front row: Mark Fulton, Larry Chamness, Gary Fritz (Will County), Dennis Bogner, Fred Reichert; second row: Mike Hoeft, Hank Cryder (Kane County), Gene Novack, Kent Chidley,



Picture of a delegate session at the NCGA convention - Front Row: Jim Tarmann, Eric Vaughn (RFA), Phil Shane; second row: Terry Ferguson, Bob & Nancy Fitzpatrick; third row: Kent Kleinschmidt, Bob Reese; fourth row: Fred Reichert, Tim Rister, Bill Bradley

## **ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD**

### **April-August, 1983**

With the passage of the corn checkoff referendum, a vote was held on March 29 and 30, 1982 to elect the first board of directors. The Extension Service was asked to help with the election of directors by providing a place for voting and for appointing judges. The first meeting of the board was held at the Holiday Inn East in Springfield on April 6, 1983. Dain Friend, president of the Illinois Corn Growers Association welcomed everyone to the meeting and was appointed to serve as temporary chair of the meeting, with Sheila Taylor assigned to record the minutes. The first elected directors of the newly created board were: Lewis Asher, Wayne Bechtel, Stan Boehne, Ray Boyer, Curtis Bradley, Gerald Carney, Maurice Gordon, Joe Hampton, Larry Harbaugh, David Meyer, Clem Newton, Glen Schrof, Terry Taylor, Lawrence Woessner and Meredith Worner.

At the first meeting, some of the logistics for administering the checkoff were discussed. One of the questions related to collecting on corn sold outside state boundaries and the board hoped to work out a reciprocal agreement with other states. Legal counsel was retained to file required paperwork for Articles of Incorporation and the IRS Application for Exemption. The proposed form for first purchasers to use in submitting remittances was approved. According to the Corn Marketing Act, first purchasers, which in most cases meant elevators, could deduct 2 percent of the total amount owed to help with their costs for collecting the funds. Also approved was the form for producers to use in requesting a refund, and it was decided to send fifty refund forms to each first purchaser. There was discussion about collecting the checkoff on corn put under loan, and the formal action taken was to have the officers meet with ASCS. At the June meeting, it was reported that William Beeler from ASCS would have to do further investigation with Washington on the logistics. Everything was put in place to begin taking the checkoff on corn going under loan on November 18, 1985.

ICGA spent a considerable amount of their money in the creation of the ICMB. Dain Friend reported that ICGA had been asked by contributors to request repayment of the contributions, which would enable them to maintain a revolving checkoff fund and help other states with checkoffs. This fund was depleted after the Minnesota referendum. Minutes noted that the revolving fund would be administered by the National Corn Development Foundation or the U.S. Feed Grains Council.

The first officers elected were: Maurice Gordon, chairperson; Gerald Carney, vice chairperson; David Meyer, secretary; and Stan Boehne, treasurer. John Campen was named as the first executive director for ICMB. Suggested committees in addition to the Executive Committee were: Public Relations and Information, Market Development and Research and Education. It was suggested naming a committee to develop an Operations Manual.

The second meeting of the ICMB was held on April 15, 1983, at the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield. Jim Onken from the Bureau of Warehouses of the IL Department of Agriculture spoke to the board regarding the audit procedures used for the soybean checkoff and his feeling that the same procedures could be used for the corn checkoff.

Other fiscal details which were designated were: 1) the fiscal year was set for the period October 1 to September 30; 2) a check signing policy was adopted; 3) a post office box was secured for the deposit of checkoff funds to go directly to the bank; 4) expense reimbursement for directors was adopted which included a mileage allowance, out-of-pocket costs for food and lodging, reimbursement for telephone charges for ICMB-related business and expense vouchers to be turned in by the 10th day of the month following the date expenses were incurred. It was noted future meetings would be set on a time and need basis until the program was set and in order.

Gerald Carney and Clem Newton attended the National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF) meeting in Moline. NCDF was set up, at this point in time, as a funding arm of NCGA to allow states to pool their resources on projects that would have a national application. An example of a project they funded was the Chase Econometrics study on the PIK program.

At the third meeting held on June 1, 1983, Treasurer Stan Boehne reported that a bank had been chosen as a depository for ICMB funds, Peoples Bank of Bloomington. He noted one of the reasons for choosing this bank was their outstanding Farm Management Department, headed by Marty Thornton.

The committees began meeting and set their guidelines. The Market Development Committee, in fulfilling their responsibilities in market development work, would review all proposed projects geared toward expanding both foreign and domestic markets and make recommendations to the board for funding. A major part of these projects would come from organizations such as the U.S. Feed Grains Council (USFGC) and the National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF). USFGC helped fund and set up programs overseas that created new markets for corn and in turn helped foreign producers better utilize feed grains in the development of their industrial and animal agricultural sectors. NCDF coordinated the efforts of checkoff states and individual industry groups to fund national research and development programs that would benefit the entire corn industry.

The Public Relations and Information Committee would review and recommend various proposals to the board regarding distributing information about ICMB projects and programs to corn producers via news releases, newsletters and other available means. Other responsibilities would include working with industry groups having a direct or indirect interest in corn, i.e., Grain and Feed Association, Illinois seed dealers, farm equipment dealers, Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, etc. One area of concentration was to be the trouble areas with high levels of refunds. In the distribution of news releases the communication staff, Melody Taylor, was to continue working with Illinois Agri-News, UPI, AP, etc. A logo for ICMB was approved.



The first project funded by ICMB was a display project with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, also funded by A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company, Archer Daniels Midland Company, Miles Laboratories, Inc., CPC International, Inc. and the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois. The display board was made up of eight transportable modules illustrating the hundreds of products, both edible and inedible, that contain corn and its by-products and had a descriptive video. The display was entitled "CORNucopia" and was to be shown at the Illinois State Fair and other places upon request.

The third committee, Research and Education, was to review research proposals, evaluate projects, and make recommendations to the board for funding. Proposals were to be solicited from groups such as universities, NCDF and any other group organized for this purpose. One of their first actions was to contact the University of Illinois regarding a study on the benefits of fructose over sugar in both the medical and economic areas. Other groups suggested for contacting were the Northern Regional Research Lab in Peoria, Anheuser-Busch and A. E. Staley. It was noted, one of the things the committee needed to watch for was duplication of funding, as other states could be contracting for the same research.

A review of different insurance coverages recommended for the board was given, noting that ICGA would be named as additional insured and would pick up part of the premium. It was noted that each board needed to carry their own Directors and Officers liability coverage. Also, it was approved to add non-owned auto to the general liability coverage to cover an ICMB director involved in an accident. D & O insurance was purchased later in the year in the amount of \$5,000,000 and non-owned aircraft coverage was approved in the amount of \$10,000,000.

Regarding advisory members, John Campen was instructed to send a letter to various farm organizations inviting them to attend meetings. Organizations mentioned were IFB, IFU, National Farmers Organization (NFO) and IL Department of Agriculture.

Legal counsel advised that the board did not have to file incorporation papers, as they could get "not for profit" status through the enabling legislation. The board approved hiring Johnson and Reed as their auditors for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983, as they had a farm background in auditing for grain elevators throughout the state.

Discussion took place on covering expenses for outside meetings. The board approved covering expenses for any board member attending the USFGC and/or NCGA convention. There were questions about whether expenses should be covered for every board member, and the consensus was to cover the expenses, as it was the responsibility of each board member to become better informed.

On July 20, the board held their fourth meeting. Maurie Gordon was named to serve on the Executive Board for USFGC. In addition, the board approved funding of \$10,000 to USFGC. It was approved at this meeting to reimburse ICGA for funds they had advanced to ICMB since April 15, 1983. As noted earlier in the ICGA portion of this document, ICGA loaned ICMB funds in the beginning until such time as the checkoff funds started coming in.

At the August meeting, John Campen reported there was an overload on the staff, especially regarding issuing refunds. The board gave the office authority to hire additional help up to one-third person. Mr. Campen reported that the IRS exemption for non-profit status for ICMB had been received. An activity that the board participated in at this meeting was a tour of ADM, where they were introduced to “wet corn gluten” feed.

Major funding for ICMB each year went to national cooperators, such as the U.S. Feed Grains Council (USFGC) and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). For the first year, the board approved budgeting \$500,000 for the U.S. Feed Grains Council and funding for the Council was approved each year after that.

A proposal from NCGA’s Market Development Committee for a Corn Domestic Development Center was reviewed, noting that the purpose of this Center was to expand domestic utilization of corn and corn products, with an initial goal to accelerate the growth of domestic corn utilization for alcohol to one billion bushels per year. The committee decided to review data on this project before deciding on funding. The board did approve donating \$10,000 to NCDF, which in turn gave ICMB two seats on that board. Gerald Carney and Terry Taylor were selected.

Prior to the August board meeting, the Research and Education Committee had met with Southern Illinois University, Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois to get input into ways of handling funding requests and types of research going on. As a result of that meeting, the following were appointed as liaisons between their respective universities and ICMB: Dr. Keith Rogers, Western Illinois University (WIU); Dr. Jim Tweedy, Southern Illinois University (SIU); and Dr. Don Holt, University of Illinois (U of I).

The Public Relations Committee had discussion on funding a newsletter in cooperation with FMC Corporation. Board approval was given to fund the mailing of a newsletter to approximately 58,822 farmers one time per year.

During the first-year funding was also approved for sponsoring a coffee break featuring corn nuts and other corn related products at the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Terry Taylor gave a report on the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Annual Meeting. He felt this was a good opportunity to meet and talk with the media and the goodwill promoted among broadcasters because of the hospitality room was immeasurable. In addition, it gave board members an opportunity to meet with other promotion boards and exchange ideas. The board supported this project on an annual basis.

### *Highlights from Maurice Gordon*

Maurie first got involved with ICGA because Ken Dahlenberg asked him to take his place in District 6. From Maurie's recollection, Rollie Main and John Block went to IFB with an interest to get support for farmers to promote and sell their own corn and got the Illinois Corn organization started. As noted previously in this history, board members in the beginning of the organization were very dedicated and had to pay for their own expenses.

According to Maurice, "When the state law was passed to create the checkoff, the language was already written. Because of all the work that guys like Rollie Main did, the legislature voted to establish the Illinois Corn checkoff. The night of the election of officers for the newly created IL Corn Marketing Board, Dain Friend called me and told me I needed to run for chairman. I thought Rollie should be that person, but he wasn't interested. The next day I was appointed. It was determined ICMB needed to get an office and Lou Faivre, John Campen and Maurice worked to lease 1000 sq. ft. of space on Washington Street. Next, they needed to get a bank and met with different representatives. One of the people they met with was Marty Thornton from People's Bank, and that's the bank which was chosen. Maurie stated, "I was sorry John Campen left the organization because I thought John did an excellent job for Illinois Corn."



Maurice Gordon

Formally, the vote passed and ICMB started operation. Jerry Carney stated they should be giving USFGC \$600,000, and the same to NCGA. That sounded like a lot of money to Maurie, but he felt it did a lot of good for Illinois. He remembers when the first check was given to USFGC, and he gave Orion Samuelson a check for \$10,000. Shortly after that, the USFGC wanted Maurie to be on the Executive Committee for USFGC. He remembers going to a meeting where he was the only farmer in a room with several agribusiness representatives. One of those he remembers was Owen Newlin from Pioneer. After Maurie had been on USFGC about a year, he was approached about becoming an officer in USFGC and they talked to John Campen to see if ICMB would support him. John said they would. According to Maurie, Kansas was complaining because this would mean Illinois would have two people in leadership in consecutive years. The vice president of John Deere, Bill Stoll, had a lot of influence with USFGC, and because of his efforts Maurie believed he was unanimously supported for becoming an officer.

When NCGA hired Mike Hall for their DC office, Maurie remembers a meeting held in the Capitol Club when they tried to get Rollie Main to run for Illinois Director of Agriculture. However, Rollie didn't want to because he was a good friend of John Block, who was already the Director. Maurie stated, "Rollie Main was the most unsung hero of Illinois agriculture and the greatest farm leader in Illinois. I don't know anyone who did more for agriculture than he did, as he dedicated everything to the organization." Others that Maurie mentioned were Bill Kuhfuss, Gene Curis, who was his mentor and taught him a lot, John Block, Dain Friend, George Anselm and many others. Maurie noted Gene Curis was approached by both the Democrats and the

Republicans to run for Congress, but he just didn't want to do it. In Maurie's estimation Gene was a fireball and the two of them got along well together.

Maurie revealed that he always loved and respected the Taiwanese people. He was asked to squire around a Taiwanese purchaser of U.S. corn. Maurie noted that they bought about 5 percent of their corn from the U.S. that year and two years later they were at 85 percent. The first time Maurie traveled to Taipei, he had an issue with customs when he first got off the plane until he was spotted by Ritmon J. M. Shue, Chairman of the Taiwan Feed Industry Association, who told him to come right through. On another visit to Taipei, Maurie related he was attending a dinner for Mr. Shue along with Darwin Stolte from the USFGC. When Maurie got up to give a toast, he joked around with Mr. Shue about Illinois playing Iowa State, since Maurie knew that he had gotten his master's degree from Iowa State. Even though most people didn't joke around, Maurie thought Shue enjoyed that. Another event in Taipei that Maurie remembers was when Eddy Chin rented a 747 to take a lot of heifers from the U.S. to Taipei. After dinner, Mr. Chin gave Maurie an elephant to bring home to his wife, as he had overheard Maurie say that his wife wanted him to bring home an elephant from every country he visited.

After Maurie's term ended on the USFGC, President George H. Bush asked him to go with a delegation to Russia to meet with Gorbachev. At first, Maurie indicated he didn't want to go but after further thought and discussions with his wife, he decided to participate. Afterwards he was glad that he did, as this was one of the greatest experiences of his life. It was really an honor in his lifetime to have had a meeting with President Bush in the Oval Office and with Gorbachev in the Kremlin. Maurie noted that on the visit to Russia they flew in Air Force 1.

One of the board members that he became good friends with was Lewis Asher. Lew and Maurie went to a gasohol meeting in Denver, and they became better acquainted at a dinner with Lew's family. Maurie noted that he really admired Lou Faivre and related there was one point when Lou was terribly ill, and word was received that he was dying. Everyone was praying for him, and he did recover after receiving treatment for a low cortisone level. Five months later Lou, Maurie and John were on their way to St. Louis for a meeting.

One of the countries that Maurie didn't like to do business with was Japan. In the first meeting he was involved with, it was indicated that if they couldn't open a corn market with the U.S., they might be forced to open up markets with China and New Zealand. Maurie felt you could never satisfy the Japanese with anything.

Maurie had a party for a Russian delegation at his farm. When they saw his corn, they indicated they wished they could buy directly from Maurie. Apparently, they were getting a lot of rotten corn from the U.S.

In summary, Maurie noted he was able to meet and work with a fine bunch of people. Over his lifetime, he met a number of people, many who were the giants of the industry. Maurie felt he happened to be in the right place at the right time. He never went after a job, they just happened to be there.



Maury pictured with  
Russian delegation

## 1983-84

Some administrative items approved at the November meeting, included: 1) adoption of “Operational Procedures”; 2) a thirty-day review period in regard to requests for research funding to allow time for reviewing the requests prior to the Board making their final decision; 3) help with establishing a revolving fund to be used by various states to get a checkoff referendum passed, and the Board approved paying \$99,770 in three installments to repay the funds used for passing the Illinois checkoff referendum; and 4) payment of \$500,000 to USFGC in four installments.

Some of the guests present at the November 1983 meeting made presentations to the board prior to the business part of the meeting. They included: Darwin Stolte from the USFGC, Dave Garst and Frank Frazier from the American Society of Agricultural Consultants, Derryl McLaren from the NCDF, and Joyce Watson from the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation. Other guests in attendance included: Lloyd Reeser from American Agriculture Movement (AAM), John Launer from the Illinois Seed Dealers Association, Don Holt and Wes Seitz from the U of I, Keith Rogers from WIU and James Tweedy from SIU.

When Mr. Gordon met with a Japanese trade team, they expressed their concern about the quality of the corn they were receiving. The board authorized Chairman Gordon to write a letter to NCGA requesting a study on grain quality. Gerald Carney and Terry Taylor were appointed to a Quality Control Committee. This project encompassed the farmer,



First officers - back row: Stan Boehne, David Meyer;  
front row: Gerald Carney, Maury Gordon



Maury Gordon pictured with Japanese trade team

grain elevator and shipper and they worked together to create a better means of getting higher quality grain into the export markets. Basically, this was the beginning of the Corn Domestic Development Center for which the board approved funding.

With the ICMB contribution to USFGC, the board was entitled to have nine additional directorships on the Council. Those appointed to serve were Lewis Asher, Wayne Bechtel, Curtis Bradley, Gerald Carney, Larry Harbaugh, Clem Newton, Glen Schrof, Terry Taylor and Lawrence Woessner. There was some discussion about the cost of the USFGC meeting being awfully expensive and this was communicated to the Council via Maurice Gordon. In June, the board approved further action to encourage the USFGC to hold their meetings in grain producing areas and at reasonably priced meeting facilities. It was announced that USFGC had a mission to Asia scheduled with the cost for a representative from ICMB to be covered by Pioneer. The board appointed the chairperson of ICMB to go on the mission, with the alternate being Glen Schrof.

In addition to major funding granted to the national cooperators, ICMB funded several programs in cooperation with other groups. Many of these programs continue to be funded each year up through the present time. Some of them included the following list:

IFB Programs - Agricultural Leaders for Tomorrow (ALOT) program, Women's Committee Grant Program, Ag-in-the Classroom, Ag Literacy Program, and RFD and RFD Today radio.

Communication programming on Gateway Advertising and Food for Thought

IL FFA - promotion programs, study tours, and annual lease of E85 car for officer use

IL Livestock Development Group (ILDG)

IL Agri-women - Science Fair

Summer Ag Institutes

University of Illinois - Salute to Ag Day, Agronomy Day, and various research projects

Southern Illinois University - Ag banquet and various research projects

Illinois State University - various programs and a few research projects

Western Illinois University - mechanics training sessions and various research projects

ICGA - in addition to project funding, a county grants program

Radio Communications through "News for Corn Growers". This program was first funded with Art Sechrest as the radio broadcaster. Through the years other broadcasters involved with the program included Mike Perrine, Mike Adams and Jim Fleming.

The Research and Education Committee adopted proposed guidelines for requesting research funding which were sent out immediately with a request for proposals to be submitted by January 15, 1984. In response to the request for research proposals, the committee reviewed the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation proposal, the Abner Womack proposal and thirty-eight additional proposals presented by the three universities. The committee did not recommend funding for the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation proposal. In regard to the university proposals, the committee reviewed and ranked each proposal through a question-and-answer session with the three university representatives. It was noted that all proposals would be cross-referenced with the KRIS system to make sure there was no duplication of effort. It was suggested the letters be sent to those who submitted projects that were not funded, explaining the reasons why.

Before any projects could be funded through the universities, a "Memorandum of Understanding" had to be signed between ICMB and the universities. The Memorandum of Understanding was an agreement outlining the basic requirements each project needed to meet. An agreement was negotiated between each university and the board directed the appropriate people to sign the agreements. In addition, the committee developed project award forms which were revised over the years.

The board funded several research projects over the years, but only some of the more significant ones have been listed in this document. For the fiscal year 1984, there were a total of five projects with three being from the University of Illinois, one from Western Illinois University and one from Southern Illinois University. Two of the projects from the U of I related to corn quality, one by Lowell Hill and the other by Don White and Barry Jacobsen. There were several projects related to grain

quality that were funded over the years. The third project funded from the U of I was on wet corn gluten feed. The project from WIU, which ended up being a two-and-a-half-year project, related to "Corn Pricing Strategy" by Drs. Thomas Drinka, Keith Rogers and was designated to identify and research alternate marketing strategies for Illinois corn. The project from SIU related to fructose, with research being done by Jan Endres from SIU on testing fructose acceptance in large quantity recipes. The objective of this first project was to provide a viable institutional market for fructose in the health care industry, but there were several projects and promotions done on fructose over the years to grain quality that were funded over the years.

Patricia Welch from SIU  
and her assistant working  
an exhibit at a trade show



At the February meeting, it was reported that the refund rate was running at 2.6 percent to 3 percent. Elections for this year were to be held for Districts, 1, 4, 7, 10 and 13 and petitions were to be available by March 1. This same election procedure was followed each year according to the rules of the Illinois Corn Marketing Act. The board approved reimbursement for election judges' expenses on the day of the election, as well as postage expenses incurred by the extension office.

Jerry Carney was appointed to the selection committee for the Chief Executive Officer for the NCGA St. Louis office. Jeff Gain was hired to fill that position.

To have some promotional items available for use throughout the state, the board approved the purchase of fructose liquid, having it bottled with the ICMB label affixed. It was also approved to purchase a supply of crystalline fructose, giving the state office authority to distribute the bottled and packet fructose and determine the groups and meetings the materials were sent to. Melody Taylor developed a slide/tape program, which was a general information program, which board members could utilize. In addition, she met with representatives from Batterlite-Whitlock, distributors of fructose, and they indicated their willingness to help on fructose promotions. The board approved furnishing crystalline fructose packets for the participants at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Other promotional items purchased included educational and promotional brochures on fructose, gasohol, ICMB general information and a six-panel tabletop display.

The board felt there was importance in educating the groups with whom we came in contact and approved the idea of developing informational posters to be placed in the elevators, schools,

extension and farm bureau offices and the media. In addition, it was decided to send a fact and informational newsletter to the 1,500 first purchasers (elevators) four to six times per year.

Alan Middaugh from the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) made a presentation for funding at the June 1984 meeting, noting they were a sister group to USFGC. He noted that he had met with ICGA back in November of 1982 when the Illinois checkoff was being sought. The board voted to fund USMEF at \$75,000 for FY 1984. This allowed representation from ICMB to the USMEF. Those appointed to serve for this first year were Lawrence Woessner, Wayne Bechtel and Joe Hampton. This then added USMEF as one of the ICMB national cooperators and funding of this organization was approved each year thereafter.

A Long-Range Planning Committee was appointed consisting of: Wayne Bechtel, Stan Boehne, Joe Hampton and Clem Newton. The committee met with A. E. Staley and ADM representatives, and they offered the use of their photo libraries as well as other help they could give in the areas of fructose, alcohol education, corn oil and starches.

From the very beginning, there were some growing pains in trying to determine the role of ICMB in relation to the role of ICGA. As recorded in the minutes of the July board meeting, there was considerable discussion about the feasibility of ICMB becoming a separate entity from ICGA, with their own staff and office space, thereby cancelling the contractual agreement with ICGA. Some of the reasoning for this was that under the present agreement, the staff really worked for ICGA. Therefore, ICMB felt they had no input on hiring and firing of staff, salary, etc. However, it was noted that ICGA could do things ICMB couldn't do and ICMB had funds ICGA didn't have. Finally, after considerable discussion with legal counsel present, it was decided to set up a joint Business Services Committee with ICGA. Eventually, a contract was worked out and it should be noted that the significant decisions and compromises made by the first board were advantageous to solving the problems that impacted both ICMB and ICGA for decades. All of this went a long way to make the organizations as strong as they are today.

It was decided at the September meeting to establish an Audit Committee to review the expense vouchers and the ICMB books. The board also voted to establish a reserve fund of \$250,000 out of the 1984 funds.

### *Highlights from Gerald Carney*

Jerry first got started with Illinois Corn through Dain Friend and George Anselm, who asked him to be involved. Dick Stone from his district on the Illinois Corn Growers Association board resigned, and Jerry took his place. Jerry indicated that John Campen, the executive director, needed some help. Dain Friend had tremendous abilities and was able to get things done others couldn't. Jerry remembers meeting in Bloomington with Dain and his wife, along with others to get the organization moving. The first few years, the organization was small and really had limited funds. Without the involvement of Rollie Main in the early years,



Gerald Carney

Jerry feels the organization would not have become as strong as it did to work on behalf of the corn producers. Rollie had the ability to bring people together for a common cause. For many of the first meetings, Rollie paid a lot of the expenses.

During the years when ICGA was working on efforts to get a checkoff program for corn, Jerry noted that Jeff Gain was employed by IFB in the Governmental Affairs Division. As Jerry stated, "Jeff and others such as Rich Clemmons and Jack Fisher from IFB were a tremendous help in getting the legislation passed to create the checkoff program."

Jerry was part of the original Illinois Corn Marketing Board, while continuing to serve on the ICGA board at the same time. He succeeded Maurice Gordon as chair of ICMB and was responsible for trying to unite the board members. Jerry noted, "There were initially some challenges in getting the board members to work together, mainly because of different philosophies and the wide variety of opinions from various parts of the state. The main disagreement was on managing the funds, especially regarding whether a reserve should be maintained. One of the board members even brought his attorney to a summer meeting held in Carbondale and I had also taken an attorney. This meeting turned out to be a crucial meeting in keeping the organization going."

Jerry noted he was proud to have been part of the organizing board for the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. He served on both ICGA and ICMB boards at the same time for three years. Through his years of service, he made a lot of good friends, especially mentioning George Anselm and Dain Friend.

SPECIAL NOTE: Because of health problems, Jerry had limited abilities to relate much about his experience on the Illinois Corn boards but in conversations with others, they noted he was very instrumental in making the organizations as strong as they are today.



Gerald receiving the ICGA World of Corn award



Picture of the Carney family

## 1984-85

Regular meeting dates were set for the months of February, March, June, July, September and November, with a motion made to hold no meetings during the months of April, May, August, October and December. The Business Services Committee was authorized to negotiate a contract for additional office space at the present location and to negotiate combining the lease for additional space with the present lease and extending it over a three-to-five-year period. In order to keep the communication lines open between the two boards, it was decided to appoint a representative from each board to attend the other board's meetings. Larry Harbaugh was the first ICMB representative to ICGA.

Each year the national cooperators and ICGA presented funding presentations to the board. Funding for FY 1985 was approved for the national cooperators - USFGC, USMEF and NCDF, as well as ICGA. It was noted that USFGC overseas staff were to be in Illinois March 12-14, and meetings were scheduled in Wayne County and Douglas County.

One of the major public relations projects for this year related to fructose. Melody Taylor and Jan Endres from SIU worked a booth at the IFB Annual Meeting and distributed brochures, recipes and fructose samples. Items available at the booth included rice krispie treats and chocolate sheet cakes, all made with fructose. Funding was also approved for having a booth at the Feb. 6-8, 1985, Soy-Corn Conference in Peoria, and it was noted that Jan Endres would work at the booth and prepare fructose snacks.

Some of the other public relations projects approved for this year included: 1) a video program on U.S. Grain Standards and Corn Quality in Exports from Dr. Lowell Hill; 2) a fructose breakfast at the Illinois Dietetic Association meeting, as well as providing a corn chex-popcorn mix for a booth and funding for two ads in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association; 3) the 4-H Foundation Corn Marketing Workshop for 1986. New promotional items ordered included coloring books on corn and agriculture, an ICMB booth to be available for use at trade shows, etc., provided that a responsible person agreed to mantle and dismantle the booth and return it to the office and packets of candy corn to be distributed at trade shows, parades, etc.

Picture of an ICMB exhibit



Working jointly with the Illinois Beef Council, Illinois Pork Producers Association and the American Dairy Association, filmstrip kits were purchased to be distributed to all of Illinois' U.S. history teachers and junior high students to help them become better informed on the significant role of agriculture in our country. This filmstrip kit was called "Shaping A Nation" and was developed by the National Livestock and Meat Board in cooperation with the Illinois Council of Economic Education.

The Research and Education Committee adopted procedures for reviewing research projects which included a written report as well as an oral presentation to the board. A review of the funded research projects was done the day before the February meeting, and the committee was pleased with the review process. It became a practice for several years to have time set aside each year for the researchers to present a review of their research. A second year of funding was granted on projects on farm prices for processing quality corn, corn gluten feed and fructose.

### *Highlights from Joe Hampton*

Joe first got involved at the county level when he heard the publicity about the Corn Marketing Act being passed that authorized a checkoff on corn. He had been on the Cooperative Extension Council and served on other farm organizations and was really interested. Joe stated that agriculture and farming had come through some tough times when the Act was first passed in Illinois. Through the Extension Council he was encouraged to run for the board. Joe noted that because of the state of the economy, self-help programs were needed.

Personally, Joe felt he grew from serving on the Corn Board. In his words, "When the original board members came together, they came from diverse backgrounds and had different organizational experiences but as volunteers they were an exceptional group of fifteen people. The original group had a vision for farming and as they developed the program and thought about what checkoff dollars could do, they found they could get to be pretty initiative. It was exciting to be a part of this, and it helped me to become a clearer thinker. I became more conscious in thinking about the value of time you spend trying to improve your lot."



Joe Hampton

Prior to passing the Corn Marketing Act, Joe had seen a lot of publicity, with the focus on corn grower members in the various parts of the country being affected by the program. In the beginning, there was a lot of serious debate about what should be done. Joe felt that those who had been closer to working through checkoff programs had more initiative and vision because of their experience. As he stated, "There was no question about the motives of the people initially involved in setting up the checkoff program to affect the influence on corn". By this statement he was referring to people such as Rollie Main, Bill Mullins and others. Joe further stated, "Not only did these original people give their time, energy and commitment, but they went beyond to sign notes to guarantee the money for the efforts to make this work. You don't find people like that

every day in life, and we were fortunate to have those people in Illinois. It was a wonderful start for ICMB to have people with that commitment and vision to plan the way ahead.”

Another committed group were those coming in to be on the first Marketing Board. As Joe stated, “These were a group of farmers coming together to make positive decisions. In the beginning there was a lot of debate and a lot of discussions, but they were all active and committed to the idea that the checkoff had to be accountable. It was important that they had a good attitude on how to do business. The functions of mandatory checkoffs are much different than the voluntary ones and they had a lot of discussion about that.” Joe has never looked back on thinking corn shouldn’t be a mandatory checkoff and he feels agriculture was better because of being able to keep some of that independence.

One of the first acts of business was to determine the best structure and deciding what committees would be effective. Originally, there were three committees – Market Development, Research and Public Relations. They developed the business structure with a fiduciary stature in all their minds. The board was charged by the farmers who contributed the checkoff dollars to make things matter and to be good with those dollars. That helped to make a conscientious organization that was able to respond. Joe was proud to be part of the excellent group of men who were committed to making things happen with the checkoff dollars.

Joe thought the biggest issue while he served on the board was the question of whether to try to go for a national checkoff. Some believed in having a voluntary checkoff that was accountable, but they didn’t believe it was good to have the government involved in their everyday business. In Joe’s words, “Keeping local control was deemed most important within the limits of the law, and with the federal checkoff you don’t have as much local control. This clearly became the issue of their time and gave direction for those who would follow. It was felt by keeping the checkoff on a state level, they would have some freedom to determine how the dollars would be used and the board felt that was important. Other commodities had national checkoffs, but in exploring their programs, it was felt a national checkoff would be limiting for those who believed in free enterprise and the fiduciary responsibility is always there. In Joe’s estimation, it was a defining issue to stay as a voluntary, state checkoff.” Joe noted that at one of the meetings on the national level, they wouldn’t let him be part of the discussion on the issue of a national checkoff because he wasn’t a corn grower member. His reason for not being a member was he believed he could be more independent and could be more effective to get things done that way. Joe related there was serious discussion about all of this and a lot of snubbing at this meeting.

ICMB contributed to national organizations - USFGC, NCDF and USMEF - right from the beginning. So, the board had experience across those organizations by having members involved. This was significant to what was done here in Illinois. The national organizations were a good source in advising the board regarding the investing of research dollars.

Several members participated in different overseas missions through USFGC and USMEF. Members brought back a lot of insight from these missions that had not yet been discovered, especially at that time. Now we know more about our customers and the competition than we did at that time. The most significant mission Joe participated in was going to Russia about the time they made their great grain purchase. This had a significant impact, and he was glad he

Picture of Joe on an overseas mission



Picture of Hampton talking with others



Picture of Hampton speaking at an event

was able to be helpful in that. Beyond that, USMEF was instrumental through Clayton Yeutter in developing the beef/citrus agreement with Japan. The USMEF Market Development person, Phil Seng, helped with those negotiations. This was the first-time consumers in Japan were allowed to choose what products they wanted to come into their shelves and began the shipments of higher value meats from the U.S. into Japan. Orion Samuelson participated in the mission to Tokyo. ICMB saw the value for Orion to go to Russia, because he could send back the story about the potential for Russia to buy and sell. USMEF had a meeting in Mexico City while Joe was chairperson of that organization and Joe thought that was pretty cool. As Joe noted, "Illinois Corn checkoff dollars were instrumental in making all of this happen."

Another experience Joe related happened at a congressional reception in DC. Joe visited with a young lady from the Sierra Club about all the problems she saw with ethanol. She was aligned with Exxon, Shell and British Petroleum and was telling Joe how good oil companies were and that ethanol was not good for the environment. But, as Joe noted, "Illinois corn dollars changed that. ICMB set the stage by having the dollars to speak to the issues and the viability of their industry."

## **1985-86**

Some of the more notable research projects approved in 1985 included projects on fructose, quality characteristics for corn, corn gluten feed and increasing farm prices for processing quality corn.

NCDF requested funding for some specific projects, not included in their annual project funding request. The first project was regarding the identification of alternative market uses for corn and corn products and the board approved funding, with the request that NCDF seek additional financial support from other checkoff states to reduce ICMB's commitment. The second project was for the purposes of enhancing and retaining corn markets in Canada and the board granted funding for this project. For other cooperator funding, the board also approved additional funding to USFGC to be used for the T.E.A. program and to USMEF to be used for the T.E.A. program.

Gerald Carney and Maurice Gordon participated in the largest and most influential trade delegation ever assembled by the USFGC. They traveled to the People's Republic of China and Japan. The mission had two specific objectives: to participate in dedication ceremonies for the Council's pilot feed mill in Nanjing, China and to commemorate the Council's twenty-five years of export expansion work in Japan.

## **1986-87**

A new Corn Utilization Task Force was formed to help promote and encourage corn utilization. The committee goals were to provide information to the public about the usefulness of corn, encourage long-term planning for corn utilization and to work with agri-businesses in promoting the industrial use of corn products. Membership of the committee included representatives from ICGA, ICMB and Agri-industry.

A report was given on the Alternate Uses Project by Kelly Harrison and Hal Smedley. Initially, a survey was done on finding some new uses for corn. Findings Mr. Harrison reported were: Illinois should put money into product research and new product development; Corn Growers should use their political clout to get help with funding research; Illinois should politically align themselves with interest groups in the U.S. who were worried about dependency on foreign oil and environmental issues; demand that a company making their living off corn should put more money into research and development.

Projects funded by the market development committee during the year included: developing a display for the IL Ag Products Building; contributing to NCDF for use in development of an international trade policy committee; funding for NCDF special market development projects.

Work began on a major public relations project in 1986 by designing and developing a video and ads for ICMB. This was done in cooperation with Dave Schmid from DeKalb-Pfizer, with filming done during the harvest season. In addition, the project included production of five 30-second spots, with the possibility of using these to sponsor the small schools' and the large schools' basketball tournaments. The ads were later completed in February 1987 and the board approved running one spot per game for both the boys AA and A tournaments.



Picture at Corn Day event,  
l-r: Tim Trotter, Larry  
Harbaugh, Lt. Gov. George  
Ryan, Director of  
Ag Larry Werries

Another notable public relations project was a day set aside to promote corn use and value-added products to the Legislature. This event was called “Corn Day” and was sponsored by ICMB, ICGA and IDA. The first event was on June 2, 1987, with a kickoff ceremony in front of the Capitol Building in Springfield and a proclamation from Governor James Thompson. It dramatized how new uses of corn could restore the depressed agricultural economy to more profitable levels and positively affect other areas of the state’s economy.

It was decided to increase circulation of the Annual Report and Quarterly Reports by sending it to farmers with 50+ acres of corn. Other public relations programs approved for funding during this year included cookbooks on fructose by Jeanette Endres and a one-year trial for the Agri-Data System. Some of the projects funded this year in the public relations area became programs which were funded over the years: IFB Women’s Committee, IL 4-H Foundation program, IL Women for Agriculture, Ag Council of America and IL FFA for various projects on utilization and promotion of corn or corn products.

New promotional items approved were the printing of corn uses brochures to be sent to media, elevators and schools; purchase of placemats to educate the public on agriculture to be distributed at local coffee shops, meetings, etc; purchase of coloring books on corn and agriculture.

### *Major Research Projects – funded for multiple years*

*Butanol* - the first research on butanol was funded in 1986, with researcher Hans Blaschek at the University of Illinois. This research continued for several years. In 1993, a steering committee was appointed to work on a commercialization plan, with the suggested make-up of the committee being two from ICMB, Bob Mustell from NCGA, a representative of the corn processing industry and one from ICGA. The first directors from ICMB serving on this Steering Committee were Lynn Laible and Gene Younquist. In 1995-96 this research was at a point that a feasibility study needed to be done. The board voted to ask NCDF to co-manage the study.

In late 1996 the board approved funding for an “Economic Analysis Model for Butanol” through NCGA and approved to pay for patent filing fees for butanol. In 1998, John Phipps, Phil Shane, NCGA staff and Hans Blaschek from the U of I went to a butanol meeting in Denver. Information from the model run on butanol was favorable to butanol production and was shared with ADM and Staley. By the year 2000, the patent on the butanol bug had been obtained and it was noted the next step was to file for an international patent to protect the technology on a broader scope. After eight years of funding this research, the board was getting anxious to move this technology to commercialization. The researcher, Hans Blaschek, was directed to determine whether the dry mill process could be used to ferment the corn, as the wet mill process had been used in his previous research work.

In 2001 Bryan Fogerson met with Equistar’s plant manager at Tuscola, which at that time manufactured butanol and were looking for another source, such as ethanol, because MTBE contaminated the groundwater. A company in Canada also expressed interest in this technology. It was at this point that NCGA abandoned the project because they felt it had gone as far as possible, and because of the economics.

In December of 2003, ICMB approved hiring a consultant to review the butanol technology, noting that the board had now funded this project for about ten years. It was felt there was a need to oversee the economics of this process before spending money on commercializing the technology. Jim Craig, who had expertise in fermentation technology, was hired to review the project. His written analysis indicated more research was not needed for the wet mill corn processor to move forward, but it was required if the technology was taken to a dry grind operation. ICMB decided more research was needed and in 2004 Phil Shane discussed the butanol technology with ADM. ADM indicated if they got into this area, they would want to take over the whole market, which meant it would have to be profitable for them. The board approved funding to scale-up the butanol project at ADM, which they believed would help define what the costs of butanol production would be.

In August of 2006, DuPont made an announcement regarding butanol, at which time Phil Shane noted that butanol today was not as efficient, as it took a lot more energy to extract water out of it. Minutes indicated it was unknown whether this announcement would spur ADM to move on this project.

A company called Tetravital Bioscience, Inc. presented a research proposal to ICMB called “Improving the Economics of Biobutanol Production” in January of 2011 and the board approved funding for it. It was noted this work continued the work that ICMB had funded about ten years ago on butanol. This project would develop a bug that could convert corn starch to biobutanol. The company was in the Business Park at the University of Illinois.

Further work was done on this technology at the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center (NCERC), as it was felt it was getting close to commercialization. In addition, other companies did a lot of research through NCERC on butanol. There seemed to be a lot of support by the oil industry for drop-in fuels. Dave Loos noted that theoretically, butanol made from corn starch should qualify as an advanced biofuel. However, there are two different butanols, one is n-butanol. Two companies produce this butanol, but even though they are being promoted as an alternative

to ethanol, Loos believes they will really be used by pharmaceuticals. The yield for butanol is much less than ethanol, water usage is higher, and it costs more to produce butanol. As of this date, the butanol technology was bought out by Kodak.

*Coal Desulfurization* - In 1985, there was growing public concern with declining air quality which threatened the state's coal industry. However, demand for Illinois coal began to slide because of its high concentrations of polluting sulfur. A new process called coal desulfurization was identified which showed promise to clean the coal, revitalize the mining industry and open a new market for corn. ICGA took a lead role in pursuing a portion of funds turned over to Illinois through the Exxon Overcharge Settlement to use in research for coal desulfurization. Larry Chamness and Senator Vince Demuzio, Carlinville testified at a hearing conducted by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources in Springfield on March 26, 1986, to secure the money. They were successful in getting \$1 million which was appropriated to the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. The money was to be used to help with the construction of demonstration equipment that would help this technology move towards commercialization. The Ohio Farm Bureau also helped in obtaining new funds and Rep. Dick Durbin was interested in getting more federal dollars. Funding for coal desulfurization from the Exxon funds was later denied, but funding was granted from the petroleum violation fund.

In July of 1986, ICMB funded a research project by Richard Shiley of the University of Illinois, which was basic research to wash the sulfur from coal. A second project "Desulfurization of Coal Using the 1-Step Technology" was research conducted from 1989-1991 by Larry Wu from the U of I.

Ten years of university research on desulfurizing coal showed that ethanol provided the best means to remove the sulfur. Through the Petroleum Violation Funds, \$1 million was approved for an ethanol/carbon monoxide coal desulfurization demonstration reactor. The appropriation was sponsored by Illinois Senator Richard Luft, D-Pekin. This appropriation was to be used for the next step in bringing the desulfurizing process to large-scale commercial application by constructing a reactor large enough to provide continuous operation. It was noted that potentially this could create 8,700 jobs. During 1991, a grant was received from DCCA from the Technology Challenge Fund in the amount of \$492,000.

The Ohio Corn Marketing Board saw enough merit in the project to target coal desulfurization as its first research effort to be funded following the institution of their corn checkoff. In June of 1990 ICMB issued a letter of intent to fund the project to influence Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) to grant funding toward the project. After that, it was indicated the next step was building a pilot plant. The project ended on Aug. 31, 1991, at the U of I, but it was indicated there was a possibility of moving it to North Dakota. However, after Aug. 31 the project continued in Ohio.

*Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)* - In 1987, Hal Smedley from NCGA talked about the Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) de-icer which in the beginning was made with a petroleum derivative. However, there was a possibility that the biomass could be corn. The actual product, being made in New York, was to come to Illinois for further experimental uses in the winter of 1987-88. This project was funded through NCDF. However, patent negotiations had broken down between Chevron and Nyserda causing a delay in production for two to five years. In January

of 1987, ICMB approved some funding for CMA work and promotion. Some board members attended a meeting with Chevron officials in San Francisco where they learned that, at that time, corn was the best feedstock for CMA. Eventually, Chevron sold its CMA interests to a San Diego, CA based company called General Atomics. A new division called Cryotech De-icing was formed to conduct research, marketing and distribution of the product.

In February of 1989 ICMB funded the research project “CMA from Corn: Improving Production and Recovery Process” for three years with researchers Dr. Cheryan and Parekh from the U of I. Then in August of 1991 ICMB approved proceeding with a CMA commercialization plan, which was the intermediate step before it would be ready for commercialization. Another project by Dr. Cheryan from the U of I was funded by ICMB in December of 1991 called “CMA from Corn: Scale Up and Economic Feasibility,” with co-funding coming from Minnesota. In August of 1993 it was noted that project was at a critical stage of trying to find a commercial partner to seek money for a pilot plant. At that time, it was decided the next logical step was to have a technical analysis done, which the board approved. ICGA sent a request into AARC for funding on the CMA research projects.



Exhibit on CMA



Another exhibit on CMA

In 1992, it was decided to establish a steering committee for CMA to develop commercialization plans with the suggested make-up of the committee to be two from ICMB, Bob Mustell from NCGA, a representative of the corn processing industry and one from ICGA. ICMB members appointed were Fred Werts and Russell Williams. A meeting was held in 1995 with Cryotech which indicated that the market for CMA was growing, especially in Japan. However, Cryotech developed a wait and see attitude, so it was decided to do further investigation with wet millers such as Cargill. Another project was funded in 1995 on CMA called “Industrial Scale Pilot-Plant Production of CMA” by researcher Dr. Cheryan from the U of I. Other companies which showed interest in CMA were Staley and ADM who had indicated interest in the bug as well as in producing acetates. Other states committed to the project were: IA, OH, MN, MI, CO and KY. In further discussions with ADM, however, it was learned they were interested in working with Dr. Cheryan to hire his assistant, Dr. Shah, to work on acetate. The board voted to release

some of their funding to the U of I on the CMA project for acetate testing at ADM. On July 5, Dr. Cheryan's project began at ADM. Staff was directed to investigate a market analysis for CMA.

Then in 1993 a new research project on acetates came into the picture. ICMB funded a project called "Potassium Acetate" by Dr. Cheryan from the U of I with co-funding coming from Iowa and Minnesota. Continued funding on this project was granted to Dr. Cheryan in 1996, noting that the board was redirecting funds set aside last year for the CMA project, so the project turned in an acetic acid project. A marketing study was funded on acetic acid, but the results were not as positive as had been hoped, so this information was turned over to ADM to decide whether to proceed.

*BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS* - In the late 1980's, the term biodegradable plastics surfaced. The first mention made in the minutes was in November of 1985 when Melody Taylor was directed to continue getting information on bio-degradable containers being made from corn starch. The first corn-based bio-degradable plastics research surfaced in a laboratory fifteen years ago, but the basic information sat on a shelf gathering dust.

In 1988, ICMB funded their first two-year research projects on biodegradables. The research for the first project was done by J. Bruce Litchfield at the University of Illinois. In June of 1988 it was reported there was a possibility of producing the garbage bags in the plant in Aurora. The city of Urbana had a pilot project for using these bio-degradable bags in their landfill. The first bags produced in Agri-Tech's lab contained 40 percent corn starch, but they were moldy within one week. Therefore, they adjusted the content to 6 percent corn starch made from a product called Masterbatch. Agri-Tech applied for industry patents on biodegradable bags and worked with a couple of other companies.

The second project funded by ICMB identified a different technology for producing biodegradables, by researcher Dr. Baianu from the U of I, on corn protein components in biodegradable plastic films for packaging applications. This research, conducted jointly with an educational and promotional campaign, was behind the bio-degradable corn-starch plastic lawn leaf bags and diapers which were on the market. The board continued to press for bio-degradable plastics that contained more than 6 percent corn starch.

In 1989, Bob Fitzpatrick and ICGA staff presented testimony before Illinois Senate committees on Energy and Environment and the House Agriculture Committee in favor of corn-based plastics playing a key role in solving environmental problems. ICGA spoke in favor of SB1599, sponsored by Jerome Joyce, D-Reddick, which defined "biodeterioration" and "biodegradation". Testimony was also given on similar legislation in the House. SB1599 was amended but eventually passed by a 51 to 4 vote. The House followed suit, passing identical legislation. Representative Phil Novak, D-Kankakee was chief sponsor of the House Bill. By 1999, the new bags being made in Aurora were called "EnviroGard" and were distributed through Ace Hardware, True Value and Osco Drug. Another bag was marketed by Corn Belt FS through JM Jones who distributed through Cub Foods, IGA's and other independents throughout the state. Biodegradable bags were ordered, and distribution began in July with over 15,000 bags being distributed to farm organizations, county corn grower groups and civic organizations in more than twenty counties during the Illinois State

Fair as well as during the Farm Progress Show. The corn starch component caused the bags to lose strength and begin to degrade, eventually being consumed by microorganisms in the soil.

ICMB funded another biodegradable research project in 1990 through Western Illinois University. In this project a Wisconsin Digester evaluated the end products of biodegradable plastics in diapers during composting.

In 1991, the Chicago Park District and City of Chicago announced plans to initiate the use of bio-degradable plastic garbage bags to address their growing solid waste disposal problem in the Chicago metropolitan area. Testing was being done for use as garbage can liners and they were distributed to community groups during local park cleaning efforts. The expected use in the district's 560 parks for the year was 40,000 to 50,000.

### *Highlights from Eldon Gould*



Eldon speaking at a press conference on the bus program

Eldon's involvement in ICMB began in March of 1986 after he failed in his re-election bid as a state director on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board. This meant he was available and wondering what he was going to do next. Then he received a call to see if he would be interested in running to fill an unexpired term in District 1 on ICMB. At this point in time, ICMB was still in its infancy. The State Executive Committee and at least one other person interviewed him, and Eldon was appointed to the position. As he noted, "the rest is history".

While on the board Eldon did go through many of the officer positions and served as chairperson for two years. At the beginning of Eldon's tenure, the ICMB was trying to establish who they were, what they were going to do and the best way to spend the dollars available through the checkoff program. He gave Jerry Carney credit for his philosophy, "Let's do what's best for IL Corn". The board members didn't always agree 100 percent, but they tried to stay focused and spend the dollars available through the program to advance the market and the profitability of the

Sterling Saline with Eldon  
speaking at a conference



Illinois corn producer. The board was always closely monitoring the people asking for refunds and reviewed the refund reports at every meeting to make sure they were doing their job. They wanted to know if there was a philosophical problem, or they were getting a failing grade. In some people's minds, they felt they needed to monitor whether they were headed in the right direction.

As far as personal growth from serving on the board, Eldon stated it was a continuation of his other organizational experience. He noted, "You soon learn that Illinois is a big state—geographically and philosophically speaking. As you get into leadership roles, you must learn to mesh all the philosophies together and come to a consensus of what is important to the organization. Sometimes, leadership skills are learned the hard way. You must listen to everyone's concerns and thoughts and come to a consensus." Several years later, an outcome of Eldon's involvement over the years landed him in Washington, DC where he served as the head of the Risk Management Association under President George W. Bush.

A lot of the discussion during Eldon's term on ICMB centered around the funding of national organizations—NCGA, USFGC and USMEF. Also, in Illinois there was always research that needed to be done and ongoing discussion about that. All in all, Eldon thinks ICMB handled priorities fair and square each year and, as an organization, got along pretty well. Being one of the few livestock producers on the board, Eldon thought it seemed natural for USMEF to be the direction where his national organization interests should be. However, Maurie Gordon who either was or soon to be chairperson of the USFGC, tapped Eldon to be on the Market Development Committee of the Council. Eldon was a little apprehensive about being chairperson because he was fairly young in regard to Council activities. This was a new committee instigated by Illinois people who thought the Council, being an international market development group, should have a marketing committee. So, with a little luck and skilled staff support, Eldon moved that forward.



Eldon testing a product in Thailand



Eldon with a trade team; Larry Groce in back

The first overseas mission Eldon participated in as Market Development Committee chairperson was to Turkey, Thailand and Indonesia. This mission centered around grain quality and the best way to store corn in high humidity and high heat parts of the country. Everything was shipped by Panamax vessel which was a large vessel to get through the Panama Canal, let alone finding a place where it could unload. There was concern about the quality of the product at the end of the day when a ship had been in-route for two or three weeks and then the grain still needed to be unloaded and stored. Lowell Hill at the University of Illinois was involved with some of the study missions, although not this one, and he did a lot of the research on grain quality. As Eldon stated, “Lowell was the Midwest guru for grain quality, on-farm drying, and early phases of on-farm storage. He was a natural to fit in with some of the research work funded by ICMB.”

The Market Development Committee chairmanship launched Eldon into an officer position for USFGC where he served as chairman. As Eldon noted, “The Council was looking to spend money prudently to get the most bang for the buck. The majority of funders were corn, sorghum, barley and agribusiness.” At the point in time when Eldon was involved, there was still a little bit of a tussle between agribusiness and commodity groups. The USFGC started as an arm of agribusiness with much of the funding coming from agribusiness. Eldon noted, “As an organization, once in a while they had to take baby steps and remember they all needed to work together as a team to move the ball forward for the entire organization, not just one interest group.”

During Eldon’s tenure on USFGC was the Tiananmen Square debacle in China. At that time, China was not the market it is today, but you could tell it would be an emerging market. Also in the early days was the loss of the Russian market, which needed to be replaced by something else. We were gradually entering into the Asian market, particularly Japan, Indonesia and Thailand. Eldon related the following interesting story that happened on this mission. They were in Thailand where the people were concerned about being competitive with the people of Indonesia because those in Thailand were being paid \$5 per day, while those in Indonesia received \$2 per day. He remembers going over to watch them unload a shipload of grain where they were literally either taking bags out of the ship or bagging grain in the hold of the ship, putting them in a pile and

soon hoisting them out of the hold of the ship to take on to storage. In other words, they were doing things very few people would dream of doing. These “boys” were wearing only shorts and no shoes, or at least no safety shoes. So, their standards were nothing like we are used to and this was an interesting process to watch.

From his experience serving on the ICMB, Eldon stated, “As a boy from the farm, I got to travel around the world quite a bit. That opens your eyes to help you appreciate everything that goes on outside rural Illinois.”

## 1987-88

The Illinois Corn Utilization Task Force undertook a two-year awareness campaign for corn sweeteners among producers and the general public. Activities planned included building awareness of the amount of corn used for sweeteners (current use of corn at that time was 530 million bushels), the economic importance of the state’s corn sweetener industry and the need for the Sugar Program under current world conditions and communicating the health benefits and favorable characteristics of corn sweeteners in food products. These activities were to be accomplished through direct mail campaigns, radio and television announcements, a sweetener videotape and a “Corn in the Classroom” project. A rally was held at A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company headquarters in Decatur where farmers, local dignitaries and the American Sugar Alliance were in attendance. Also, TV commercials and advertising for the campaign were done.



Picture at the American Sugar Alliance Rally, Decatur IL

Commercials for the Class AA basketball tournament were run again this year and multi-program videos which contained information on plastics, new horizons, Mertect, grain quality, sweeteners and ground water were produced to be used for speaking engagements. It was decided to discontinue the candy corn as a promotional item and instead purchase sets of stickers containing corn art.



Picture of the Corn Gluten manuals

The University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University both continued research projects on corn gluten feed for livestock. Two years earlier a corn gluten booklet was developed and printed. Then, this past year it was decided to print a version in Spanish and Arabic for use in Mexico, Central and South America, Spain and the Middle East. USFGC provided the services for translation. In promoting corn gluten feed and to help educate the emerging grain sectors on the specific advantages to be gained by doing business with the U.S. grain system, ICMB directors Lewis Asher and Dave Meyer attended a regional grain marketing conference in Caracas, Venezuela; Maurice Gordon went to Cairo, Egypt; and Terry Ferguson and Larry Zabel attended a conference in Lomé, Togo, Africa.

Over four and a half years, ICMB funded over twenty-five research projects aimed at increasing the use of corn or improving grain quality. In 1987, it was approved to support, through NCGA, Dr. Lowell Hill of the U of I in his efforts to get an economic impact study regarding the broken corn foreign material (BCFM) in corn. In addition, the board approved ordering two slide sets entitled "Let's Meet the Competition," put together by Dr. Hill.

Through Southern Illinois University, the board funded a research project to develop and refine a new dry extruded feed from wet distiller's grain. It was noted that this project could help small ethanol companies, as they could produce both ethanol and feed. Also, since wet feed was hard to store, this would make good feed. The goal of the feed technology was to make nutrient balanced diets available for livestock, poultry, agricultural use and the pet industry.



Mark Lambert and John Block at a National Farm Broadcasters meeting



Picture of researcher Dr. Munir Cheryan from the U of I

NCDF presented a request for sponsorship of a Corn Satellite News Program. The concept of the program was that Ray Communications Radio Networks would produce two and one-half minute NCGA Corn Updates five days per week. These daily reports would reach approximately 90 percent of the 375 members of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, plus two daily reports via satellite would be done at the annual Corn Classic and National Corn Utilization Conference. The board approved funding for this program.

Mention was made in 1986-87 about the Kelly Harrison project. A committee was appointed to review the report and determine what information could be released. The three ways Mr. Harrison reported to increase ethanol production were: 1) several regional or state ethanol mandates, 2) an extension of the highway tax exemption to the year 2000, and 3) a federal mandate. Funding to publish the edited version of the Kelly Harrison report was approved.

The year of 1988 proved to be a banner year for red meat exports which was good news for corn growers, as that related to value added corn. For the first time ever, livestock and livestock product exports surpassed feed grains, wheat and flour commodity export figures in dollar value. Funding through USMEF helped make \$57 billion in sales possible.

*First Research Project to Reach Commercialization* - The first research projected funded by ICMB to reach the commercialization stage was on zein. The research was done by Dr. Cheryan from the University of Illinois and funding was granted beginning in 1988 and continued up through 2013.

In 2002, ICMB funded a marketing study and signed a contract for doing a business plan. Phil Shane met with a membrane company and Washington Group Engineering Company

trying to firm up production costs. ICMB hoped to get enough material from a pilot run to send to end users. An Agri-First grant was received for a pilot plant demonstration which was done in Canada. The board moved to go forward with setting up a new entity for the purpose of commercializing the technology. Wrigley was one of the initial companies interested in the technology and they helped with funding for the pilot run with the understanding that they would receive 50 percent of whatever was produced. A contract was signed with the Washington Group to monitor the process and help design future equipment made in ethanol plants when the technology was taken to them. The board approved funding for the legal fees to set up the licensing agreement on zein and toward ethanol plant design work for the zein processing.

Phil Shane and Roger Hubele went to Canada for the trial run on the zein pilot project where they hoped to produce about fifty pounds of zein, with Wrigley getting twenty-five of those fifty pounds. This trial run failed, and it was noted the membrane needed to be taken apart to see where it failed. The zein product wasn't as high quality as they wanted, which caused quite a bit of yield loss. In 2003, ICMB approved a marketing plan by James Eckles of Context Network to complete an in-depth review of leading applications for zein, determining which were most likely to succeed and meet short- and medium-term objectives of the business plan. Another Agri-First grant was received, and it was approved to hire a membrane consultant to determine what the problems were.

One of Wrigley's concerns with the zein product produced was the off flavor it created. So ICMB voted to develop a CRADA with the USDA National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research lab in Peoria to work on zein product development, working on the off-flavor issue as well as zein fiber development. It was also approved to revise the zein business plan for investor purposes.

The Zein Agreement, which had been approved by the attorneys, was signed and it was approved to reimburse the U of I for patent costs, per the COPE and Xanthophyll license agreement. This licensed two technologies. The first part covered the protein and oil extraction process and gave ICMB exclusive rights and worldwide rights, although they only had patent protection in the U.S. For the royalty stream, it was negotiated to get 1 percent on the net sales for the product. Xanthophyll was 1 percent on net sales of all products except pharmaceuticals, which was 3 percent. If ICMB sublicensed to another company and charged a fee to them, then ICMB would pay the University 30 percent of that fee. Reports to the University were required regarding the marketing assessment and the business plan, in addition to a report every year on how the project was moving along.

A new for-profit company was formed which had to carry liability insurance. This new company was called Prairie Gold, Inc., which was formed by Illinois Corn Opportunities (ICO). Phil Shane became its president. The first ICO Board was Roger Hubele, president, Kenneth Greene, John Kuhfuss, Tim Lenz and Matt Carley. It was noted that the sublicensing of the U of I Licensing Agreement to ICO, allowed ICMB committed funds for the COPE process to be used as matching grant dollars against state and federal grants and allowed ICO and Prairie Gold, Inc. to use ICMB proprietary confidential information as needed to commercialize the COPE technology. The first meeting of Prairie Gold was held March 20, 2006, with the same directors as ICO.

Additional funding on the USDA projects was granted, as well as funding for the COPE Technology up through 2013. Funding granted in 2006 helped with equipment needed at NCERC to scale-up the project. The IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) also committed funding toward the project.

In 2009 GTL, who owned Illinois River Energy, negotiated a contract with Prairie Gold to put a pilot plant at IRE. Prairie Gold set up the pilot plant at IRE in Rochelle to evaluate their corn oil extraction process to produce adequate amounts of zein protein. There were two companies interested in testing this product. ICMB granted a pilot plant scale-up COPE research project with Dow AgroSciences to be used at the Illinois River Energy facility.

Finally, after many years of research, it was decided to build a plant in 2013 to commercialize the zein technology at Galva, Illinois. This new plant, known as Big Rivers Prairie Gold, hopes to be on-line sometime within the next year to 18 months.

## 1988-89

There was discussion at a meeting in June regarding a national checkoff, which was attended by Kent Chidley, Gerald Carney, Eldon Gould, David Meyer and Joe Hampton. In July, a checkoff committee was appointed to discuss future funding and an increase in the state checkoff.

Since Maurice Gordon's term had expired on ICMB, there was some question about him continuing to serve on USFGC as an ICMB representative. It was approved to appoint him with the stipulation that he attend three ICMB meetings per year.

Since this was the first year for ICMB directors to complete their term on the board, a decision was made to hold a retirement recognition event to recognize those retiring for their years of service.

A funding request from NCDF to help fund an econometric study to provide information and input into the 1990 Farm Bill was approved for funding.



Retiring directors: Lew Asher,  
Curtis Bradley and Maurice Gordon

A meeting was held in Chicago of all the research committees of checkoff boards. This was the first of many meetings over the years to help coordinate research to avoid duplications. The Research Committee also decided to develop the practice of dividing up the ongoing research projects among committee members and have them make periodic visits with the researchers.

## **1989-90**



Officers Gary Schmalshof, Eldon Gould, Wayne Meyer, Bill Bradley



New directors Lynn Laible, Larry Chamness, Gary Edwards



Picture of USMEF Expo



Picture of the billboard for the No Thanks campaign



Picture of the ethanol bumper sticker



Picture of a researcher at the U of I

In addition to approval of the annual funding for the national cooperators, it was approved to fund grants to USFGC and USMEF for TEA administration for FY 1990. USMEF had a Meat Extravaganza meeting scheduled in Japan during mid-March of 1991 and the board approved sending as many board members as possible to that conference. There was an Ag 2000 Conference held in Decatur and ICMB provided a speaker, Bud Middaugh from USMEF.

A unique public relations project was a billboard and bumper sticker campaign proclaiming the folly of depending on foreign oil sources too heavily. Billboards were placed across Illinois and in DC which said "No Thanks Iraq. Use Ethanol". The H in thanks was struck out making the message read "No Tanks Iraq." This program received media coverage on all three Peoria television stations and in Springfield, Decatur and Champaign.

Other public relations projects included funding for the ICGA corn go-cart program; purchasing "Miracle of Corn" videos; producing 50,000 biodegradable litterbags with a recommendation to change the label to say "plastic made with corn" since there was a question whether or not they were biodegradable; construction of a plexiglass display box to contain corn for use as part of the State Fair display; funding to create five ethanol displays; a checkoff poster campaign as well as lapel stickers, patches and hat patches and development of a brochure promoting the checkoff increase. In addition, approval was given to work with Phil Reed, Director of U.S. Farm Report, to develop an ICMB video with Max Armstrong doing the narrative.



Chairman Hampton presenting awards to retiring directors



Picture of Terry Taylor, Gerald Carney, Clem Newton



Wayne Meyer on left showing packing peanuts

Reports were given on the visits made with the researchers on the research projects. It was felt that this proved to be remarkably successful, and it was suggested replacing the annual review of projects with these visits. One of the high priority research projects for 1990 dealt with decontamination of fuel and chemical waste. This project offered the potential to develop a more cost efficient and environmentally sound method of handling such soil contamination using corn. Another research project funded had to do with wood adhesives to develop and test replacement plywood glues from the cornstarch derivatives. It was noted that these adhesives were being made with petroleum.

Original board members who retired this year were Clem Newton, Gerald Carney and Terry Taylor. The retirement event was held at the McLean County fairgrounds.

NCDF developed the CURD system (Corn Utilization Research Data) as a data collections system on corn that could be used by scientists, the government and the corn industry. The goal of this system was to make research efforts more efficient through coordination.

American Excelsior Company introduced a 'packaging peanut' made from 95 percent corn starch. Not only did this product, called ECO-FOAM, fill up empty spaces and cushion the contents, but because of its high starch content, started to decompose once it was saturated with water.



Board members with staff - back row, l-r: Terry Taylor, Fred Werts, David Meyer, Lawrence Woessner, Terry Ferguson, Wayne Meyer, Rodney Weinzierl, Mark Lambert, Ann Hodgson; front row: Larry Zabel, Bill Bradley, Eldon Gould, Joe Hampton, Scott Bidner, Sterling Saline, Gerald Carney



New directors George Obernagel,  
Don Doehring, Russell Williams

## 1990-91

As noted in the ICGA section, the board voted to hold a referendum asking for an increase in the checkoff rate from  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. In order to promote the checkoff increase, it was decided to do a billboard and bumper decal ethanol campaign within the State of Illinois. The theme chosen was "Don't be a Scud, Be a Patriot, Use Ethanol". Also, it was decided to run a series of radio commercials, interviews, etc. on Art Sechrest's "News for Corn Growers" program. The public hearing for the checkoff referendum was set for January 7, 1991. In a referendum vote done on March 5, 1991, the increase was defeated. (vote listed under ICGA section). The board voted to set aside money in their budget for a checkoff referendum vote in 1992.

Through the failed vote on the checkoff increase, the board learned they needed to look at different ways of communicating with producers. So, it was decided to experiment with running commercials on the WGN State Fair reports. In addition, the board decided to produce no more Quarterly Reports and just go to an Annual Report. At a later meeting, it was noted that the cost for the commercials was less than the cost of one newsletter so the committee thought this would be more effective than sending out the Quarterly Reports.

The retirement event for this year was held at the McLean County fairgrounds on Aug. 21, 1991. The last of the original board of directors retiring were Joe Hampton, David Meyer and Lawrence Woessner.

The board approved going through a strategic planning process, along with ICGA, and hired Randy Rollinson as the facilitator. Eldon Gould announced his interest in running for secretary of the USFGC and even though his term on ICMB would expire before he went through the officer chain on USFGC, the board voted to support him.

A new organization called the New Uses Council was developed to utilize government funding to bring innovative technology online, with the overseer of the group being the Secretary of Agriculture. The board decided they should be involved and for their commitment, they were allowed five members to serve on that organization. Original members from Illinois were Bill Bradley, Gary Edwards, Wayne Meyer, Fred Werts and Larry Zabel.

A new promotional program identified was the creation of a corn character. That led to the creation of a Captain Cornelius figure. This character made his first appearance at the Heart of Illinois Fair in Peoria. To help with promoting Captain Cornelius, it was decided to create a large stand-up poster of the Captain, along with a Captain Cornelius comic book and handouts of baseball type cards. Of special note was that the comic books were printed with corn-soy ink. Captain Cornelius comic book and handouts of baseball type cards. Of special note was that the comic books were printed with corn-soy ink.



Picture of Captain Cornelius



picture of the Captain Cornelius comic book



Captain Cornelius in cornfield

The Research Committee developed a new evaluation form for research projects. It was decided to change the procedures for the review of research projects and have the entire board visit with researchers, rather than having all the researchers coming into a board meeting for annual review presentations. The committee also decided to move the date for consideration of research projects to sometime in November, with a recommendation for funding at the December meeting.



Board members with staff - back row, l-r: Ann Hodgson, Bill Bradley, Terry Taylor, Lawrence Woessner, Gerald Carney, David Meyer, Wayne Meyer, Fred Werts, Darrel Kammeyer, Gary Schmalshof, Mark Lambert; front row: Terry Ferguson, Eldon Gould, Jack Fisher, Joe Hampton, Sterling Saline, Larry Zabel, Rodney Weinzierl

## 1991-92



Officers George Obernagel, Wayne Meyer, Bill Bradley, Gary Schmalshof

The retiring director recognition was held on August 19, 1992, at Jumer's. Iowa Corn met with Illinois in July. Because several members were participating in trade missions, it was decided to adopt a policy for directors to submit a detailed, written report describing the trade mission in which they participated.

A decision was made to expand the Captain Cornelius promotion and part of the money approved went toward the purchase of two new costumes. Another attention getting device approved was the purchase of bio-degradable golf tees. Downstate radio advertising during harvest was purchased to run on seven radio stations, mainly in the center of the state.

Two new research projects were funded in 1992 through the University of Illinois: 1) "Process to Enhance Compatibility of Ethanol and Fructose Production," with research to be done by Steve Eckhoff and 2) "An Assessment of Future Economic and Environmental Aspects," with research to be done by Robert Hauser from the U of I.



Board members and staff - back row, l-r: Jack Fisher, Fred Werts, Larry Chamness, Don Doehring, Gene Youngquist, George Obernagel, Eldon Gould, Terry Ferguson, Gary Edwards; front row: Mark Lambert, Ann Hodgson, Bill Bradley, Wayne Meyer, Russell Williams, Larry Zabel, Darrel Kammeyer, Lynn Laible, Rodney Weinzierl

*TRADE MISSIONS* - In 1986, the ICMB board approved policy to cover the cost for one board member to participate in a USFGC overseas mission annually. Following are some of the missions which took place during this decade.

1986 John Campen	USFGC to Bulgaria, Turkey & Egypt
1991 Darrel Kammeyer	Latin America
Gary Schmalshof,	
Max Armstrong (WGN)	
WGN camera operator	Iberian Peninsula (Algeria, Egypt, Portugal & Spain)
	MEF Meat Extravaganza in Japan
1992 Lynn Laible	Russia
Bill Bradley	Australia, Korea and Indonesia
Media representative	USFGC corn mission to CIS



Darrel Kammeyer talking with a trade team



Overseas mission - Gary Schmalshof is second from the left and Rick Tolman, USGC, is second from the right

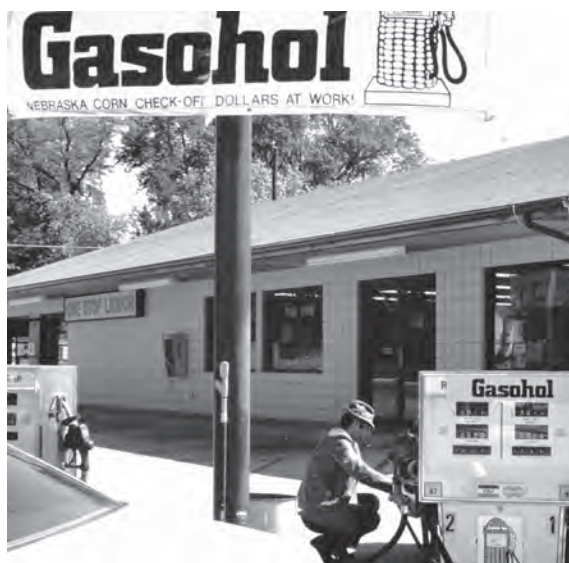
## Chapter Three

### MAJOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

In this chapter you will find the major projects or areas where both ICGA and ICMB focused their efforts over several of the past years. These areas include Ethanol, River Transportation, Biotechnology, and Water Quality. Since these were major areas which the boards focused on over several years, we thought it might be easier to follow the history of these main areas if they were listed in one place.

#### ETHANOL

One of the most successful projects and the biggest user of corn has been ethanol, which in the beginning was called gasohol. Over the years both boards spent many of their resources in this area which had its ups and downs. Every time the boards would think they had a win and received approval, there would be a bump in the road. They learned that it was difficult to get policy changed when your biggest opposition happened to be the oil industry. Coalitions had to be built to get the industry where it is today.



Gasohol sign in Nebraska

The first mention in the minutes regarding gasohol was in February 1978 when President Main appointed a committee to monitor the gasohol picture. At the March 10 meeting, Maurie Gordon gave a brief report on gasohol, noting that further research was necessary. Maurie was appointed to be a representative on the National Gasohol Commission. In March of 1979, the ICGA board voted to continue participation in the activities of the National Gasohol Commission and Lewis Asher attended a meeting in Denver. The first promotional activity was selling gasohol bumper stickers at the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

At the November 1980 meeting, the board voted to support the override of gasohol, tax relief veto, and if not successful, work to achieve passage of similar legislation in the next session. Gerald Carney attended a seminar of the Alcohol Fuels Association regarding on-farm alcohol production and its feasibility, along with spin-off products and their application. ICGA decided to become a member of the Illinois Fuel Alcohol Association. Fred Werts was appointed the ICGA representative.

In 1983 a full-page ad was placed in the Peoria paper on “Alcohol Fuels are Good for America” during President Reagan’s visit to Illinois. It was also during this year that the board voted to strongly encourage the State of Illinois to initiate and activate a cooperative economic stimulus program, emphasizing energy from renewable resources, and favored the exemption of alcohol fuels from any proposed state or federal tax increases.

Important legislation for corn was announced on December 1, 1983. SB 149 was passed with a 4 percent alcohol fuel tax exemption until 1992. ICGA played a major role in passage of this Senate Bill. Other action in relation to alcohol fuels was to designate John Campen to contact the City of Chicago regarding the alcohol fuel usage in their fleet operations. In April of 1984 the board decided to support the position of Alcohol Fuels Coordinator at the Illinois Department of Ag, asking the state to continue funding for one year. It was during this year that Lloyd Reeser from the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) made a presentation to the ICMB Board regarding his involvement in integrated programs on alcohol fuels, noting he felt it was his responsibility to make the board aware of what was available in ethanol fuel and associated processes. ICMB funded a research project from Western Illinois University on “The Economic Impact of Ethanol Production on the Illinois State Economy”.

*Alcohol in Aviation* - In June of 1984 the ICGA Board discussed the possibility of alcohol in aviation fuels for the first time. It was decided to draft a letter to the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) requesting input and recommendations concerning ethanol feasibility for aviation fuels. An airplane converted to alcohol fuel was on display at the State Fair and at the DeKalb fair. Then, in November 1984 David H. Lewis, Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation’s Division of Aeronautics reported at the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) meeting that if Illinois were to use a 10 percent blend of ethanol in its aviation gas and jet fuel, we could decrease our demand of foreign oil by 3,362,400 barrels. In Illinois alone, the sale of aviation gas and jet

Lewis Asher, Larry Werries,  
Greg Baise (IDOT), Scott Bidner  
in front of a helicopter





Ethanol tractor



David Meyer, Lewis Asher, & Glen Schrof pictured with an ethanol tractor

fuel was 700.5 million gallons per year. The Division had converted a 1977 192 Cessna with a Continental O-470U naturally aspirated engine to operate on 290 proof ethanol alcohol, which had flown some 100 hours with two major cross-country flights. When the ICMB reviewed their research projects in 1985, they approved funding for the Alabama Aviation and Technical College ethanol/aviation project. It was noted that originally this project had been sent to NCDF, but it was returned to Illinois because of the unavailability of funds on the national level.

In 1988 ICMB funded a research project on ethanol blended fuels for aviation fuels by Skip Eveleth with the research to be done at the Alabama Aviation and Technical College in Ozark, AL. A preliminary study showed a host of benefits gained by using the ethanol blend when compared to current Jet A fuel. It was noted that in that period of time more than 20 billion gallons of aviation fuel were burned by the nation's civilian and military jet aircraft. By using a 10 percent ethanol-blended fuel for the entire U.S. jet fleet, a new market would be created for 800 million bushels of corn. With support of the Federal Aviation Administration, a meeting was put together in Springfield by SIU and Mark Werth of IDA, because it was thought that greater quantities of ethanol could be used in aviation fuel than had originally been thought. ICMB supported the IDA aviation/ethanol promotions at the Springfield Air Show which involved an ethanol airplane flown by Max Schuck, and ADM had a big display. ICMB also funded another research project "Combustion Properties of Ethanol Blended Jet Fuels" from SIU with researchers Eiff and Putz. In 1991 Sterling Saline, Bob Fitzpatrick and Rodney Weinzierl attended a meeting in Oshkosh regarding utilizing automotive fuels in aircraft.

1985 - During this year, the announcement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to phase-out lead in gasoline opened a huge potential for ethanol as an octane enhancer. With this phasedown, the EPA would decrease lead content of regular gasoline by 50 percent on July 1 and by 90 percent by January 1, 1986. Corn growers filed a petition with the U.S. Customs on January 29 requesting that they immediately revoke prior rulings concerning the eligibility of certain fuel-grade ethanol for duty free entry under a Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act. A second petition was filed to amend the regulations allowing importers to bring ethanol into the U.S. to try to avoid paying duties by claiming it was for another use. On the home front, ICGA supported legislation that would not allow imported Brazilian ethanol to take advantage of the 4 percent tax

exemption. Mobil Oil Company announced they would replace regular leaded, regular unleaded and super unleaded gasoline with ethanol-enhanced gasoline. On July 1, 1985, ICGA, along with the ICMB and NCGA, launched a campaign to seek support for ethanol fuel at a press conference held at a west side park in Chicago. The NCGA Market Development Committee, working with Valentine- Radford, developed a turn-key promotional program on ethanol, which was a media spokesperson training program for each state to participate in.

*Ethanol use in tractors* - Fred Werts from ICGA reported to ICMB about a project by Ford Motor Company regarding the development of an ethanol powered engine. He noted that Ford began research on alcohol-fueled tractor engines in 1979 in Brazil and learned that these alcohol-fueled engines demonstrated excellent reliability, as well as thermal and overall efficiencies equal to those in comparable diesel-powered engines. In 1985 a meeting was held with Ford Tractor regarding their alcohol powered engine. Approval was given to survey the farmers of Illinois regarding their interest in an ethanol powered tractor. A postcard was developed, noting that Ford Motor Company would pay for the mailing of the postcard. After 55,000 of these cards were mailed out, it was reported that 708 responses had been received and 34 percent of those questioned indicated they would buy, and 22 percent indicated they would lease if an alcohol powered tractor were available. The main concerns were cost, reliability and serviceability as well as the efficiency of alcohol versus diesel. A press conference was held at the State Fair in August 1985 announcing that eight tractors were committed to the State of Illinois Department of Transportation for an ethanol test program. The tractors were to be used in Districts 5 and 6. ICMB committed \$24,000 for the eight tractors plus the cost of fuel for two tractors.

Director of Ag Larry Werries  
looking over an ethanol tractor



Procedures were adopted to use the IDOT Ford tractors at fairs and shows. During the years of 1986-1990, ICMB funded a couple of research projects by Professor Goehring at the University of Illinois on "Evaluation of an Ethanol-Fumigated Diesel Tractor". ICGA and ICMB had representatives attending the National Ethanol Meeting on July 18, 1988, in Nashville, Tennessee and one of Illinois' eight ethanol fueled tractors attracted a lot of attention during this conference. The IDOT tractors phased out at the end of 1995 because repair parts were difficult to find and fuel costs were higher than diesel.

1987 - Ethanol-blended gasoline sales reached a level of 29.7 percent of total gasoline sales in November 1986. Promotional programs began when ICGA ordered some ethanol bumper stickers which were included in a mailing of the Quarterly Report, along with orange and green ethanol cards. Also, full page ads, which were sponsored by NCGA, ICGA and various other State Corn Grower organizations, ran in eleven major metropolitan areas in an attempt to clear up confusion of the public regarding ethanol.

Mobil Oil discontinued its ethanol blending program in Illinois and Minnesota with the depletion of their current blends. Their decision was based on the reduced amount of tax incentive and the general decline in gasoline prices versus ethanol prices. GM contacted the RFA in May asking that the ethanol industry consider adding detergent to ethanol as a means of providing port fuel injection deposit prevention in many of the independent brands of gasoline. RFA secured commitments from producers and distributors of approximately 92 percent of the fuel ethanol supply sold in the U.S. to begin using the detergent additive package. Clark Oil Company introduced a new 91 octane premium grade with ethanol in its Chicago market. The board issued a challenge to the agribusiness industry to adopt ethanol blends as their automobile fuel for their fleets. A meeting was held in Chicago with Amoco marketing officials to discuss their anti-ethanol ad, and later in the year they agreed to omit "no alcohol added" signs on their Amoco gas pumps and in advertising and promotion messages. Also on the ethanol front, a ruling was made by the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York to prohibit ethanol toluene blended fuels from entering the U.S.

*E-Team Project* - A notable public relations project approved for funding by ICMB in 1987 was the Livingston County Farm Bureau E-Team project. The proposal was to cooperate with the Illinois Petroleum Retailer's Association and conduct an ethanol promotional activity. As a result of this project, a lot of media coverage was gained, and the E-Team appeared on talk shows and radio. The demand for their appearances kept them busy. In a later evaluation of the project, the board moved oversight from Livingston County to the ICMB Executive Committee and later to the ICMB Public Relations Committee. The project's name was changed when it was discovered the name "E-Team" was already registered to Commonwealth Edison. The board agreed to do this.



Picture of the E Team members



Picture of the E Team at an exhibit

ICMB allocated funding to the ICGA-ICMB Ethanol Study Committee to hire a consultant to compile statistics relative to the expansion of the Illinois ethanol industry. They also authorized an ethanol promotion created by Mona, Meyer and McGrath for a media tour and video news releases.

On a national level, the governor's task force in Colorado had a mandate in Denver for the use of ethanol from Nov. 1 to Mar. 9 of each year. The Quality Commission Task Force in Denver recommended the use of oxygenated fuels. In the winter of 1987, they required 1 ½ percent oxygenated fuel content and in 1988 that went to 2 percent. At that time, current sales of ethanol in Illinois were 25.6 percent while nationwide it was 7 to 8 percent. Monsanto was using ethanol in their fleet cars.

1988 - Amoco began an ad campaign in North Dakota promoting ethanol in a new 89-octane mid-grade unleaded product. Vice President George H. Bush announced a major policy initiative stating that alcohol fuels could provide significant reductions in automobile emissions while cutting the Ag surplus, as well as reducing American dependence on imported oil. The Colorado Air Quality Control Commission Subcommittee on Oxygenated Fuels voted on Feb. 26 to submit to the full Commission a recommendation seeking to establish the first oxygenated fuels mandate in the U.S. Some other groups adopting the use of ethanol included the North Boone School District 200, utilizing ethanol in their bus fleet, the DeKalb County Corn Growers Association, working to get the sheriff's and highway department to use ethanol blends, the Polo Methodist Church approved a resolution approving the use of ethanol and Nick Reding, President of Monsanto Agricultural Company, sent a memo to all employees urging the use of ethanol in fleet cars and personal vehicles. In 1988 approximately 30 percent of the gasoline sold in Illinois contained 10 percent ethanol.



Ethanol sign

1989 - New decals expanding on the theme “I Grow It I Use It” were developed. The decal was oval shaped and designed for bulk fuel tanks on the farm as well as use by distributors of ethanol. ICGA coordinated an effort to distribute the bulk tank decals along with other ethanol promotional materials through the membership of five organizations including American Agriculture Movement, The Grange, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Farmers Union and the National Farm Organization. Many counties had programs to support ethanol. Grundy County put up a billboard along Route 47 near Morris and Will County designed a series of signs on ethanol which could be rotated. Also during this year, ICMB cooperated with ICGA in sponsoring mechanic seminars in DeKalb, Macon and Grundy Counties to provide information on ethanol fuel. It was noted that Illinois drivers used more than 134,000,000 gallons of 10 percent ethanol blended fuel in January 1989 which was nearly double the amount of any other state.

Representatives from ICMB and ICGA were sent to an Ethanol Seminar in Colorado where they learned that the public had accepted oxygenated fuels and it had been proven that 10 percent ethanol cleaned up the air. Iowa Corn had an ethanol promotion video which was to be adapted with Illinois information. In an effort to increase communication awareness about ethanol, ICGA and ICMB decided to sponsor McKee Racing Inc. and the Ethanol Racing Team. The racing team and the world’s fastest corn-powered car demonstrated the capabilities of corn-based ethanol on the competitive American Indy Car Series across the U.S. and Canada. The car did appear in the State Fair parade and was a big draw into the ICMB/ICGA exhibit in the Commodity Building at the fair. In addition, it was also on display at the Farm Progress Show. The race car and a Ford flexible fuel vehicle were on display side by side at the Illinois State Fair. Orion Samuelson from WGN drove the flex fuel car from Chicago to the State Fair and talked about this on his Noon Show. Fred Werts made the contacts to get the car. The McKee Racing program continued until April of 1991.



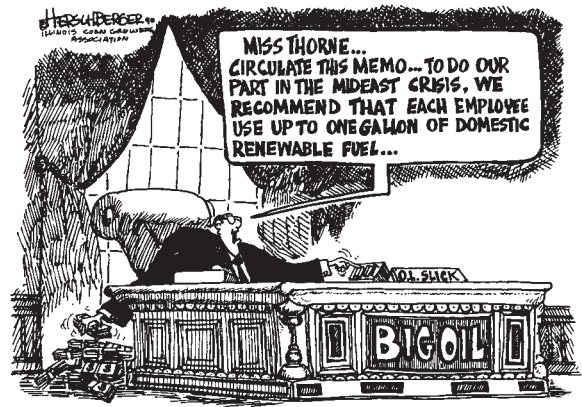
McKee race car at the State Fair



McKee race car on exhibit at the State Fair



Mideast Oil comic



Big oil cartoon



Billboard with the "Bush You Make the Call" slogan

1990 - President Bush proposed sweeping amendments to the nation's Clean Air Act. The 86th General Assembly of the State of Illinois passed House Bill HR731, praising President Bush for his positive approach toward clean air. General Motors announced they would endorse ethanol in their owner's manuals, beginning with the 1990 model year. A couple of ads on ethanol were run in Illinois Agri-News, with one being cost shared with other farm organizations. ICGA also provided some funding to Knox County Corn Growers for a racetrack ethanol promotion and to Lawrence County Farm Bureau for an ethanol promotion. It was also during this year that it was approved to support legislation to include MTBE in Illinois' pump labeling regulations. The prison started making ethanol signs for use on farms. A new teacher's workbook entitled "Ethanol and its Use as a Motor Vehicle Fuel" was written by a panel of educators in an effort to meet the needs of teachers to implement state goals in learning in science and social studies. Ethanol made from corn was featured in this publication, which was distributed through the Illinois State Board of Education.



GP Transit press conference with Darrel Kammeyer speaking



Picture of one of the Peoria Mass Transit ethanol buses

Captain Cornelius pictured  
with one of the ethanol buses



Group picture in front of the ethanol bus at the NCGA Corn Classic

*Ethanol Powered Buses* - The beginning of another project for ethanol started in 1990 with ICMB funding a research project for ethanol powered buses with the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District. Peoria Mass Transit was considering other projects for alternative fueled buses. However, ethanol was the only alternative fuel that was renewable. This was a five-year project to use fourteen buses with DDC engines running on 100% ethanol and thirteen buses with CAT engines with an ethanol adapter kit. Bradley University was committed to do an analysis on the cost of ethanol and what it meant to the consumer.

The Illinois Department of Energy & Natural Resources and Illinois Department of Transportation provided funding; engines were provided on a cost-shared basis with Detroit Diesel and Capital Machinery, Midwest Power Concept Company designed the kit. Pekin Energy also provided the ethanol at a reduced price. The estimated use of ethanol over the five-year duration of the project was \$1.6 million. ICGA marshalled support of legislators for the project, and the Iowa Corn Promotion Board also committed funds for the project. With the approval of a grant, a fleet of buses would be running in Peoria in 1991 on 100 percent ethanol. In 1993, one of the GP Transit ethanol buses traveled to the NCGA Corn Classic in San Antonio.

1991- In November 1990, the biggest success for ethanol was passage of the Clean Air Act and extension of tax exemptions for ethanol. Fiscal year 1991 saw ICGA testifying against a “warning status” label for ethanol on the pump in favor of a “contains ethanol” label on the fuel dispenser side. This made it consistent with USEPA regulations and board members felt it would remove the stigma that was inherent to a label required on the front of the fuel dispenser.

In cooperation with the U of I Experiment Station, Iowa State University, the National Center for Agricultural Research (USDA lab in Peoria) and Illinois Farmers Union, ICMB held an ethanol conference with about 115 in attendance. The intent of the conference was to position the U of I and Iowa State, in cooperation with the USDA lab, in a position to go after research dollars for Congressman Madigan’s \$100 million ethanol research. The ICMB Board also approved funding for the NCGA Ethanol Expansion Program which was primarily to get some valid testing results that could be sent to USEPA to make ethanol a viable fuel. The ICGA board voted in August to take a proposal to ICMB to seek funding for two flexible fuel or ethanol fueled vehicles to be used by ICGA/ICMB staff. Small plaques with “Powered by Ethanol” were presented to members of Congress who supported HB 3906. A media campaign was launched noting that Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait underscored the attractiveness of using ethanol fuels.

Picture of one of the ethanol cartoons





Billboard with the "Bush You Make the Call" slogan



Different ethanol stickers and a Gasoline manual



Downstream Alternatives  
"Gasoline Technical Manual"

Several promotional programs were launched during 1991. An ethanol supplier's directory was completed to make it easier to find ethanol, radio commercials were produced and aired throughout the state, informational placemats on ethanol were distributed to restaurants across the state and six of the state's major farm organizations joined together to run print advertising carrying the attributes of ethanol. The print ad was entitled "If You Grow Corn, You Should Use It." The supporting groups were AAM, The Grange, ICGA, IFB, IFU and NFO. In addition, technical bulletins regarding automobile issues, written by Bob Reynolds from Downstream Alternatives, were mailed to Illinois retail farm equipment dealers, service station managers, members of all new car dealers in Illinois and "Train the Trainer" program participants in cooperation with the Illinois Dept. of Ag and WIU. An ad was run in FarmWeek and IL Agri-News recognizing Growmark's support of ethanol.

ICMB and ICGA used Earth Day activities to launch an ethanol promotion and education efforts across the state. ICGA and EPA distributed more than 150,000 auto litter bags with a clean air-ethanol message to drivers in Chicago and St. Louis metropolitan areas. ICMB funded an ethanol billboard campaign to put up ten billboards on every major artery into Washington, DC and major areas throughout the state of Illinois. Funding was approved to distribute Downstream Alternatives "Gasoline Technical Manual" to dealership mechanics, upon request, by sending a mailing to service stations in the state with a reply card requesting the technical manuals. A joint program with Iowa, Missouri and Kansas was done as part of a Casey's ethanol/pizza promotion.

*Flex Fuel Vehicles* - Help was given to the City of Chicago in their efforts to purchase five ethanol vehicles to put into their fleet and Rodney Weinzierl met with Growmark regarding their interest to purchase five E85 cars for promotions at their Fuel 24 stations. It was announced at the State Fair that GM would be producing fifty cars to run on ethanol. One of the cars in the State Fair parade operated on E85. The Rock Island Farm Bureau billboard on ethanol was also in the parade.



Chevrolet Lumina E85 vehicle on display



Truck with the "Pollution Solution" billboard and the corn cart in front

Ethanol plants expanding during this year included ADM, Cargill and Pekin Energy. The USDA was moving toward forming a consortium to develop a new ethanol plant. RFA and NCGA were beginning to do emissions testing on ethanol. The State of Illinois added twelve Luminas running on E85 to the state fleet.

The Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources (IDENR) announced their intent for going into the fuel cell bus project. IDENR submitted a proposal to USDOE to obtain sole responsibility for testing over the road trucks for the U.S. on ethanol and was to sign contracts in Chicago for waste management trucks. It was noted that the initial trucks would be Detroit Diesel Corporation engines. PACE, the mass transit district serving the suburban area of Chicago, got permission to have Argonne design a bus to use ethanol.

State officials examining E85 Lumina engine with Dave Loos pictured second from right who at the time was on staff from IL Dept of Energy and Natural Resources





Gov Edgar speaking at press conference at Pekin Energy



Gov Edgar speaking at press conference at ADM  
with Greg Guenther on the left

With ICMB funding, a study was conducted at the Lake Area Vocational Technical Institute of Watertown, South Dakota. It showed that a wide range of small engines, from lawn mowers to chain saws, could run on ethanol with no materials compatibility or lubrication problems.

A new test facility that was announced, the “Alcohol Fuel User Test Facility,” to be established in 1993, posed a threat to corn-based ethanol. Funding came from the U.S. Department of Energy in association with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The facility was to be devoted to fermentation technology designed to make ethanol competitively from biomass such as wastepaper, wood, grasses and agricultural residue. Even though the facility posed no immediate threat, it pointed out the vigilance needed by corn interests.

Under Illinois legislation, there were four ethanol bills: 1) SB 1361 required all of the fuel in Illinois be an ethanol blend or 90 percent unleaded gasoline and 10 percent ethanol. Scott Durbin testified before a House subcommittee in regard to this bill which was for an ethanol mandate; 2) SB 1363 amended the State Occupation and Use Tax Acts, relating to taxes on ethanol which extended the sales tax exemption on ethanol beyond 1993; 3) SB 1364 directed the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources to develop an aggressive public education program on the benefits of ethanol; and 4) SB 1365 prohibited the misrepresentation of the effect of ethanol on motor vehicle warranties.

1992 - The ethanol regulatory battle heated up early in 1992, with ICGA calling for immediate implementation of the Clean Air Act. Regulations detailing how the Clean Air Act was to be implemented were being developed and it was believed the interpretation of the law might downgrade or even exclude ethanol from the new fuel standards. ICGA encouraged members to send comments to the USEPA docket.



Bob Dole speaking at the Ethanol Rally



Crowd at Ethanol Rally with Keith Yohnka from Kankakee Co behind sign and Wayne Meyer at far right



Herb England from Sangamon County at the Ethanol Rally



Crowd at Ethanol Rally



Picture of the ethanol boat on display



Dignitary stage at Ethanol Rally with crowd



Some of the signs at the Ethanol Rally

ICGA decided to hold an ethanol rally in Peoria on July 6, 1992, to demonstrate the importance of ethanol to the economy and the environment. The hope was that this would send a message to Washington, DC that farmers wanted a positive ruling from the USEPA on ethanol in the Clean Air Act. On display at the rally were an ethanol-powered motorboat and an ethanol-powered race car.

In Illinois, a package of ethanol bills reflected strong support of the state. Bills awaiting Governor Edgar's signature were: Gasohol Fuels Tax Abatement Act; bill on illegal misrepresentation on the effect of ethanol blended fuel's effect on vehicle warranties; encouragement of all state government, state colleges and universities and downstate public transit authorities to use ethanol fuel; and an information and education program alerting drivers to the benefits of ethanol by the state and the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. SB 1634 (Tax Abatement Act), which phased in an increase in the percentage of ethanol blended fuel sold in Illinois, with a target of 50 percent market penetration by 1997, was signed. Ethanol was a controversial issue during the 1991 General Assembly, with strong opposition from the IL Petroleum Council and the IL Petroleum Marketers.

*E85* - An update during this year revealed that it would be at least one year before Ford and Chrysler were ready to put flexible fuel vehicles online. Volkswagen indicated it would be late summer before we could get a vehicle. So, the first flexible fuel vehicle received for use by staff was a Volkswagen Jetta. ICMB funded the promotion and related research of the car. A Governor's Cup bicycle race was held in Springfield June 22-23 and the car from the office was used as the pace car.



Picture of the first E85 vehicle for office use which was a Volkswagen Jetta



License plate on the E85 Jetta

1993 - Governor Edgar signed SB406 which allocated \$5 million for research for alternative fuels, with part of the money going toward ethanol research. Other programs funded included a project by Livingston County Corn Growers and Livingston County FS to help sponsor a race car running on 85 percent ethanol. This was a project through Great Lakes Governors Council. A grant was presented to the Children's Home Association of Illinois by the Governors Ethanol Coalition. Another ethanol program sponsored by ICGA/ICMB/IFB was a cooperative effort to build a relationship with IFB, enabling us to use resources they have available. Under the program 20,000 new ethanol brochures were printed with a message asking members to write President Clinton. These were distributed to county farm bureaus. In addition, commercials ran on RFD and articles were published in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News*, with an editorial in *Prairie Farmer*.

Mechanics training seminars were held in Tazewell and Woodford Counties. It was decided to sell the E85 Volkswagen Jetta and apply those funds toward a Chevrolet E85 Lumina as well as leasing an E85 Lumina through Country Companies for staff to drive. E85 Luminas were also delivered to the state and Illinois DENR worked to get fuel tanks in place. During 1993 an E85/E95 strategic plan was developed.

1994 - The White House and EPA continued to work on resolving the reformulated gas (RFG) issue. Senator Moseley-Braun set up an Illinois meeting with U. S. Secretary Espy. Those included in the meeting were Kent Kleinschmidt, Alan Dale from IFB, Larry Quandt from IFU, Maureen Crocker from the Governor's Office and Illinois Director of Agriculture Becky Doyle. ICGA joined with IFB in conducting a concentrated campaign aimed at focusing the attention of the Clinton Administration on ethanol. All corn grower members were urged to call President Clinton asking him to support ethanol. In July, a lawsuit was filed by the petroleum industry asking for an injunction against the RFG rule.

Governor Edgar received recognition from the Illinois Ag and ethanol industry for all his help on ethanol. Bob Fitzpatrick testified at an ethanol hearing in Washington, which was coordinated closely with IFB Ron Warfield's testimony. Others testifying were Congressmen Poshard and Ewing. Surprisingly, no environmental group was present. Feb. 14 was the due date for all comments to be into the docket.

Some announcements made this year included: Marathon Oil announced an oxygenated fuel test program; Midwest Grain announced a major expansion of its ethanol production capabilities to take current ethanol production from 30 million gallons of corn-based fuel annually to 90 million gallons. New brochures on the Ford E85 Taurus were produced in cooperation with IL DENR.

Kent Kleinschmidt served on a panel at the Governor's Ethanol Coalition meeting. Governor Edgar retired from the Coalition and was given a donation to a charity of his choice from IFB, ICGA and the Illinois ethanol Industry.

Pictured are Jack Huggins from Pekin Energy, Governor Edgar, Kent Kleinschmidt, Stan Blunier, and a representative from Midwest Grain





Pictured with an E85 car are: IL Official, Vic Riddle, Greg Guenther, Cong Richard Durbin, Bill Bradley, Tim Rister, Daryl Reid



Pictured l-r: Norman Jordan (Macon Co), Steve Wentworth, Dennis Hughes speaker, Terry Ferguson, Vic Riddle, Scott Durbin

It was noted that HB 2555, , “The Clean Alternative Fuels & Conservation Act,” passed a year ago but was never signed by the Governor so it was to be reintroduced. Randy Adkins testified at a hearing in Chicago on HB 276, “The Alternate Fuels Act” which later passed in both houses, eventually to be signed by the governor. EPA released data showing that the oxygenated fuels program was working and accomplishing its goal of reducing carbon monoxide pollution in non-attainment areas during the winter months (during period Nov. 1992 to Jan. 1993).

Macon County Farm Bureau launched a campaign to become the first county to be designated “An All-Ethanol County”. Their goal was to encourage local governments to use an ethanol blend in their gas-powered vehicles, get all gasoline outlets in the county to offer an ethanol blend and have customers specifically ask for ethanol when filling up.

*Ethanol Vehicle Challenge* - This was a program sponsored by USDOE and the Governor's Ethanol Coalition where university students competed for awards for hybrid electric vehicles. They built these using ethanol by improving cold start capabilities, fuel economy, exhaust emissions and the overall performance of a car, with safety being a major factor. In 1994, ICGA approved funding to the Illinois Institute of Technology for this project. It was noted that the U of I would also have a vehicle built with different technology. This program was funded from 1994-2000, when it was decided to no longer participate.



Sign for the Ethanol Vehicle Challenge



Ethanol Vehicle Challenge Team from U of I-Chicago front view with Vic Riddle 2nd from left

Illinois Institute of Technology  
Ethanol Vehicle Challenge Team



Side view of U of I-Chicago Ethanol  
Vehicle Challenge Team



*Ethanol Pilot Plant* - Governor Edgar signed a bill in September 1994 providing authorization for up to \$5 million for alternative fuel research and IL Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) targeted \$25 million for a pilot plant. In 1996, the USDA pledged \$500,000, and the State of Illinois an additional \$460,000, for a feasibility study to establish the need for an ethanol pilot plant. Those on the federal level supporting the pilot plant project were Congressman Durbin and Senators Carol Moseley-Braun and Paul Simon. At this point in time, there were ten research projects to be tested at such a plant. It was noted that over half of those would lower the cost of ethanol production. In 1997, Secretary Glickman announced funding of \$1.5 million for design and engineering for an ethanol pilot plant. In 1998, it was approved to hire Midwest Public Affairs to work on completion of funding for the pilot plant. A roadblock on funding for the ethanol research pilot plant was experienced because the Senate was against bricks and mortar projects.

1995 – The ROR requirement received a stay and Mark Lambert attended the Clean Cities Announcement in Peoria. The GP Transit ethanol bus was on exhibit at the Illinois Commodity Conference and was used as a mini theater to show an ethanol video, along with handing out travel mugs. Promotional programs during this year on ethanol included an ethanol ad on the back page of the GP Transit calendar, an ethanol advertising campaign on WGN regarding reformulated gas and gas line freeze and sending an ethanol video to grain elevators, county bureaus and service companies. Promotional items ordered were “Ethanol for Cleaner Air” bumper stickers and two new ethanol banners.

Marathon announced they would be selling ethanol in the Chicago area through three dealers in Illinois and one in Indiana. In addition, they announced they would be making Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE) at their Robinson plant. Swedish delegates with an interest in building a 50-million-gallon ethanol plant in Sweden visited Mike Hoeft’s farm.

*E85 Program* - Ford announced they would be producing E85 Tauruses in 1995 and GM announced production of S-10 and Sonoma pick-ups. It was noted that a fuel infrastructure was going in at Dwight to be up and running by Jan. 1, 1996. Hewlett Packard committed to purchase ten ethanol cars. The IAA Board agreed to buy two or three E85 vehicles and put Ford Taurus on their selected list. The footage of the E85 fleet managers’ video was completed. ICGA supported IL DENR’s E85 proposal for a



U.S. Senator Paul Simon in an E85 vehicle

three-month program for the City of Chicago to contact fleet owners as potential customers for E85 fleet vehicles and Scott Bidner was contracted to carry-out the work. The NCGA Government Relations Committee set up a program for E85 refueling structure and the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri all committed to participate in the program, as well as IL DENR and Wisconsin DENR. The ICGA E85 Lumina was on display at the Farm Show in Peoria in a combined booth with WMBD Radio. ICMB voted to purchase a 1996 E85 Ford Taurus to replace the black E85 Chevrolet Lumina, which was later sold to Livingston County Service Company.

1996 - The Gasoline III publication from Downstream Alternatives, Inc., which was a publication for auto mechanics dealing with the RFG program and oxygenates, was purchased. An ethanol-media placement campaign in Chicago, utilizing Barbara Charnes of Coloradans for Clean Air and Tom Bridge of WIU for information, was funded. Funding was also approved by ICMB for a grant for a feasibility study for an ethanol plant in Southwestern Illinois.

*E85 Program* - Chrysler began talks about putting an E85 engine into a minivan. Jim Tarmann and Phil Shane attended the Ford roll-out for the new 1997 Ford Taurus. The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition developed a list of 190 cities for infrastructure locations. An E85 station opened in Springfield and additional proposed sites were in Peoria, Rockford and the Quad Cities. Ford offered the use of a demo E85 Taurus to use with media people for a three-month period to Illinois Corn. Funding was also approved to convert a Ford Windstar van into a flexible fuel vehicle and lease it through Country Companies. A new program approved by ICMB in 1996, that is still funded today, was to provide a lease on an E85 vehicle for use by the Illinois FFA officers who travel around the state.

1997 - Phil Shane and Dave Loos from the IL Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) went to Washington, DC to visit with Erick Vaughn and Bob Dinneen of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) in regard to fuel cell development. It was noted that the fuel cell contract ended in 1997, and the Department of Energy indicated fuel cell buses had to operate on gasoline, diesel, fuel cell ethanol and methanol.

A full-page ad was placed in Farm Week, in cooperation with IFB, asking corn producers to call their congressman stating why we needed the ethanol tax credit to remain like it was. Talking points were compiled for ICGA and IFB board members to use with media calls.



U.S. Senator Dick Durbin speaking for an ethanol event in the front area of IFB

*E85 Program* - It was noted that three sites were in progress: Chicago, Rock Island and Rockford and a press conference was held in Rockford announcing the opening of an E85 station. ICMB also voted to sponsor a Chrysler E85 vehicle for the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago. ADM purchased some E85 vehicles, and it was noted that over 70% of Pekin Energy's cars would be E85 after their next purchase. Chrysler announced production of flexible fuel mini vans in the fall of 1997. A letter of support was sent for the Alternative Fuel Vehicles Outreach program, being funded by IL DCCA and USDOE, which was to promote E85 fuel in

municipalities. An update on the E85 initiative being done by Scott Bidner noted that Chicago had purchased fifteen E85 vehicles. The state had a rebate program for any government agency in a non-attainment area (Chicago mainly) who purchased an E85 vehicle. A Greenhouse Gas Emissions study revealed that E85 fuel was 20 to 35 percent lower in emissions than straight unleaded gasoline.

1998 - In California, a company called Tosco recommended banning MTBE because it was showing up in the groundwater and was not breaking down. RFA thought this might be an opportunity to get Tosco to join the program to use ethanol, but this would require raising the oxygenate cap in California.

The Illinois tax credit extension was to expire Dec. 1, 1999, and ICGA voted to support IFB's position to increase the oxygenate level to 3.5. A major ethanol education awareness advertising campaign was approved which included post cards stuffed into FarmWeek; shipping banners containing an ethanol message and signed by over 15,000 people at the Farm Progress Show, to President Clinton, Speaker Newt Gingrich, and others; utilization of DTN and radio in encouraging phone calls to congressmen; capitalizing on a study conducted by Ron Burke and the American Lung Association which revealed favorable benefits of ethanol in the Chicago market; insertion of seed tags into publications asking people to write a brief message to send to their Congressional representative, and to announce the program through a radio campaign. This proved to be a very successful campaign. Extension of the tax credit made it through the Illinois House Committee and the Senate worked out a compromise to extend it by four years. Requirements under the Clean Air Act began in 1998.



Vic Riddle promoting E85 vehicles in DC



Pictured behind Gov Edgar signing the ethanol bill at the office are Kent Kleinschmidt, Terry Wolf, Garry Niemeyer, Stan Blunier, Mike Clark, Steve Pigg, Vic Riddle, Dirk Rice (Champaign Co), John Fulton (Kankakee Co), Ron Fitchhorn, Greg Guenther

*E85 Program* - ICMB approved a grant to ICGA for the Chicago E85 Infrastructure Development Program with a budget of \$2 million, which included a coordinator, John Van Pelt. Through John's efforts, the Cook County Sheriff's Department purchased twenty-seven E85 vehicles. Other funds for this grant were committed by IL DCCA and USDOE. It was proposed to get additional funding from NCGA, Great Lakes and the ethanol industry. A new E85 display was developed by ICMB NCGA, Great Lakes and the ethanol industry. A new E85 display was developed.

1999 - A follow-up meeting was planned with USEPA Administrator Carol Browner in regard to MTBE.

Noted programs for the year included purchasing 5,000 ethanol stickers for the Bureau County ethanol pump promotion and launching an ethanol education campaign to target people with children who were conscious about the environment and people in charge of water facilities in the Cook County area.

*E85 program* - John Van Pelt, working on the E85 Initiative Program, identified the first ten retail locations to sell the E85 fuel and worked towards getting these installed. A fundraiser for the Clean Cities Program in Chicago was held and ICGA received an award for getting the ten E85 stations placed in Chicago. The U.S. Postal Service announced plans to use 10,000 E85 vehicles in Illinois or the Midwest, but it was noted in 2000 that their vehicles were having problems because the fuel pumps were not compatible with E85. Furthermore, it was noted that new fuel pumps would not be ready until Oct. 1, 2000. It was approved to continue sponsorship of the E85 vehicle for the American Lung Association in Chicago for another year.



U.S. postal E85 vehicle with John Adams, Fred Reichert, Ron Fitchhorn and George Flageole



U.S. Mail vehicle with Cong. Hastert and John Diedrich to the right of the car door

*Oxydiesel Program* - Phil Shane explained the oxy-diesel program with ADM having trucks using the fuel and noting that ADM would be running test trials. A meeting on an oxy-diesel program was held and needs were identified for a 500-hour durability test and emissions testing. Durability tests were conducted at the U of I. The emission results indicated further work was needed to determine the proper blend. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) participated in the oxydiesel project and had fifteen buses running on oxydiesel with emissions testing being done. Their buses were painted similar to the ethanol buses in Peoria. A press conference was held with remarks by Illinois Director of Agriculture, Joe Hampton, CTA president, Pure Energy, Floyd Schultz and the governor. There were two programs being run on E diesel, one with 15 percent ethanol and one with 10 percent ethanol, because it was noted that the 10 percent blend was more cost competitive with regular diesel. In the CTA buses, they found no noticeable difference in miles per gallon for the two blends. However, the CTA bus program ended in 2000 because of a change in administration.



Oxydiesel bus



Oxydiesel bus with Joe Hampton and Floyd Schultz on the left and George Ryan the second one from the right

In November of 1999, it was noted that the ADM trucks had 155,000 miles on them, and the mileage was running slightly under No. 2 diesel fueled trucks. Illinois DCCA met with a company called Navistart which manufactured engines in the U.S., and an agreement was made with the U of I for Navistart to make changes to diesel truck engines to use oxydiesel. A Ford F250 with an extended cab, which was to use oxydiesel, was ordered for delivery to the office the first part of March 2000 for use in promotions.

In June of 2000, it was noted that the oxydiesel name had to be changed, as it was already trademarked. Therefore, the name of the fuel was changed to E diesel.



Back of the E diesel truck



E diesel truck used by office staff

A new program was identified for a farm trial in the fall of 2000 to use two 9650 John Deere combines, one with E Diesel and the other with regular diesel, as well as two tractors with the same combination of fuel. The core group involved in the project included ADM, Williams Energy, Iowa Corn Promotion Board, GROWMARK, IL DCCA, IA DNR and ICMB. They hoped to get funding from other states, from the additive companies, RFA, ethanol companies and the balance from DOE. After running this farm trial for one year, results showed that use of the E diesel fuel caused an increase of about 18 cents per harvested acre. However, it was decided to continue with the project for another year. A positive for E diesel was the fuel didn't foam when filling the combine or tractors.



Steve Ruh, Lt Gov. Corinne Wood, Garry Niemeyer, Leon Corzine, IL Rep Raymond Poe, Ron Fitchhorn receiving a grant

It was noted that if market penetration with E diesel could reach the same level as the 10 percent ethanol blend in gasoline, corn grind would increase by 300 million bushels. A new E diesel exhibit was ordered.

By 2001, the ADM trucks had about 250,000 miles on them and using the 10 percent blend showed a .5 percent difference between regular diesel and E diesel. NCGA hosted a conference in St. Louis to educate other states on the fuel and to encourage them to work with us in the future. It was noted there was a flammability issue with the fuel that needed to be resolved and a health impact study was needed prior to the fuel being commercialized for over the road use. ICMB approved funding for the necessary tests.

In 2002, ICMB felt it was time to take this E diesel project to a national level by trying to work out an agreement with NCGA to manage this effort. A review of the demonstration program on the John Deere combine that had over 800 hours on it indicated wear was normal and injectors were better than expected. However, at another meeting, in regard to the emissions testing at Ricardo's in Chicago, it was noted numbers did not come back as well as anticipated. Nox emissions increased from 7 to 28 percent. Flammability tests at Southwest Institute came back as expected. The board voted to do further emissions testing at Ricardo's, to do tank testing at Southwestern Institute and to do a California stationary emissions test.

In 2003, it was noted that funding did not come through as originally thought. NCGA was managing the funds for this project, and it was felt that we needed to get them engaged on the legislative side to get this project higher on the list of appropriations for funding. In 2004, it was noted that it would be another two years before the project was completed. Then, in the June 2006 minutes, it was noted the project was put on the shelf until better work was done on the injectors.

2000 – Christian County adopted a resolution for using ethanol.

An ethanol outreach program was run in the year 2000 and included events for Presidential Candidate George W. Bush coming to Illinois and Vice President Al Gore traveling down the Mississippi. Pro-ethanol radio commercials ran daily focusing on urban audiences, large ethanol ads were placed in newspapers, a web site called “madaboutgas” was developed by Fred Stemme from Missouri and it was updated regularly. Bumper stickers, road signs, printed ads saying

“Illinois has energy to burn” were placed in targeted areas. T-shirts were passed out at the State Fair and other areas where presidential candidates were visiting with the saying “IL is Ethanol Country,” billboards were placed around the Farm Progress Show near Springfield with an emphasis on ethanol and seven hearings were held around the state on ethanol.

*E85 Program* - ICMB funded E85 infrastructure programs in Maryland and Wisconsin.

2001 - During this year, interest started to pick up for building new ethanol plants in Illinois. There were eight groups indicating an interest. ICGA decided to take a more active role in helping prospective ethanol cooperatives and established criteria for funding groups who met certain specifications. A Dry Grind Conference was put together in May with over 100 people in attendance. Adkins Energy received a grant from the state of Illinois and was hoping to break ground soon. ICMB contracted with Proforma to do economic analysis studies for ethanol plants. In addition, ICMB approved funding for feasibility studies for the following groups: Central Illinois Ag Coalition, Warren-Henderson Counties Partnership for Economic Development and the Big River Resources Coalition and Lincolnland Agri Energy. By the end of the year there were five ethanol plants in progress. Adkins Energy was 80 percent operational. The other groups were Big River Energy, Illinois River Energy, Central Illinois Ag and Lincolnland AgriEnergy. Eight ethanol plants received Agri-First funding. Equity drives started for ethanol plants in Fulton County and Crawford County with the group named Lincolnland.



Groundbreaking at Adkins Energy



Gov Edgar speaking at Adkins Energy  
with Doug Wilson third from the right

Packets were developed to recognize service stations who had been promoting ethanol. They contained a certificate of appreciation, ethanol pump stickers, some samples of letters to the editor and some fact sheets about ethanol. These packets were sent to county farm bureaus, county presidents and the directors.

As a result of negotiations between several groups, including the American Petroleum Industry, RFA, NCGA and AFBF, a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) was proposed to take the place of the oxygenate standard. HB 3671 had thirty-one co-sponsors with the Speaker's office interested in the bill. HB 3671 extended the sales tax credit to 2010 and added E diesel, E85 and biodiesel to the language of the bill. It was decided to engage the lobby firm, The Capitol Hill Group, to work the RFS.

*E85 Program* – The E85 Infrastructure project was nearing completion, with the last station to be put in place in January of 2001. Marathon indicated an interest for putting in five potential E85 stations in Chicago. It was noted that 10,000 gallons of E85 were sold in the Chicago area during January of 2001. Ford announced they would no longer be making the Ford Ranger or the Ford Taurus a flex fuel vehicle. It was also noted that Ford was still having problems with the fuel pumps on the postal vehicles. IL DCCA had grants for the E85 corridor program from Indiana to Chicago, with the remainder of money to go toward marketing plans, keeping existing facilities in business and dealer education.

*Ethanol Pilot Plant* – Thanks to the efforts of Speaker Hastert, Senator Fitzgerald, Governor Ryan, Governor Edgar and Senator Durbin, funding was finally approved. Groundbreaking took place for the Ethanol Pilot Plant in August of 2001 at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Ron Fitchhorn and Garry Niemeyer participated in that event, along with Governor Ryan and Congressman Shimkus. In 2002, Garry Niemeyer and Roger Sy attended an event sponsored by Congressman Shimkus with Secretary Ann Veneman and FSA Director Bill Graff in attendance. At this point, a few groups had signed up to use the pilot plant. The pilot plant, named the National Corn to Ethanol Research Pilot Plant, was fully operational in 2004. The name was later changed to National Corn to Ethanol Research Center (NCERC).



Groundbreaking at the National Corn to Ethanol Research Pilot Plant with Ron Fitchhorn to the left of the sign and Joe Hampton to the right



Garry Niemeyer and Ron Fitchhorn to left of the sign for the Ethanol Pilot Plant



Garry Niemeyer, Cong Shimkus and Dirk Rice pictured in front of Ethanol Pilot Plant sign

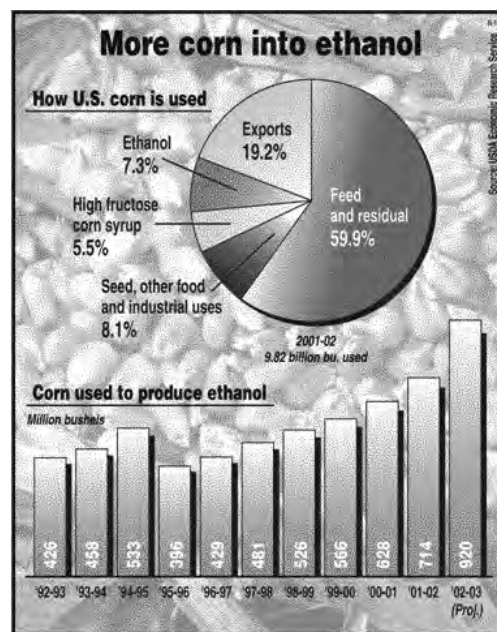


Chart showing ethanol into corn from 1992-2003

2002 - In March it was reported that the U.S. Senate began debate on the Energy Bill, which included the RFS. Three interest groups (NCGA, RFA and AFBF) worked on ethanol and MTBE and came up with the RFS. Included in the language of the bill was a phase-out of MTBE over the next four years, the one-pound Reid vapor pressure waiver and ethanol made from any feedstock in gasoline, diesel and biodiesel. June minutes noted that the Senate passed the RFS, calling for a five-billion-gallon market for renewables between now and 2012. For the next step, the bill went to Conference Committee, since the bills in each house were different.

*E85 Program* - In 2002, the program was in the process of working on grants for three new stations in Chicago, a marketing plan to promote E85 in existing stations who already sold E85 and for infrastructure in the Chicago area, as well as one new site in Joliet for the Dept. of Corrections.

2003 - NCGA organized an ethanol rally on March 18-20 and those from Illinois attending were Theresa Schmalshof, Donna Jeschke, Ken Kindler, Bill Bradley, Garry Niemeyer and Rob Elliott. Since the bills in the House and Senate on the RFS contained different language, the decision for a compromise was waiting for markup in Conference Committee. The NCGA Ethanol Committee took a position that they would like to see a starting point at three billion gallons. This bill would double corn utilized for ethanol, moving from 1 billion bushels in 2005 to 1.8 billion by 2012. It was noted that after the law passed there would be a 270-day rule-making process.

In Illinois legislation, a major victory for ethanol and corn growers came when two bills, SB 46 and HB 46, were signed by Governor Rod Blagojevich. Martin Barbre, Steve Pigg and Roger Sy participated in that signing. SB 46, which was introduced by Senator John M. Sullivan, (D-Quincy) extended the sales tax credit for ethanol made from corn, but at a reduced level. In addition, it eliminated the sales tax for the first time on biodiesel and E85. A companion bill,

HB 46, sponsored by Representative Dan Reitz (D-Steeleville) provided incentives in the form of grants to build or expand renewable fuel production. HB 46 was known as the “Illinois Renewable Fuels Development Program Act” and established a \$15 million appropriation to fund grants to new ethanol plants or expansion of existing plants.

It was noted that Iowa was starting a Renewable Fuels Association and that placed a hardship on the Big River Energy plant.

ICGA was commissioned by the USDA Rural Development Department, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and IL Department of Ag (IDA) to write a study for the State of Illinois on the future of Illinois ethanol plants. Phil Shane and Ken Kindler worked on this study, and it was published as “The Economic Potential for Ethanol Production Expansion in Illinois”. The profile clearly spelled out how Illinois could use its strengths, such as corn supply and excellent transportation infrastructure, to maintain a leadership role in ethanol production.

The food and fuel issue came to a head during this year. Therefore, a new major public relations campaign was developed called “Our Crops, Our Fuels, Our Country” in cooperation with ICGA, ICMB, IL Soybean Association (ISA) and IL Soybean Checkoff Board (ISCB). The program successfully increased awareness of the importance of renewable fuels and increased usage of ethanol and biodiesel. The campaign included extensive radio and print advertising throughout the summer on RFD, ads appeared two different times in Prairie Farmer, IL Agri-News and Farm Week and commercial spots could be heard on the Illinois Corn web site. The campaign culminated with a large presence at the Farm Progress Show where shirts were passed out. The program continued into 2004 with additional ads being placed. Materials developed for the program included hats, bulk tank stickers and window stickers. Congressman Shimkus had a news conference at Troy Uphoff’s farm, and an update was given on the RFS and other issues. Steve Pigg, Leon Corzine, Tim Lenz and Martin Barbre participated.



**OUR CROPS  
OUR FUELS  
OUR COUNTRY**  
Illinois Corn Marketing Board • Illinois Soybean Checkoff Board

**Our Crops, Our Fuels, Our Country  
Renewable Fuels Kit Request Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:  
☐ I am enclosing a receipt for farm delivery of ethanol or biodiesel.  
☐ I would like to join or renew my membership in the Illinois Corn Growers Association and am enclosing a check for \$145 for 3 years.  
☐ I would like to join or renew my membership in the Illinois Soybean Association and am enclosing a check for \$150.

Mail to: Our Crops Our Fuels Our Country  
P.O. Box 1623 • Bloomington, IL 61702-1623

**Everyone complains about  
the high cost of imported oil!**

Today, the United States relies on foreign sources for nearly 65% of our oil needs. There is an alternative and Illinois corn and soybean farmers are growing it now. Ethanol, made from corn, and Biodiesel, made from soybeans, increase our energy independence, reduce harmful emissions, and help to grow the economy. Both renewable fuels are available at an increasing number of retail locations. To find E85 retail pumps visit [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org) or to find biodiesel suppliers and retailers visit [www.ilsoy.org](http://www.ilsoy.org).

If you would like to receive a promotional kit containing an “Our Crops, Our Fuels, Our Country” cap, a window sticker, and bulk tank decals for your farm just fill out the coupon in this ad and return it to P. O. Box 1623 • Bloomington, IL 61702-1623.

To learn more about this checkoff funded promotion and education campaign contact Illinois Corn Marketing Board or Illinois Soybean Checkoff Board.

Illinois Soybean Checkoff Board  
[www.ilsoy.org](http://www.ilsoy.org)  
(309) 663-7692

ILLINOIS  
CORN  
MARKETING  
BOARD  
[www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org)  
(309) 827-0912

Advertisement



Picture showing the Our Crops program taken at the Farm Progress Show

*Ethanol Plants* - Through HB-46, ICGA helped resolve some of the labor issues that impeded ethanol plant construction in Illinois. Also, ICGA helped guide and monitor the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation program, which provided millions of dollars to new ethanol facilities under production. An update on the plants at this time indicated Illinois River Energy's prospectus had been approved and they were beginning to sell stock. The Canton group hoped to break ground in the spring. Big River Energy hoped to begin production in the summer of 2004 and Lincolnland in Robinson was working on site preparation. Adkins Energy was at full production.

*E85 Program Update* - There were eleven locations in Chicago selling E85 with plans to add three more sites. Nicor Gas built and was operating their own E85 sites and using about 55,000 gallons a year. The E85 coordinator did a lot of work on educating the public and fleet managers about E85, and with funding from a grant of \$250,000, developed a big promotion program planned to increase sales of E85 as well as increased awareness of the fuel. GM announced a new program to promote E85 fuel at the State Fair and over 3,000 people received a kit that included a t-shirt, an E85 sticker and a compact disc explaining the benefits of E85. E85 debit cards were also distributed.

2004 - A major victory was scored for ICGA in the passage of the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC). Together with NCGA, ICGA worked successfully to include VEETC in the Highway Reauthorization and Excise Tax Simplification Act of 2004. The legislation passed in October and extended important incentives for ethanol users and producers, along with adding significant funding to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). The VEETC Act of 2003 extended incentives for renewable fuel users to 2010, creating a new excise tax of 5.1 cents on 10 percent ethanol-blended fuels. VEETC generated more than \$3 billion per year in additional HTF revenues.

ICGA and ICMB committed to a new venture in facilitating the creation of a fifty-million-gallon ethanol plant in the Channahon/Morris area. ICGA made the decision to commit to this effort because it could potentially use the latest ICMB funded technology to increase co-product development. It was felt that together with the ICGA grant initiatives, funded by the State of Illinois and USDA Rural Development, this plant could become the model in Illinois. Donna Jeschke and Steve Ruh co-chaired the committee. Some of the tangibles already in place at the site included energy with natural gas, transportation for ethanol with rail, roads and a river in close proximity. The project first became known as Illinois Valley Ethanol (IVE) which changed to the Aux Sable Ethanol Plant, eventually to be purchased by American Ethanol. The hope was that if this plant actually became a reality, the ethanol plant would turn our investment, or part of it, into an equity position. However, ICMB couldn't take an equity position, and the board had discussions about ICGA setting up a "For Profit Company". It was noted that while this process was a huge learning experience for staff in dealing with different groups of people, it also gave them an inside opportunity to learn more about an ethanol plant. Following the sale of Aux Sable Ethanol to American Ethanol, in January of 2006, the ICGA Board voted to receive payment for their original grant of \$50,000 and to leave the other \$25,000 invested to receive 80,000 shares.

*E85 Update* - On the E85 Infrastructure Program, John Van Pelt was notified that his services were no longer needed. ICGA worked in cooperation with the IL DCEO, the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC), GROWMARK, and Qik N EZ to assist in the conversion of existing gasoline pumps to E85. Six new E85 facilities in Illinois were on board to sell E85 with Fast Stop locations in Waterloo and Mason City open for business. The Gateway Fast Stop was scheduled to open an E85 fueling tank and dispenser in Sparta, IL by the end of the year. Qik N EZ opened three new locations in the fall in Shelbyville, Lincoln and Bloomington. In May of this year, ICGA took part in an E85 for 85 cents campaign in Chicago that drew national attention. Eight locations pumped more than 8,000 gallons of ethanol during the four-hour promotion.

Jim Tarmann with the E85 vehicle and Cong Evans



*Ethanol Plant Update* - ICMB approved funding for a Business Advisory Service (subsidiary of CoBank) Economic model. This interactive model allowed proposed ethanol plants to plug in their numbers and determine whether it was feasible to move forward with starting a plant. It was noted the model had been used at Iowa State University and Kansas State University but would be specific to Illinois.

2005 – In August of 2005, after more than five years of grassroots efforts, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and put into place the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). The RFS provided a shot of adrenaline for the ethanol industry. It was noted it would likely double ethanol production in the next five to seven years. The Illinois Congressional delegation showed strong support for ethanol, with Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Senator Barack Obama playing key roles in passing the RFS.

President George W. Bush pictured  
at a stop in Bloomington, Illinois



John Kuhfuss testifying at an IL RFS  
news conference

On the state level, there was concern about the “Renewable Fuel Standard for Illinois” because of the state budget deficit situation. The thought was that the state would be looking for any kind of programs where they could cut the state budget, and eventually they would more than likely identify the state sales tax credit for ethanol. Therefore, the ICGA Lobbyist, Tom Madsen, began work to be on the offensive in trying to craft some type of legislation under a renewable fuels standard to replace this sales tax credit.

*E85 Program* - Consumer use of E85 reached an all-time high in 2005 thanks in part to the growing number of vehicle models on the road, easier access to the fuel and high oil prices that made E85 prices look very attractive. It was reported that a total of eighty-eight stations were in operation or preparing to open soon. IL DCEO received a \$500,000 grant from the American Fuels Foundation for E85 infrastructure. GM announced they would be giving each of the twenty-eight states affiliated with the Governor's Ethanol coalition a year's free lease on a 2005 Chevrolet E85 Avalanche. Since the state could not receive gifts, ICGA ended up receiving two vehicles to be used for E85 promotions. ICGA and ICMB joined with the American Lung Association of Illinois (ALA), IL DCEO and the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) to conduct numerous special events linked to stations installing or converting E85 fuel pumps. One of the Chevrolet Avalanches was given to ALA for using in the E85 promotions. A major statewide advertising campaign was initiated, utilizing primarily radio during the busy summer driving season and promoting the benefits of ethanol and E85. ICGA also acted as a resource in providing E85 information to car dealers statewide.



Pictured in front of the Chevrolet Avalanche are Merle Miller, Angela Tin and Dave Loos



Billboard promoting E85 fuels and the Ford F-150 truck

*Ethanol Plants* - The ethanol plant in Rochelle broke ground. Illini Bio-Energy started a fund drive and talked about using coal fired technology. A Pittsfield group was looking at some new technology to incorporate into their proposed facility. ICMB approved a technical assistance grant to Adams County. Other plants on the horizon were Hennepin, Gilman, and Gibson City.

Illinois River Energy ethanol plant



2006 - IICMB funded a Bergfield Racing Promotion noting that exposure for the program was about 35,000 racing fans and the media exposure would be good. Also, their driver was a good spokesperson for ethanol. It was noted that in the Indy 500 race in 2006, all cars would be using 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent methanol, and in 2007 would go to 100 percent ethanol.

*E85 Program* - It was reported that over sixty flex fuel vehicles had been sold through the E85 dealer program. Gas City became the largest retailer of E85 in Illinois. GM had a “Think Green Go Yellow” campaign on television. Ford announced they were working with VeraSun to create a corridor along I-55 from Chicago to St. Louis, noting they were interested in putting E85 stations from the area south of Springfield to the river. In addition, the RFA and Illinois were looking for some grant money for another corridor from Ohio to Nebraska which would include the states of Iowa, Ohio, Nebraska and Illinois. ICGA voted to engage a lobbyist for two months to work on getting a federal grant for creating an E85 corridor from Ohio through Nebraska. Huck’s stations were new prospects for selling E85 in their eighty stations and Road Ranger was looking at adding ten E85 stations. American Lung continued to work on the E85 program and ICMB approved funding to help seed that program with funding from DCEO. In addition, funding was approved by ICMB for a Saunders Oil project to develop a kiosk at a fueling station for the E85 tank. It was noted that GM was trading out all the Avalanches, which meant we had two for sale.



Ross Pauli helping with an E85 promo in Bartonville, IL



Pictured is Angela Tin at an E85 promo in Bartonville

*Ethanol Pilot Plant* - An ethanol workshop was held at the pilot plant in conjunction with IL EPA and IL DCEO with about seventy people in attendance. Greg Guenther received an Agri-First grant to teach participants how to understand prospectuses for investment. These workshops focused on potential plants, either biodiesel or ethanol, for those looking to entice grower investments. In the budget process, the General Assembly did approve funding for additional ethanol and biodiesel renewable energy grants. Appropriations were also made for capital improvements at the pilot plant along, funding for plant operations, for corn kernel to ethanol research consortium at WIU, and for Illinois Environmental Protection Agency permitting processing.

2007 - This was a big promotion year for the Indy Racing League, with all of their cars running on 100% corn-based ethanol. ICMB voted to sponsor the Indy Racing League and committed

some funds toward a pre-Indy promotion and education program. An insert appeared in FarmWeek with the official program on the Indy Race and an ethanol summit took place prior to the race, attended by Leon Corzine, Scott Stirling and Mark Lambert. ICMB also voted to fund another racing team, the Mario Clouser racing team, whose goal was to try to switch the league they raced with to ethanol.

EPIC adopted an initiative to use Illinois as a pilot program for a new ethanol pump label. The Petroleum Marketers approved distribution of these new pump stickers to replace current pump labels.

In August 2007, it was noted that a first draft of a White Paper, written by Ross Korves from ProExporter, on low carbon analysis would be available shortly. The project looked at technologies as to how efficient corn production would be in 2030 and how efficient ethanol plants would be. Several companies contributed toward this project including Syngenta, Dow Chemical, John Deere, ICMB, ADM, NCGA, DuPont and Poet. This report indicated we would reach up to 15 billion gallons of ethanol for corn starch by 2015. Long term, we needed to show the carbon footprint on ethanol plants was as low as proposed plants for biofuels.

*E85 Program* - American Lung, in cooperation with DCEO, GM, Ford and Vera Sun, conducted a meeting with car dealers to educate as many dealers as possible on E85 and to get their help with marketing flex fuel vehicles. It was voted to lease two Ford Escape E85 hybrid electric vehicles on a two-year lease and build a marketing campaign. Funding of Phase I of the American Lung Association proposal regarding E85 was approved for funding by ICMB. This program talked about the health effects of the fuel. In addition, ALA committed to work with others who had done emissions testing and scheduled a conference to lay out the results, with the proceedings to then be published.

*Ethanol Plant Update* - Ethanol plants under construction were: Central IL Energy at Canton, Center Ethanol Company at Sauget, Marquis Energy at Hennepin and Patriot Resources at Annawan. IL River Energy was in the process of expanding. Other promising plants under consideration were: Western IL Ethanol at Griggsville, Anderson Grain considering at plant east of Champaign, Vera Sun at Litchfield and a plant in the Waltonville area.

Cong Bill Foster and Steve Ruh  
at Patriot Resources ethanol  
plant in Annawan



2008 - - The Energy Independence and Security Act passed right before Christmas which expanded corn-based ethanol to 15 billion gallons by 2015. Four different definitions of biofuels were included in the legislation. ICGA took the next step to turn back a waiver request from the Governor of Texas.

Legislation in Illinois, SB 2861 on IL Renewable Fuels sponsored by Senator Demuzio, was still under consideration. One of the main components of the bill was to provide grants to new ethanol plants at a flat rate of 10 cents per gallon up to \$10 million.

ICGA approved funding to host a meeting for the Illinois ethanol industry in Bloomington, with the goal to establish an Illinois Renewable Fuels Association. GovPlus was later hired to help with forming this association, and in 2009 they held their first official meeting in Springfield. The ILRFA engaged in writing letters to members of the state and national legislature, as well as writing comments to the U.S. EPA. Additionally, the group was well represented during various lobbying trips to Washington, DC and Springfield, IL. Members of ILRFA included ten of the ethanol plants in Illinois, with Ray Defenbaugh of Big River Resources-Galva serving as the first president.

A group called “25 by 25” was a coalition formed to promote 25 percent renewables by 2025, which included wind, methane digesters, ethanol, biodiesel, etc. The ICGA Board decided to join this group.

In helping to promote the use of ethanol in the racing field, ICMB approved funding for Spencer Racing, Clouser Racing (running in USAC) and Bergfield Racing. In 2010 USAC approved the use of E98 in the racing series for the sprint car.

On the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, ICGA voted to send representatives to New York and California to support the increased use of corn for ethanol through 2030 as a low carbon fuel.

*E85 Program* - An update on the flex fuel kits for updating older cars to burn E85 noted that a Lincoln model had been approved. It was noted that the UL still had not completed the certification process on the E85 pumps. ICMB approved funding through ALA for a pilot program in McLean and Will Counties to position E85 as a green fuel, and due to the success of this program approved an expansion of the program to the entire state. ICGA approved funding to Illinois River Energy and Center Ethanol for E85 load-out facilities to encourage the growth of E85 and later approved additional funds, noting the two in operation were working very well. In addition, ICMB set up a grant program to support the installation of E85 load-out facilities at up to two dry grind ethanol plants. An update on numbers for the E85 program indicated there were now a total of 153 E85 stations in Illinois.

*Ethanol Plant Update* - In regard to the Illinois EPA permitting process, it was noted that hearings for wastewater permits for Marquis Energy and Patriot Renewable Energy at Annawan were delayed. ICGA voted to fund a PR campaign to help three ethanol plants successfully receive their wastewater permits - Patriot Ethanol, Marquis Energy and the plant at The Andersons.

2009 – There was a complication in the ethanol world with the splitting of Poet, which created a new association called Growth Energy (GE). The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) later absolved into GE. In November of 2008, it was reported that E10 was probably at 80 percent market share. GE was advocating going to a 15 percent blend, but it was noted that science didn't back this up. ICGA voted to retain the services of Tom Skinner, with Mayer Brown to work the rule making process for higher ethanol blends and to work the land use issue (mainly to find out what was needed to get EPA to approve E12). Growth Energy signed onto a waiver request to increase ethanol to E15, and EPA had 270 days to accept or reject the waiver request. It was noted that another avenue to try would be to get the ethanol blend ceiling level raised to E12 or E13, which was called "sub-sim".

An economic downturn in 2009 hit ethanol plants especially hard. Failures of banks all over the country led to a lack of credit availability for ethanol plants to weather the poorer months. Investment in ethanol was at an all-time low. ICGA worked with ICMB to deliver research into the hands of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack regarding how the USDA could help secure the future of ethanol in our country. The paper, completed by former USDA Illinois Rural Development Director Doug Wilson, offered several different opportunities for the USDA to utilize existing programs to the benefit of the sinking U.S. ethanol industry.

The comment period for the RFS II was announced, and ICGA worked to get an extension. To help spearhead this effort, Pat Sharkey was hired with the final goal to get corn to ethanol recognized as an advanced biofuel. Testimony presented by Pat Sharkey recommended that USEPA drop the rule. It was voted to petition EPA to consider the international land use portion of the rule on a separate track and seek co-funding from other states. In addition, ICGA voted to employ Doug Wheeler to work with us to insure proper representation on the Scientific Advisory Committee for indirect land use change. However, we lost on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) decision on indirect land use change. CARB's decision indicated ethanol from corn from the Midwest was worse than California based gasoline and about 15 percent worse than ethanol from sugar cane. It was noted that their data went back to 2001.

*E85 Program* - The state committed \$400,000 for E85 infrastructure and \$100,000 for blender pumps and ICGA began work on a pilot program for blender pumps across the state. The American Lung Association (ALA) coupon program on E85 was expanded to owners of E85 vehicles in twenty-one counties. It was noted that ALA was being used, as they had credibility from a clean air standpoint. Under Illinois legislation, Representative Rich Meyers sponsored HB 1130, a pilot program for blender pumps channeled through ALA. It was noted that Qik N EZ was looking at putting in blender pumps with the likelihood of the first one being in Bloomington. However, problems with UL approval for accessories on the pumps for E85 continued.

*Ethanol Plant Update* – It was noted that there was a total of fifteen ethanol plants under construction or expansion, which meant only four or five more plants could come online before we reached the 15-billion-gallon ceiling. On the Illinois EPA permitting process, pollution discharge permits were becoming a problem. If an ethanol plant started operation without this, it would cost them a lot of money. ICGA voted to hire someone, along with Farm Credit, to analyze the USDA Rural Development loans and grants money program for assisting ethanol plants.

Patriot Resources ethanol plant



*NCERC Update* - It was hoped to get the fractionation system to NCERC in the future to look at new technologies to convert to ethanol, in particular corn fiber to ethanol. SIU-E told NCERC they could no longer support them in the state budget and NCERC would have to raise its own funds. However, Congressman Shimkus was able to get some funding through USDA for them to continue with their baseline rates. Congressman Shimkus presented a grant for equipment at NCERC to help investigate the corn fiber to cellulose process. President Poshard was present at that event. Because of NCERC's work in this area, in 2013 the USEPA did approve corn kernel fiber as a cellulosic biofuel.

2010 – Since the country was using 12 billion gallons of ethanol in 2010, it was noted this would make it difficult to protect VEETC which was scheduled to sunset in 2010. In working this issue, ICGA learned that Congresswoman Biggert had signed onto the legislation and Congressmen Lipinski, Rush and Congresswoman Bean were also considering doing so.

The boards voted to move forward with a PR Campaign at a cost of up to \$50,000, contingent upon the outcome of the RFS II rules. It was proposed to insert cards into FarmWeek and IL Agri-News giving instructions for sending an ear of corn to EPA in a mailing tube, along with information showing why EPA was using false data to enforce their regulations. Work was being done toward trying to get the words “corn starch” taken out of the RFS II, and it was hoped this could be done through the regulatory process.

The USEPA denied the Texas Governor waiver request. UL certification was needed for 15 percent and some ASTM standards needed to be put in place. The “Sub-Sim” RFA White Paper indicated about 20 percent of ethanol plants were bankrupt or idle two years ago, but that was starting to turn around. It was noted that at this time about one-half of conventional gasoline in the U.S. contained E10. In January of 2010, California was to go to E10, but it was indicated they would probably be shipping that in from Brazil. RFA contracted with Southwest Research Institute and Ricardo to do a project “Technical Assessment of E15 Feasibility in U.S. Vehicle Fleet” to get information in relation to which vehicles could safely use E15. In addition, ICMB,

RFA and GE contracted for a health impact study, later showing positive results. As a side note, ADM recently asked USEPA to consider a 12 percent ethanol blend.

Under Illinois legislation,, it was noted that HB 4625, a tax credit for higher ethanol blends, passed in the House and Senate and was waiting for the governor's signature. However, the governor removed the tax credit using an amendatory veto.

Indirect land use change - Steffen Mueller from the U of I-Chicago was named to the advisory panel for the California Air Resources Board. Projects were funded through Argonne National Lab to work with satellite imagery to determine the level of error in USEPA's indirect land use calculations with Steffen Mueller and Ken Copenhaver at the U of I-Chicago on "Study to Establish a New IL Corn Ethanol Pathway under the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard. In addition, Tim Lenz and Jim Rapp talked to the California Air Resources Board and the governor's office on their visit to California previous to attending the Commodity Classic. Funding was approved to work with the USEPA on developing an independent panel for investigating international land use change and for USEPA to develop a pathway for corn kernel fiber to cellulosic ethanol. It was noted that the Midwest Governor's Association agreed to develop a carbon fuel standard for the Midwest. In addition, a corn kernel fiber to ethanol consortium had been set up and Michael Ladisch from Purdue was scheduled to run some tests at NCERC. He joined ICGA in DC, trying to lay the groundwork for the corn kernel fiber to ethanol technology to be considered as an advanced biofuel and to give folks an opportunity to determine how they were going to account for RIN's. Professor Ladisch noted that RINs for fiber ethanol should have a higher value than starch ethanol, and he felt that corn kernel fiber would be the bridge to the cellulose industry to using other feed stocks. RFA and Poet were involved with a lawsuit against CARB, and they won.

E85 & Blender Pump Program – ICMB approved additional funding to ALA to continue their efforts to educate the public on E85 and higher ethanol blends, as well as grant money for ten E85 blender pumps. A grand opening was held for the 200th E85 station which also had a blender pump. At this time there were two stations with blender pumps and one ready to go in.

*Ethanol Plant Update* - The state of Illinois successfully structured a program funded by U.S. Department of Energy federal stimulus money to make the ethanol industry eligible for funding. Most of those dollars helped with investments and energy efficiencies at the plants. Abengoa started grinding, and ICGA committed funding to help with ethanol publicity.



Picture of ICMB grant given to the station in Sullivan for installing a blender pump. Angela Tin of ALA is on the left and Leon Corzine is on the right holding the check.

## Copy of the Resolution

The Illinois House of Representatives of the 96th General Assembly adopted HR 1240 supporting biofuels. A copy of the resolution appears on this page.

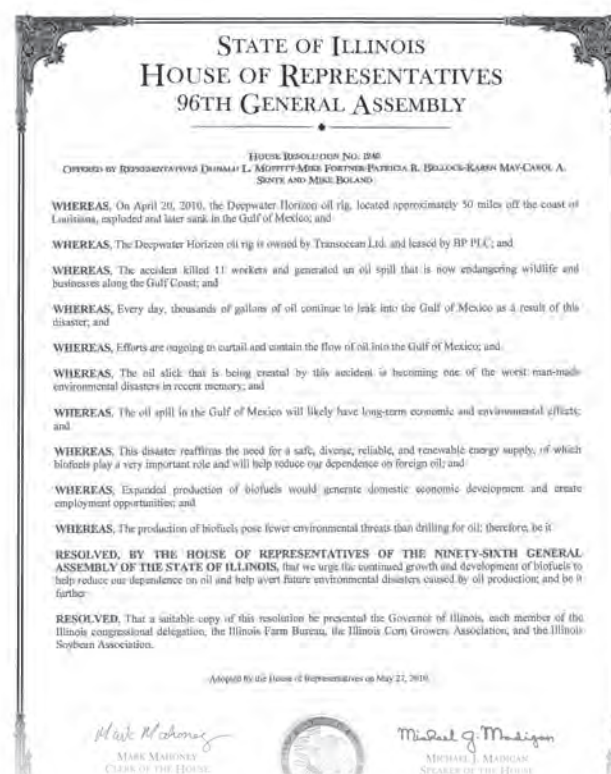
2011 - ICGA received an unrestricted gift of \$100,000 from Monsanto and approved to spend this on projects related to making corn starch ethanol an advanced biofuel.

Illinois Legislation – Gov Plus drafted legislation for moving the state sales tax exemption from 10 percent blends to E15, which would capture the savings realized from reducing the sales tax exemption from 20% to 10% and utilize a portion of those savings for programs that supported blender pump installation and infrastructure, research and ethanol plant investment. The legislation later got put into a shell bill which was in turn used for extending the Enterprise Zones. This really helped the ethanol industry but made it necessary to find another vehicle to make this legislation work for veto session. Opposition on this legislation came from the petroleum marketers and ABATE. Rich Clemmons worked with sponsors to draft new language into SB52 and HB 165, which had bi-partisan support. Efforts were made to build co-sponsors in the African American and Hispanic caucuses.

Federal Legislation – In January of 2011, the USEPA did approve an E15 waiver for the 2001 model year and newer. ICGA submitted strongly worded comments to the USEPA regarding their plan to put “warning” labels on E15 pumps, asserting the plan was inappropriate and would lead to consumer confusion. The final label incorporated those concerns. The United Laboratory, the primary sanctioning body for safety and insurance eligibility, certified the pump infrastructure and fueling components.

VEETC was set to expire at the end of 2011, but the boards felt that ethanol could compete with gasoline without VEETC. ICGA continued to work with legislators on market access opportunities for ethanol and defending the RFS II.

E85 and Blender Pump Program – The ICGA Board continued to explore creative options for working with independent gasoline marketers to promote blender pumps. Illinois DCEO had another grant for blender pumps, ICMB committed funding for grants for blender pumps and ALA continued to work toward getting more installed. A pilot program was developed



with Enterprise Rental Car for the Springfield, Litchfield and Jacksonville areas to promote E85 by placing a coupon hanging in the car for \$10 off the purchase of E85. This program was so successful that it was expanded to all central Illinois locations near an E85 station. Thornton's had converted seven stations in Illinois to E85 and work continued with Huck's and Road Ranger to expand the blender pumps in the state. There were 215 E85 stations and ten blender pumps in Illinois at this point in time.

E15 Program - A presentation was first made at the NCGA Priority and Policy Conference on the possibility of going to E15 in the 2011 season of NASCAR, which began in February. In the beginning, it was stated that if EPA approved the E15 blend, NASCAR would go to E20, as it was NASCAR's belief that it would be good to use a blend which was just out of reach of their fan base. NASCAR had about 60-70 million fans. After much discussion about this program on both the national level and individual state level, a contract was negotiated between NASCAR and Growth Energy. Then the NCGA Activation Committee signed a contract with Growth Energy. ICMB committed funding toward the program in August of 2010. ICMB approved additional funding to sponsor Kenny Wallace for two NASCAR Nationwide races in Illinois and to work with the Joliet Racetrack for a footprint. Missouri and ISA voted to partner with us. ISA agreed to be involved in the program to assist promoting farmer image. This commitment was considered as our involvement with the Family Farmers Coalition. There were two weekend races at the Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, one in June and one in September. Illinois had an exhibit at Champions Park, plus a special membership event on the Saturday of the race in September. Kenny Wallace drove in the race on the Saturday in September. Overall, we were able to get the Family Farmer car involved in a total of five races.



Exhibit at the Joliet Speedway



Pictured on the track is the Corn Farmers race car and in the background is their pit area



Family Farmers car at the Talladega Race



Producer Education post card (front and back)

2012 - E15 proved to be a tough sell in Illinois because of the legislative process and politics in Springfield. ICGA continued to work hard to pass the legislation, now called “Consumer Fuel Choice Act,” to transfer the current E10 incentive to the highest blend allowable by the USEPA to be sold in the state. Because the state legislature was involved in other major issues during both 2012 and 2013, no action was taken on this legislation.

An update on E15 noted that a Court of Appeals threw out the case brought by the National Petroleum Refiners Association who said USEPA could not bifurcate the rule. So, unless that goes to the next level, E15 can be sold. We had retailers ready to put in tanks after the summer gas goes to winter gas. However, we weren’t sure if there would be enough ethanol to sell E15. ICMB did make a commitment for funding to the first petroleum marketer to sell E15. In 2013, the Pana Qik N EZ station installed an E15 pump as noted in the picture below.

Pictured is an E15 pump in Pana



In regard to the RFS, four democratic governors asked the Administration for a waiver. USEPA published this in the Federal Register for a thirty-day comment period. RFA and Growth Energy pushed back on the need for the waiver. The waiver ends twelve months after the date announced and an extension would probably not be easily done. Following the request of a waiver for the RFS II in late summer 2012, ICGA submitted comments and coordinated comments from other industry professionals and farmers on the issue. The official position of ICGA was to allow science and economics to drive the decision. This was one of biggest threats we had ever had in 2013. It was noted that production of ethanol was around 14 million gallons, which meant we had hit the blend wall.

In regard to NASCAR, Illinois' involvement included races at the Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet during the weekends of July 21-22 and September 15-16, which were the two weekends that the Family Farmers car participated. Since Illinois Corn was an entitlement sponsor, that gave us a lot of television exposure for American Ethanol. ISA cooperated with us on these events. Every camper at the Speedway was given an American Ethanol flag. Illinois also had a contract with Kenny Wallace, representing RAB Racing, and he drove a car in the race carrying the scheme of the Family Farmers Coalition. ICMB's investment in promoting E15 through NASCAR is estimated to have earned overall media valued at more than \$10 million.

In regard to flexible fuel vehicles, it was noted that fifty percent of the domestic auto industry were now producing flex fuel vehicles, but without Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) Standards they wouldn't be able to continue making flex fuel vehicles. It was noted that back in 2009 the autos had signed an agreement with the Administration to produce vehicles which got 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. The two pathways to get to that point were electric vehicles or a much higher efficiency engine running on an octane of 95-96. Therefore, it was felt we needed to determine a higher blend that autos could work with to start designing vehicles to meet these standards. A big meeting was held on July 22 in Detroit with Ford, Chrysler and GM. ICMB committed funding toward a project "Determine the Benefits of Increasing Octane for Increased Gasoline Engine Efficiency," to be done in cooperation with RFA and the Cooperative Research Consortium composed of auto and oil. This was a way to take advantage of a higher blend of ethanol.

*Indirect land use change* - New data on reducing indirect land use went into the Purdue GTAP model. In working on documenting production agriculture, working with Monsanto, working on the co-product issue and working with the ethanol industry, results showed efficiency towards reducing the penalty placed on corn-based ethanol. RFA's initial work on a lawsuit really helped this case in the courts. This was a huge win for the ethanol industry and gave us some openings to work closely with California to make sure the next set of rules was correct. The ultimate goal was to get this new data into policy makers' hands to influence them to make changes. Funding was committed for the National Biodiesel Foundation project to help fund work at Purdue University, helping to decrease the charges on indirect land use change.

*Ethanol Plant Update* - Some ethanol plants, such as Marquis Energy in Hennepin, were exporting ethanol, creating a new value-added market for corn. To help with a certification process for exporting ethanol to the EU, Randy Stauffer was hired on a contractual basis to work on a self-certification program. In 2013, ICMB voted to continue to contract with Randy through August 2014 for work related to sustainability issues.

2013 – No one seemed to follow through during this year with their threats to the RFS II. However, ICGA continued to lay the groundwork with the Illinois Congressional delegation, encouraging and educating them regarding ethanol and the RFS. ICGA continued to feel that the ethanol market was a cornerstone to increased corn demand, higher prices and economic vitality in the rural areas and committed to continue working to keep corn demand from ethanol markets vibrant and growing.

As of December, all the ethanol producers in Illinois were members of ILRFA, including ADM. The total capacity of ethanol production in Illinois was listed at 1.6 billion gallons. The economic impact of the Illinois ethanol industry to the Illinois economy was \$5.3 billion.

ICGA received a grant from Monsanto and decided to use it towards projects related to classifying corn starch ethanol as an advanced biofuel. A meeting was held with USEPA in March where preliminary work sponsored to update energy numbers for the ethanol industry was presented. This information was critical to reduce the numbers for the corn starch technology and helped some ethanol plants expand their work.

The USEPA issued a notice of rulemaking. The end result, because of some of NCERC's work, was that the USEPA did approve corn kernel fiber as a cellulosic biofuel.

This year was the third year of involvement with NASCAR. It was noted that no other advertising we could have picked would have given us that many public impressions. It helped moved the needle toward E15 by gaining \$7 million in media exposure and thus moved the needle towards ethanol acceptance. Now we need to get the infrastructure in place. A similar presence was done in 2013 at the NASCAR Chicagoland Speedway race, as had been done the past two years. Funding was committed, however, for additional sponsorship to secure the 900th NASCAR start for Kenny Wallace at the Chicagoland Speedway NASCAR race on September 13, 14, and 15, 2013.



Picture of exhibit at NASCAR race in Joliet



Pictured in the model t are staff Lindsay Mitchell and Dave Loos

The process with USCAR was moving slower than we had hoped. However, since the USCAR meeting, Dominic DiCicco from Ford received approval from management to meet with USEPA. Iowa Corn started to look at this based on the two-page research plan Dominic put together. USCAR had a meeting with USEPA in the Ann Arbor office in June of 2013 to talk about the goals and objectives, present some of the research work done, lay out a plan on how to proceed for the future and get feedback on a recommended octane blend. Others participating in the meeting were from Syngenta, Monsanto, John Deere, Growth Energy and ACE. The ICMB Board had discussion about whether to continue with NASCAR or go the USCAR route. It was decided both programs were valuable and were not competitive with each other. It was indicated that USCAR was still probably five years out. ICMB did commit funding to Ford Motor Company of Oak Ridge National Laboratory as part of the USCAR Research Program to conduct engine testing on higher octane/higher blends of ethanol in optimized engines.

*E85 & Blender Pump Program* - ICMB committed additional funding for the installation of blender pumps and E85 infrastructure in an effort to break through the blend wall. The program was to be administered by The Lung Association of the Upper Midwest-Illinois (formerly called ALA). It was noted that there were currently 230 stations in Illinois with E-85 pumps. In the past, ICMB had approved funding toward E85 loadouts at Adkins Energy and Illinois River Energy and it was decided to renew that program by offering funding to other ethanol plants. E85 loadouts at ethanol plants allow petroleum marketers to bypass the terminal and avoid paying a premium when purchasing E85 to sell at their stations.



Picture of a blender pump

Ethanol Research - Several research projects were funded over the years. Some of them included:

1986	The Economic Impact of Ethanol Production	WIU
1991	Update of Ethanol Economic Impact Model	U of I
1992	Reid Vapor Pressure Study	Thermo Concepts, Inc.
	Reid Vapor Pressure of Gasoline	U of I
1993	Ethanol as the Fuel for the Auxiliary Power Unit of a Hybrid Electric Vehicle	U of I
	Hybrid Milling Technology for... Ethanol	

	Production	U of I
	Ethanol-Based Freon Replacement	L & R Research – Tim Lee
	Blended Fuels Training	WIU
	Milling Corn for Ethanol Production	NCGA
1994	Conversion of Corn Fiber to Ethanol	CGLG
	Plastic Composite Supports for Enhanced Ethanol	CGLG
	CLEER™ – Ethanol Based Refrigerant	L & R Research
1995	SAE Testing of CLEERTM	L & R Research
	Blended Fuels Training	WIU
	Lower Kaskaskia Ethanol Plant Feasibility	Southwestern IL Research Council
1996	Hydrated Ethanol...Advanced Fuel Process	
	Development of a Heavy Duty 4-stroke Compression...Ethanol	Arthur D. Little
	Grant for a feasibility study for an ethanol plant in Southwestern IL	
1997	Development of Advanced Ethanol Fuel Cell Power Plant for Transportation	ADL
1998	Use of Quick Fiber...Enhance Dry Grind Ethanol	U of I
2002	Germ Separation for Ethanol Dry Mills	MBI
2003	Marketing Quick Germ, Quick Fiber Technology	Jim Flinn
2005	Corn Oil and Dextrose Process” (Project is a cross between wet milling and dry milling for ethanol plants)	U of I
2008	Improving Feedstock Quality of Corn Hybrid Grain for Ethanol Production	U of I
	Global Warming Impact Analysis of IL River Energy, LLC	U of I-Chicago
	Back End Corn Oil Extraction from the Dry Mill Ethanol Process	Center Ethanol, LLC
	Estimate Land Use Effect for Corn Ethanol	RFA
	Evaluate Land Use Data	USDA
	The Ethanol Platform for the Production of Value Added Chemicals	NCGA
2010	Analyze the GWI of the Next Generation of Products Produced in Ethanol Process	U of I-Chicago
2013	Research on corn-based fuels and chemicals conducted by two post-doctorate researchers, two graduate assistants and two SIU-E faculty research fellowships	SIU-E/NCERC

## RIVER TRANSPORTATION

More than a decade of work has been done by both ICGA and ICMB on river transportation, especially work on the locks and dams issue. The current lock and dam system was constructed in the 1920's and 30's and has been inadequate for growth in barge shipments. Approximately 50% of Illinois corn for exports are shipped down the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

The first organization that ICGA became involved with on the river issue was a group called MARC 2000. In 1993, Bob Fitzpatrick attended a MARC 2000 meeting where they were seeking input on rebuilding the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi. In 1995, Mike Hoeft, Doug Wilson and Mike Plumer served on the Mackinaw River Management Planning team. A speaker from MARC 2000 was subsequently invited to be a speaker at the Illinois Commodity Conference to talk about issues on the Mississippi River Transportation System. This was the first mention of concerns about the lock and dam system, the un-navigable water systems, and the fact that tows were longer today than when the system was originally built. Senator Moseley-Braun addressed the NCGA while in DC and in a meeting with Illinois delegates, she expressed an interest in river transportation.

Bill Bradley, Kent Kleinschmidt,  
Mike Hoeft and Floyd Schultz meeting  
with U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun



The Army Corps of Engineers began conducting a Navigation Study on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to determine whether to upgrade the lock. In addition, the U of I did an impact study on what river transportation means to Illinois. Illinois directors who served on the NCGA Transportation Task Force in the early years were Greg Guenther and Garry Niemeyer.

In 1996, an economic conference was held in Davenport, Iowa, where it was learned that the cost would be \$200 million to \$250 million per lock to update the lock system and the proposal was to start with five locks. ICMB funded radio messages regarding transportation on the Chicago radio stations as part of the "Food for Thought" Campaign.

Information from MARC 2000 about an engineer's study on the need for updating locks shared in 1997. This study concluded there was insufficient information to indicate a need for updating locks before the year 2020. The NCGA Transportation Task Force put together a list of objectives for a meeting in South America to see what they were doing on transportation systems. It was at this point that a suggestion was made to use the IRAM model to gather some facts and figures on

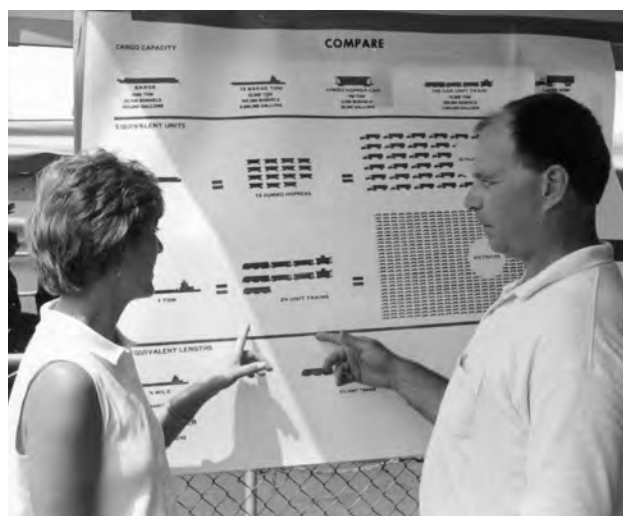
transportation. Co-funding was granted for a regional hypoxia meeting in St. Louis to educate Ag leadership. The first barge tour for a limited number of people was held August 5, with the idea being to get county officials and board members out for a ride to give them information on river transportation in general. A second tour was scheduled on August 7 for other organizations, such as IFB and other Ag organizations in the state. On these tours hypoxia and other issues related to the river were discussed. The barge tours went very well, and it was the consensus that we needed to keep working to get extra data to the Corps. The Army Corps of Engineers held some meetings which were attended by Rodney Weinzierl, Greg Guenther and Doug Wilson.

In March of 1998, an American Heritage Rivers program was held at the state office with Congressman Ray LaHood, R-Peoria, and Wesley Warren, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Council on Environmental Quality with the Executive Office of the President. Ten rivers were expected to be named American Heritage Rivers, and ICGA voted to support the nomination of the Chicago River and the Illinois River Watershed. Doug Wilson, who was a member of CBMP, was appointed to serve on the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee.

Since the barge tours last year were successful, ICGA joined forces with IFB and ISA to sponsor a series of six river barge tours in 1998. The first summer intern, Malena Sipka, was hired to help with scheduling the six barge tours planned with the charge for the tour at \$15, including bus transportation and lunch. One of the tours was held in conjunction with the congressional staff tour. The tours were publicized in Farm Week. ICMB worked with MARC 2000 on a public relations campaign tied into these tours and IFB worked to bring in local media. Missouri and Iowa sponsored their own barge tours. The total participants on the tours included between 1600 and 1700 participants on the Illinois River, 40 to 50 on the Mississippi River in Iowa and 30 to 40 Illinois people on the Mississippi River tour sponsored by Missouri. These tours received good media coverage. Notable people who participated in a barge tour included Senator Mosely-Braun on the Joliet tour, Secretary of State George Ryan on the Pekin-Peoria tour, and two state senators and eight state representatives on the Illinois tours.



U.S. Senator Carol Mosely-Braun, Greg Guenther on a barge tour, Larry Walsh on right



Greg Guenther in front of a chart used on a barge tour



Jim Tarmann talking with a barge tour participant



Jim Tarmann showing a tee shirt promoting new locks



Picture on the 2002 barge tour



crowd on a barge tour



crowd listening to a speaker on a barge tour

In the beginning, the six barge tours included morning and afternoon tours in Meredosia/Beardstown, morning and afternoon in Pekin/Peoria, and morning and afternoon in LaSalle/Ottawa. The barge tours continued to be successful over the next several years, from 1998-2011, with the format changing somewhat in the final years. ICMB provided funding for the barge tours each year and also funded MARC 2000's Public Education Campaign over the years. In 2003, tours were added on the Mississippi River at Quincy, IL, Burlington, IA, Bettendorf, IA and Dubuque, IA. Over the next several years, ICGA continued to hire barge tour interns to help with scheduling the tours. The tour in Peoria had some excitement in 2000, with a protest being staged by the Sierra Club. However, Greg Guenther and Leon Corzine were able to help diffuse their efforts. Another glitch happened in the year 2001 when notification came from the Coast Guard on the Thursday prior to the tours that they deemed these as "for hire events" and the only way to proceed was to refund the money paid. Although we returned the money, the Coast Guard did indicate it would be okay to give participants an opportunity to return the contribution if they so desired, and many of them did agree to pay the contribution. The tours in 2001 had more political figures involved than ever before.

By 2004, more than 15,000 producers, public officials, legislators and consumers had the opportunity to see first-hand what Illinois' inland waterway system meant to the state. In 2005, two new tours were added, one that highlighted the Upper Mississippi's newest structure, the Melvin Price Lock and Dam located in Alton, Illinois and the other in Clinton, Iowa. By the year 2006, the tow companies seemed to be backing off on their support. Therefore, for that year, three chamber tours were conducted in Joliet, Ottawa and Quincy. In 2007 specialized barge tours were done in an

effort to capture more media, like television, and the areas targeted were Alton, Peoria and Bettendorf. Two congressmen from Missouri and Congressman Shimkus and an aide for Senator Durbin participated in the Alton tour. In 2008, work was done with Indiana on organizing barge tours on the Ohio River, with a tour at Newburg, IN and another one at Olmsted, Illinois. The tours in Indiana continued up through 2011 with ICMB contributing funding. In 2011, a barge tour was conducted at the Alton Lock and Dam for Iowa leadership. Barge tours in 2012 were done in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

The first report from the Army Corps of Engineers in 1999 was not favorable to updating the locks, but it was noted the study would not be released for another year. Later in the year the Army Corps of Engineers proposed eight alternatives that called for building locks, and hearings were held around the state. The House Water Appropriation Committee passed \$15 million for engineering work. ICMB funded an external study through NCGA for additional economic analysis verification and critiquing of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation study and approved sending one Illinois representative and one NCGA representative to participate in the U.S. House Transportation Committee trip to South America to review their transportation system.

In 2000, ICGA approved supporting the "Illinois River 2020" program, a twenty-year Federal/State Initiative to restore and enhance the Illinois River Basin using voluntary and incentive-based programs. In addition, they voted to support WRDA 2000, only if authorization for locks on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers were approved. The National Academy of Sciences admitted the model used to do the study on the locks was flawed, and the Academy gave the Corps suggestions on how to proceed.

ICMB approved major funding for a river transportation public education campaign in 2001 which included radio ads that ran over the Memorial Day and 4th of July holidays, as well as ads in FarmWeek and IL Agri-News. Again in 2002, a huge river transportation campaign was funded that included radio spots covering the entire state, television in specific markets, interviews and personal contacts through letters to the editor, brochures and the web site. Laborers donated money toward the media campaign that ran in the Quad Cities, Peoria, St. Louis and Chicago. Public hearings were scheduled in Peoria, St. Louis and the Quad Cities on locks, which was the number one issue for IFB this year. These hearings were successful. It was expected that authorization of the locks would be in WRDA 2002. Meetings were set up with laborers affected by the river transportation issue. At this point in time, it was decided by both boards to engage the lobbying firm, The Capitol Hill Group, to work the authorization of locks from July through elections. New brochures were distributed to county farm bureaus, grain elevators, etc.

Example of information for the public education campaign

In 2003, WRDA 2000 was basically considered dead with the best hope for lock construction now being in WRDA 2004. In October, the Army Corps of Engineers set a series of hearings to make comments on the feasibility study to modernize the lock and dam system. The AFL-CIO expressed interest in becoming part of this program and some of their unions showed up for these hearings. A plan was developed to have 870 semis of grain hauling in at the time of a hearing to show the importance of the river in keeping so many more trucks off the road. Funding was committed for another advertising program. The Mid Central Illinois Carpenter's Union contributed funding toward the program, in addition to helping generate over 10,000 letters into Congress through an ad placed in the St Louis Post Dispatch. The St. Louis District Council of Carpenters saw the ad and contributed money to the MARC 2000 campaign.

Through ICGA and ICMB efforts, by the year 2004 river transportation had been moved to a new level of prominence by gaining the support of the Illinois governor and key state agencies. Public hearings held in June of 2004 introduced the Corps' integrated preferred alternative for managing the upper Mississippi River basin for the next fifty years. ICGA spearheaded an effort to make sure there was a strong showing from pro-navigation interests present at each of the hearing locations. ICGA also continued its efforts to get elected officials in D.C. to support the transportation cause through visits to D.C. in February and March. After more than eleven years, the Corps of Engineers finally completed their work on the Navigation study and sent it to D. C. for the Chief's final review before the final report. ICGA and NCGA were successful in surfacing a Water Resources Development Act bill, however, Congress recessed before taking any action. ICMB approved funding toward USGC's promotional program to show foreign buyers our locks and dams.

In March of 2004, the new Master Manual for the operation of the Missouri River was put into place by the Corps of Engineers which dealt with low water service. Key issues facing Illinois producers revolved around attempts to circumvent this new plan through legislative action. Reports showed the Missouri River reservoirs were at an all-time low, and that could hinder navigational support on the Mississippi.

MARC 2000 was reorganized in 2005, and Paul Rohde was hired as president. Also during the year, the Army Corps of Engineers was under reorganization. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which addressed the need to upgrade key locks on the Illinois River and Upper Mississippi River passed in the House in mid-July but was still awaiting floor action in the Senate. Disaster relief efforts and hurricane clean-up stalled many legislative initiatives and placed a large and unexpected burden on the federal budget. Farmers were paying for the inefficient river transportation every day, because this made corn less competitive to our foreign customers. Some figures noted were that more than 2.5 billion bushels of corn and soybeans were moved for export annually on the Upper Mississippi River System, and Illinois farmers were sending nearly 40 percent of their corn, and more than half of their soybean crops down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers on barges to export markets.

In the year 2006, DC visits had a big emphasis on WRDA, with an added presence in DC in January and February. From the ICMB Board, Donna Jeschke and Bryan Fogerson participated in the DC visits in regard to WRDA along with representatives from MARC 2000 and Labor.



Picture showing the LaGrange Lock crumbling side wall



Close-up picture of crumbling wall

Educational ads were run in *IL Agri-News* and *FarmWeek* requesting members to place calls to USDA and others in DC in support of WRDA. At a meeting in DC on Feb. 14-16, Greg Guenther, Garry Niemeyer and Jim Tarmann were disappointed with remarks made by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, indicating locks and dams were in working order and should be operational for another fifty years. In fact, the following pictures show a crumbling side wall at the LaGrange Lock.

The ICGA board voted to start an organized media campaign to emphasize the importance of the passage of WRDA. This campaign included organized telephone calls to USDA, print ads in *IL AgriNews* and *FarmWeek*, emails to MARC 2000 and past barge tour participants, and the implementation of the “Why Corn” telephone number. A reception was held at the Carpenters’ Union to which Senators Obama, Durbin and Bond were invited to come speak. The WRDA bill passed the Senate on July 19, 2006. An ad was placed in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News* to thank the congressional delegation for their help in passage of the bill. WRDA then went to Conference Committee. ICMB did approve funding to conduct an analysis assessing the true status and potential near term of South America’s transportation infrastructure development efforts.

A new source of advertising was used in 2007 when an ad was placed in the “Washington Roll Call” paper. In addition, an email was sent to the membership encouraging calls regarding WRDA. ICMB expressed their frustration because it seemed like the stall tactics in DC pretty much made it a dead issue. ICMB approved funding for a study to look at the impact of a catastrophic lock failure on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The Illinois Chamber implemented this work. A contract was signed with FAPRI to do the study. At this point in time, MARC 2000 and the Waterways Council, Inc. merged, and Rodney Weinzierl was asked to be on the WCI board and executive committee.

Record exports in 2008 taxed the river transportation system and pointed out even more the importance of upgrades to the lock and dam system on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. A landmark decision came about in November of 2007 with the passing of WRDA. ICGA worked thirteen years to achieve this. Not only was it passed, but it was also the 107th presidential veto override in our nation’s history! However, WRDA appropriations moved slowly. It was noted that the

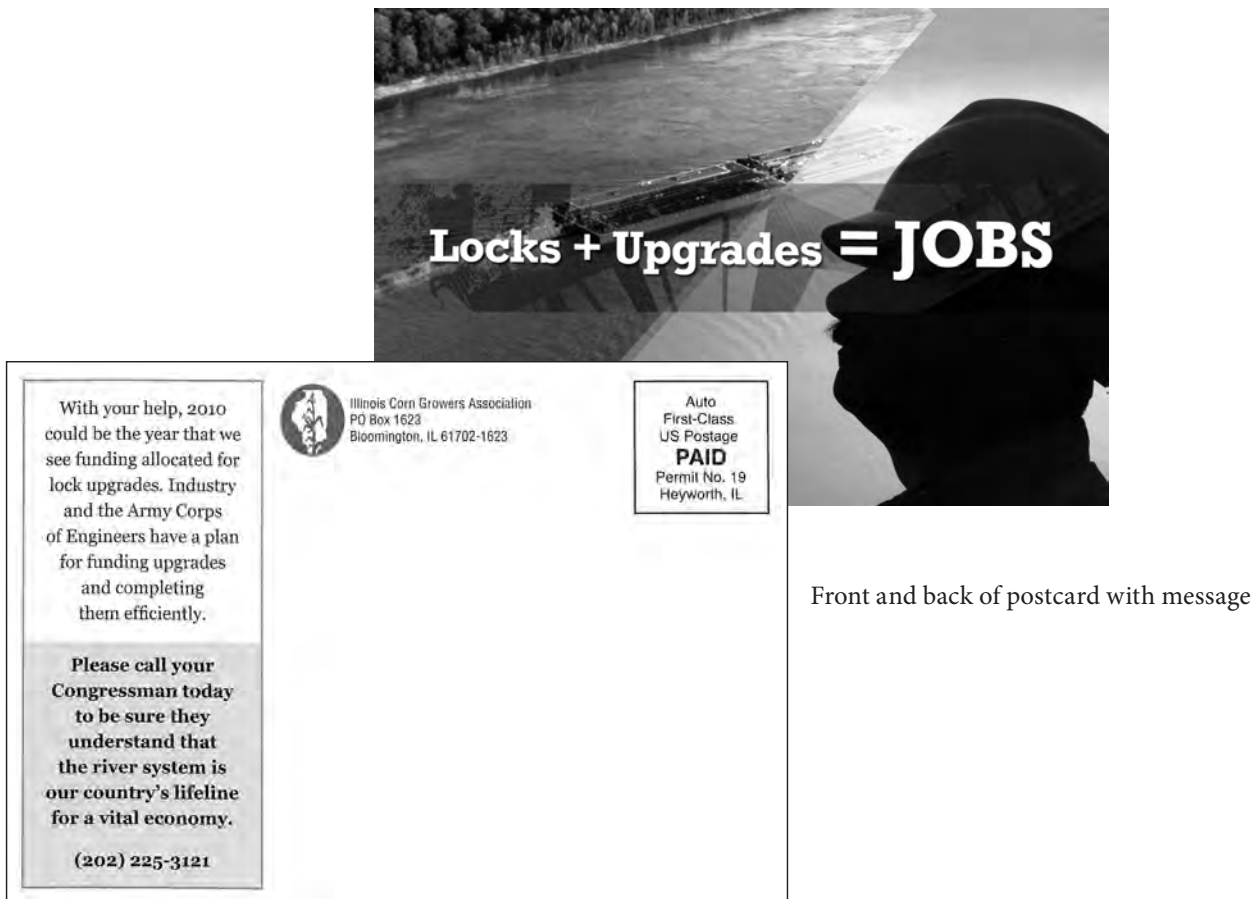
last lock wouldn't be done until 2029. Funding was approved from ICMB to intensify the education on the need for lock appropriations. It was noted that one of the problems with appropriations for the WRDA bill involved the Olmstead project, which at this writing was only half completed and need funding to complete other segments.

The Stimulus package that passed the House in 2009 included \$4.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, but it was noted that amount did not cover new startups. The Senate bill was pretty close to the House version, although it had \$25 million for investigation. At this point, the board felt the only way to get the locks done was by fixing the funding for the Waterways Trust Fund. In working with the Waterways Council, Inc., ICGA used their lobbying power and other partnerships to garner funding for locks and dams modernization. The big winners under Major Rehabilitation were Locks & Dams 3, 11, 25 and 27 on the Upper Mississippi River and the Lockport Lock & Dam on the Illinois River, which received funding from the 2009 Appropriations plus the 2009 Stimulus. Those projects received almost half of the total stimulus funds for inland waterways navigation construction and major rehabilitation. However, significant work remained, especially considering the expansion of the Panama Canal and the potential to pass even larger shipments through the canal. ICMB committed funding toward the Waterways Council, Inc. public education campaign, and that funding continued through 2013. ICMB committed funding toward a major television PR campaign developed by WCI, which ran for three months in the DC area. This campaign focused on waterways, the carbon footprint, and how much more efficient barges were today and ran for three months in DC.

In 2010, it was noted that the funding mechanism and prioritization of projects was broken, and Congress indicated they would not provide any WRDA money until industry and the Corps of Engineers had fixed the problem. Jim Tarmann, Art Bunting and Paul Taylor participated in a fly-in to DC, along with nine other states, to create some buzz about river issues, lock and dam restoration and the capital investment plan.



Group participating in fly-in included Jim Tarmann (front row, third from right) and Art Bunting (behind lady in red plaid)



Front and back of postcard with message

Funding was approved for sending a post card to 8,000 people across the country as a “call to action” on the lock and dam issue. It was noted there was a pending resolution to be considered at NCGA Corn Congress in Anaheim regarding a twenty-cent increase in the barge fuel tax to expedite the proposed Inland Marine Transportation System Capital Investment Strategy schedule. WCI produced commercials of thirty second spots to run two times per day for thirty days, and ICMB approved funding to help with the cost.

A meeting Jim Tarmann and Bill Christ had with Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood in 2011, turned out to be a locks and dams rally. Secretary LaHood indicated locks were not even on the radar screen. ICMB committed funding for the Indian Creek CTIC effort on the Mississippi River basin issue, for a capacity study by INFORMA to explore how much capacity we have so that perhaps we could use that as a reason to update the locks and dams, and one-third of the cost of 8000 gallons of fuel to sponsor a WWII ship to travel the Illinois River.

In 2012, both the ICGA and ICMB boards visited the Olmsted Locks and Dam in southern Illinois. At this point, Olmstead was not expected to be operational until at least 2024. The continued delays in the project, as well as the draining of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, would prevent lock upgrades on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers for the next decade unless significant changes were made.



Pictured are Martin Barbre, Bill Christ and Jim Raben in the back



Picture of the lock



Pictured from l-r are: Tom Groppe, Wayne Anderson, Gary Hudson and far left with blue coat is Larry Hasheider

Below is the timeline on the Olmsted project:

- 1988 Congress authorized the Olmsted project in WRDA 88 with an estimated total cost of \$775 million and seven-year construction duration beginning in fiscal year 1993
- 1989 Corps increased project's construction cost estimate to \$816 million and extended construction schedule to nearly 12 years
- 1991 "New start" construction funding provided
- 2003 Project cost had ballooned to \$1.06 billion with optimum completion date of 2010
- 2011 Project cost had risen to \$2.046 billion, and completion pushed back to 2016
- 2012 Project cost increased again to \$2.9 billion  
Approximately \$1.5 billion appropriated for the project to date, including \$150 million announced in the Corps FY2012 work plan for Olmsted  
At this rate of appropriations, project will take until at least 2022

Working with the Waterways Council, Inc. and our coalition of organized labor, environment and agriculture, a piece of legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives, sponsored by Congressman Whitfield of Kentucky. This legislation, WAV4, called for a complete overhaul of the lock and dam upgrade and maintenance delivery system. Other sponsors of the bill were: Congressmen Costello, Johnson, Shimkus, Kinzinger, Lipinski, and Jackson, Jr. However, the bill didn't move in 2012. WCI continued a public relations campaign in the Washington, DC Beltway. United Soybean Board agreed to join ICMB and provide funding for this campaign on the need for upgraded locks and dams.

In 2013, Jim Tarmann, Garry Niemeyer and Rodney Weinzierl attended a Waterways Council meeting in Houston where the big topic was on the low water issue on the Lower Mississippi and rock pinnacles. The Corps of Engineers indicated they could maintain traffic on the river, but the Coast Guard made the decisions to shut it down. The Corps believed the only option was to remove the rock and indicated they thought that would take sixty days. Since the Corps was not scheduled to start taking the rock out until February 4, ICGA worked to accelerate this process as well as pushing for getting more water released out of the reservoirs. A further consequence of this issue was causing the Ohio River basis to go up while basis on the Upper Mississippi and the Illinois River went down, in turn causing the cost of fertilizer to go up. Later, the Army Corps of Engineers came out saying everything had been solved. In order to pass an increase on the barge fuel tax, it was noted ICGA would have to work with House Republicans. The board voted to oppose a Water Resources Development Act that did not include an increase in the barge fuel tax. WRDA finally passed in the Senate, with almost everything in regard to locks being in the bill. However, only the House of Congress can initiate tax laws, so the barge fuel tax piece is not in the legislation. WRDA discussion in the House was pushed back to late July or early August. At this point, the legislation actually passed in the House and the Senate but remains in Conference Committee. However, as Jim Tarmann noted, “Even though this is a big victory, there is still a long road left ahead.”

A side issue that developed in 2010 was identified with Asian Carp. ICGA voted to contribute to the legal fund of the IL Chamber of Commerce to fight the Asian Carp/lock closure issue. “UNLOCK OUR JOBS” Coalition which included IFB, the IL barge industry, the IL Chamber of Commerce and private industry all committed to help. It was felt there was a likelihood that IL EPA would be sued on non-point source pollution in the waterways in the state, and we needed to begin building relationships between agriculture and municipalities, as the environmentalists were trying to get the municipalities on their side. In 2011, ICGA received a favorable ruling from the Administration on the Asian carp issue, which indicated they didn’t think the locks should be closed. In 2012, it was noted that Congress had given the Corps until 2015 to study and determine the best way to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. The board did commit to remain a participant in the coalition fighting to keep the locks open, “UnLock Our Jobs Coalition”.

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Biotechnology became one of the major areas both boards dealt with when GMO products were produced, such as Bt corn. The first mention in the board minutes of GMO was in the late 1990’s. In 1997, Vic Riddle met with representatives from Germany who visited the U.S. to learn more about biotechnology. They visited dairy and beef producers as well as producers of Roundup Ready beans and Bt corn. Then in 1998, NCGA scheduled an Issues Forum in DC for Jan. 8-9 on GMO’s and biotechnology. During this year, NCGA reorganized and set up a Biotechnology Working Group. Several of the Illinois directors served on this working group over the years.

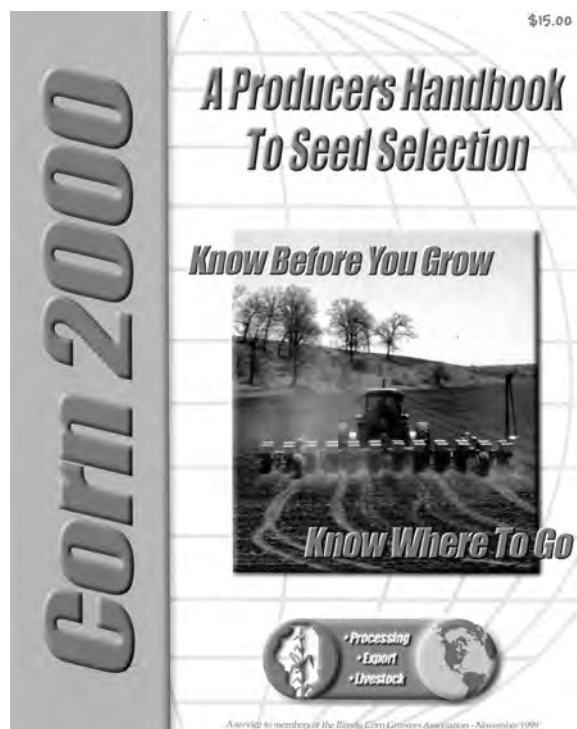
In 1999, ICGA joined IFB and ISA in sponsoring an informational ad in Farm Week listing the current corn/soybean hybrids that were available for production which had not yet been approved for export. The IL Medical Association and an Ag commodity coalition formed a Bio Illinois Initiative group for doing biotechnology research. Groups included in this Bio Illinois Initiative

were Alliance Net, Carle Foundation Hospital, IFB, IL Medical District Commission, ISA and ICGA. NCGA scheduled a meeting in Kansas City on GMO's and representatives from ICGA and ICMB attended. There was a big discussion on the GMO issue, with some board members meeting with representatives from Monsanto. It was noted that Monsanto's protocol for new products was that as long as producers buy, they would keep selling. ADM had a number of crystalline and fructose contracts canceled because they couldn't guarantee non-GMO product.

In 2000, a Council on Biotechnology was formed to deal with all the GMO issues. ICMB voted to become an associate participant by lending its name to the Council's outreach efforts to provide support and guidance. ICGA developed a brochure called "Corn 2000" which was a producer guide to seed selection to get up to date information to growers so that they could make educated planting decisions. The purpose of this manual was to raise grower awareness of the pros and cons of biotech as well as the increased responsibility that came with this production tool.

A new brochure, "Corn 2001," was completed which included an article on corn gluten feed. At this time, there was a lot of discussion on biotechnology and a meeting was held with Monsanto. Ads were run in *FarmWeek*, and *IL Agri-News* called "Know Before You Grow". The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois sent surveys out to first purchasers to see how they planned to handle biotech, and a good response was received to that survey. The Illinois Department of Ag held a number of meetings on approved and unapproved varieties. Steve Pigg, Leon Corzine, Ron Fitchhorn, Jim Tarmann, Ken Kindler and Rodney Weinzierl met with ADM discussing the GMO issue, producer certification, corn oil and ethanol. Monsanto conducted some focus groups and learned that people didn't know much about biotechnology. ICMB and others in the industry launched a large-scale education campaign on how biotechnology affects their lives in positive ways.

In late 2001, Illinois Corn and Iowa Corn identified the need for a Quality Assurance Initiative that would be a value-added initiative based on quality and insuring grain traits to the market. This would be a "For Profit" venture between Iowa and Illinois that would provide some sort of revenue stream back to corn grower members. A USDA value-added grant to match \$300,000 of funding from Iowa and Illinois was applied for and would give a total of \$600,000 capital for the project. Intentions were to get a pilot program going for the fall. ICGA and ICMB both became involved with this project. After it got formed in 2002, the legal name became Novecta, LLC and Chet Boruff became the first executive director. The goal was to build a credible system that allowed producers to participate and lead in shaping the value chain. It was designed to keep unwanted traits out, as well as selling value-added attributes. A couple of operational pilot



Cover of the Corn 2000 booklet

projects were Dow Agro-Sciences and Ursa Farmers Co-op. Training modules were put on CDs with testing being done on the Internet. Ursa Farmers Co-op was one of the first to receive an Agri-First grant for development work to get the training modules done. Dow Agro Sciences released Herculex, and they were the first customer of Novecta. Several projects were worked on following Novecta's inception. An example of one of those projects was "The Biotech Quality Management System", dealing with various certifications utilizing ISO-9000 and HACCP. Also, Novecta was instrumental in the export of ethanol to the European Union using the International Sustainability Carbon Certification.

A "Know Before You Grow Campaign" for 2002-2003 was developed and Monsanto initiated a new campaign with posters for elevators and points of origin, etc. To advertise the campaign television spots ran in the Chicago area geared toward the consumer. The "Corn 2002" booklet was sent out to the elevators by ICMB.

In 2003, the House Appropriations Committee approved a grant for a Novecta project. Martin Barbre served on the Novecta Board, and he noted an offer was made to bring in an additional staff person. Novecta did make an agreement with the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) of USDA to develop protocols and training to assist growers wishing to achieve "Process Verified" status from the USDA via its voluntary program. ICGA created a value-added booklet to help with the seed purity issue, noting that GMO technology was likely to be very popular and would be blended into the entire corn market rather quickly. It was noted that as long as corn gluten feed was unrestricted, there wouldn't be a problem but if the EU put restrictions on corn gluten feed containing GMO's, we could expect reductions in our exports. Ken Hartman, Martin Barbre, Leon Corzine and Ken Kindler attended a biotechnology meeting at IFB and the biggest topic of discussion there was in regard to pharmaceuticals and cutting the costs for them by using commodity products. ICMB sent the "Know Before You Grow" publications to the grain elevators statewide again.

In 2004, a new publication "Corn 2004" was produced and distributed by ICMB. Biotechnology was one of the areas that ICGA concentrated on this year. The board discovered that biotechnological advances in corn were double edged with benefits and trade-offs associated with each new discovery. One of the biggest challenges was acceptance by the customers, particularly in export markets. Since Illinois was a big exporter of corn, there was much concern about the EU blocking exports of corn gluten due to biotech concerns, thus losing a market for corn equivalent to 250 million bushels. Another challenge was the discovery that corn was an excellent plant in which to produce pharmaceuticals. So much of the ICGA staff and board time was spent in figuring out how producers could benefit while protecting traditional commercial interests. Novecta marked their second anniversary and some of the projects they worked on were one with Monsanto on a USDA developmental grant, a project with Clarkson Grain and a project with John Deere.

In 2005, a limited number of the "Corn 2005" publication was printed, as this was now available on the Illinois Corn web site. However, a copy could be requested by those not having Internet access. An ad ran on market choices and ICMB and ICGA worked together to assure export customers visiting Illinois heard a clear and confident message that this technology was

safe and being managed properly. A group of seventeen international journalists, representing twelve different nations, visited Illinois to see applications of biotechnology in Illinois corn production. The group visited Ron Fitchhorn's farm in McLean County and Pat Dumoulin's farm in Hampshire. A television crew from one of Japan's most popular programs also came to Illinois where they learned about biotech from Len Corzine (NCGA president), John Kuhfuss (ICGA) and Ken Greene (ICMB).



Biotech team visiting farm of Pat Dumoulin who has her back to the camera



Picture of Japanese TV crew at the farm of John Kuhfuss (on right) and in back is Ken Greene

There was a lot of confusion as to which events were approved for feed and food and the 1 percent tolerance was another whole issue on refuge management, which became a bigger and bigger issue down the road with adoption of these events. One of the projects done through Novecta was a Japanese Wet Millers project, which the USGC had been involved with but backed away from in 2004. It was indicated that ICMB had the responsibility to find an end user for the program. Phil Thornton and a representative from Iowa met in New Orleans on this program, and Phil Thornton went to Japan in February 2005. A second year of funding on the project was also granted by ICMB along with co-funding from the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and USGC.

In 2006, Novecta discovered they could play a role in shipping by containers. Craig Buhrow was appointed to the Novecta Board to replace Kenneth Greene. Acceptance of biotechnology was growing annually and gaining momentum both in the U.S. and abroad. An International Biotech Conference called Bio 2006, was held in Chicago and Ag commodity groups were involved with an exhibit to educate those attendees about agriculture.

In 2007, there was discussion on the Syngenta rootworm product and the fact that Japan wanted to shut this off. This was an issue we needed to make producers aware of. However, later, Syngenta did receive a letter of approval from Japan on the Agrisure product. ICMB approved some funding for a U.S. Africa Agribusiness Forum to promote biotech in Africa.

In 2008, ICGA committed funding to Novecta for the purpose of researching traits and their acceptance in foreign markets. Information cards were distributed through FarmWeek on "Respect the Refuge" along with a mailing and push email to membership. Monsanto helped with funding this program that also included radio commercials.

In 2009, it was learned that the American Seed Trade Association suspended their market choices program, and producers were directed to visit the NCGA web site under the “Know Before You Grow” section to get a listing of the traits that were okay. ICMB approved funding to Novecta for the purpose of providing education and outreach on handling and movement of biotech crops.

Another International Biotech Conference was held in Chicago on May 3-6, 2010, and ICMB committed funding and offered an invitation to ICGA to have two growers attend. Countries opposed to GMO corn had a booth to try to get companies to manufacture products in their country. ICGA had opportunity for a small information display with IDA and DCEO. There was concern with corn amylase which passed the regulatory processes through DOA, EPA, etc., because there were questions in the industry as to whether or not this should get mixed in with other corn. Therefore, industry was holding up this trait from being deregulated, which set a precedent. In the NCGA Biotech Working Group, it was noted that refuge compliance was 82 percent this past year. DOW and Monsanto came up with an IRM calculation, but industry and farmers needed to work together. With the downturn in the economy, work had pretty well dried up for Novecta, so they were in the process of restructuring. ICMB voted to move forward with working with the Buffet Foundation in the biotech area, noting that the project could last from three to five years. An exhibit was located at the IFB Governmental Affairs Conference which focused specifically on refuge compliance.

Novecta restructured in 2010 and in 2011, it was indicated Novecta would remain as an entity so that if there was ever a purpose or need for the company, it could pick up and run. ICGA committed funding for doing refuge education through either a printed ad or post cards. The board focused on other areas rather than biotechnology in the last few years.

In 2012, a mission was scheduled for the EU from March 18-28. Representatives from Iowa and Nebraska also participated. The purpose of this mission was to look at biotech issues, livestock issues, the sustainability program and transportation issues.

In 2013, three public hearings were held in June about the GMO labeling bill in Springfield. ICGA members attended to balance out the crowd.

Pictured are board members who went on the EU Mission: Jim Rapp, Phil Thornton, Bill Long, and Eric Kunzeman



## Water Quality

In the late 1990's a new group called the Council on Best Management Practices (CBMP) was formed by IPPA, IFB, ISA, IFCA, ICGA and Novartis. The main purpose of this group was to deal with water quality issues. Over the years, the following ICGA members served as chairs on CBMP: Doug Wilson, Roger Sy, Jim Reed, Gary Hudson and Jeff Jarboe.

ICGA believed it was possible to maximize profitability while keeping soil particles and the chemicals and fertilizers attached to them out of the water supply. Beginning in 1997, the ICGA Board became involved in water quality issues, with Mike Hoeft serving on the Mackinaw River Watershed planning committee and Doug Wilson serving as an action team member. Through the efforts of ICGA and other groups, the Lake Springfield water shed was the one selected throughout the country to be the model project. ICGA hoped to act as a facilitator of information for landowners, companies and government entities interested in solving challenges in the watershed through the use of filter strips, no-till and other proven practices. A Best Management Practices brochure was created to take to the DC congressional visits.

In 1998, ICGA launched a major water quality initiative with the first phase being a producer education program focusing on implementation of best management practices. Timing on this effort was good because the USEPA had decided to enact clean water legislation, with the result that more watersheds than ever were on a list of needing work. Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulations were driving this effort. New guidelines increased the number of Illinois watersheds under scrutiny from 65 in 1996 to the new list which had segments of 707 different watersheds. Illinois EPA held a public hearing on their draft proposal in February 1998. In January 1998, ICGA recommended that NCGA investigate filing a lawsuit challenging USEPA's authority to implement regulations on non-point sources of pollution and to work with other Ag organizations to investigate legal strategies relating to implementation of Illinois' submittal. Sources indicated the USEPA had been hit with several lawsuits in twenty-eight states by environmental groups who believed the water quality initiatives were not moving fast enough.

During this year, a new CBMP manual was circulated which was announced at a press conference at the Illinois Commodity Conference. This manual was also mailed to the membership. Funding was committed for the CBMP Research and Coordination Watershed Project. ICGA proposed that Extension do the work on this project for best management practices research to ensure safe water, and Novartis committed funding for three years toward the project. A Nitrogen Fertilizer Worksheet was inserted into *IL Agri-News* and *Farm Week* with IFB and the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association helping to cover the cost. A water quality forum was held in St. Louis, resulting in the formation of a Water Quality Task Force. George Czapar from the Extension Service was hired to work with CBMP on building plans for helping watershed improvements and water quality plans.

In 1999, ICGA voted to fund a study on the Illinois EPA 303d List of Impaired Waters. Jean Trobec from IFCA gave a presentation to the board regarding groundwater or surface water problems. The board voted to support the concept of the draft "Illinois Generic Pesticide Management Plan for Pesticides in Groundwater 1999" and to explore other Water Quality concerns and issues. CBMP conducted a campaign this year to put labels on anhydrous tanks.

In 2000, ICMB got involved with water quality when they voted to participate in the Lake Decatur nitrogen education campaign on water quality. In 2001, a Buffer Strip Initiative was announced at a press conference. Roger Sy replaced Doug Wilson on CBMP.

By 2004, CBMP entered its third year of conducting educational programs on the benefits of using “N with inhibitor” and was awarded a federal grant. One of the programs CBMP launched was a chemical tank recycling program which was well received. Roger Sy served as president until November 2004.

CBMP continued to work on water quality issues for the next few years with a representative from ICGA, along with Rodney Weinzierl, attending their meetings.

The next significant mention of activity came in 2010 when Novecta got involved in water quality, trying to position themselves to be the best resource on water issues. ICGA committed funding for more resources to deal with water issues. ICMB committed funding for three years to fund a water quality specialist at Novecta. In addition, ICMB committed funding to hire Mike Plumer to work on water issues, representing Illinois Corn at the Mississippi River Basin Initiatives, with Illinois EPA, USEPA and others relating to standards, regulations, etc. Funding was also approved for a project to assess the economic impact on farms as they had to develop individual nutrient management plans.

In 2011, a number of meetings were held on water quality with discussions on nutrient issues such as phosphorous and nitrogen. Phil Thornton and Jim Tarmann attended a meeting on water quality where they learned that nutrient run off had a number of players and was going to be a big issue for the future. The number one goal for the ICGA Grassroots Committee was to “Establish science based nutrient standards for phosphorus and nitrogen which make meaningful and measurable nutrient reductions without compromising future corn production potential by 2014”. USEPA pushed Illinois EPA to develop nutrient plans, and Mike Plumer worked part-time on a nutrient management plan with funding coming from ICMB.

CBMP came up with a plan “Leave it on the Land by 2040 Concept” which was supported by ICMB. At this point in time, Gary Hudson was serving as president of CBMP. He launched a new program called “Keep It on the Crop (KIC) by 2025” at the Farm Progress Show and ICMB committed funding toward this project. Funding was also being sought from companies such as John Deere, Case IH and Monsanto.



Press conference announcing the KIC 2025 program with Gary Hudson speaking, Dale Hadden from ILFB, Jean Payne from IFCA and Mike Plumer in background

The purpose of KIC 2025 was to delay implementation of heavy-handed regulations on nutrient management by implementing a research and educational program to help farmers understand best management practices for reducing nutrient runoff. The USEPA cracked down on nutrient runoff in the Chesapeake Bay area with some regulations that hit the farmers in that area pretty hard. ICMB committed funding to secure Mike Plumer's services on water quality issues through Aug. 3, 2012. In addition, a research proposal, "Survey of the Air and Water Permitting Processes and Fees in States Surrounding Illinois," was funded with survey work to be done by Weaver Boos Consulting, Inc. The states they surveyed were WS, IA, MN, IN, OH and IL.

In 2012, both Gary Hudson and Jeff Jarboe served on CBMP. A spring workshop was put together on nutrient use. A KIC by 2025 advertising spot ran during the fall, noting that the Discovery Farms were involved with this program. CBMP, including Gary Hudson and Jeff Jarboe, visited the Discovery Farms in Wisconsin and Minnesota June 18-20. At the Discovery Farms program in Minnesota, research had been conducted since 2001 by collecting data from farmland, prairie/pasture, and naturally wooded areas in regard to water runoff to determine how much nutrient runoff there was from each area and how much was coming from the tile. One interesting fact they discovered was that the nutrient runoff from the naturally wooded area was higher than the nutrient runoff from farmland. Also of note was that the biggest contributor of phosphorus runoff was cattle on pasture. Using the Wisconsin Discovery Farm as an example, CBMP decided to set up Discovery Farms in Lexington, Illinois to study the effects of many different best management practices on the soil profile and nutrient loss. It was noted that it would take about two years to get the informational pipeline to determine whether this was economical or a detriment to the farmer. Mike Plumer was contracted to coordinate and develop this research.



Pictured are Mike Plumer talking with others

As the result of a checkoff referendum on fertilizer to move it out of the IDA, a new board was set up called Nutrient Research & Education Council (NREC), and Gary Hudson, as representative of CBMP, was asked to sit on this board and was subsequently elected chairman. One of the programs they funded was KIC 2025. In regard to CBMP, it was noted fifty farmers had signed up for a nitrogen application replicated trial during the fall, working mostly in the area from Lake Decatur to Indian Creek. In regard to the GIS mapping program, which the boards have continued to fund, Mike Plumer worked to get watersheds and water quality information into the system. In addition, work was being done to add land use change into the system as well as digital plat books.

New players were added into CBMP in 2013 when Growmark and Monsanto joined. With the recent water nitrate issues, it was felt the USEPA was likely to move quickly to implement new regulations for farmers in regard to fertilizer usage. Currently, there was a lack of data to present as evidence to the USEPA in questioning farming practices, and this was an opportunity to start collecting that data. A meeting was held in March to document how water quality should be handled and how to document the reduction of nutrients leaching into Illinois waterways. More facts were needed to defend ourselves on this issue.

In 2013, several down-state cities were on the verge of going over 10 ppm nitrate levels in their finished water, even after water filtration. It was noted that if the nitrate levels went over 10 ppm, by law the city had to supply bottled water to all pregnant women and children under the age of eighteen months. Champaign, Bloomington, Decatur and Joliet had all exceeded 10 ppm nitrate levels in their unfinished water and were currently running their denitrification systems, which cost approximately \$15-20K per day to effectively denitrify the drinking water. Springfield was the only city listed without any capability of removing nitrates from water, and providing drinking water as specified above would cost them approximately \$100,000 per day. Consideration was being given to adding a soil scientist, a Discovery Farms manager, and contracting with the business that worked in the Chesapeake Bay area to try to get ahead of this issue. A significant nitrogen loss for the 2013 crop was reported, both from what was left from 2012 and what was fall applied because of the high amount of rain in the spring. So, everyone was now trying to come up with a plan that the USEPA would agree to in order to hold off Chesapeake Bay type regulations. The contract with Mike Plumer was renewed through August of 2014. ICMB also committed funding from their FY 2014 budget to analyze data related to corn production's impact on nutrients and water quality.



## Chapter Four

### 1993-2002

*Checkoff* - In 1993, , both boards voted to increase the checkoff rate by  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent, aiming at conducting the vote in the December time frame with voting to be done by mail-out ballot. It was noted that the list for the mail-out ballot would come from ASCS. In checking with the Department of Ag attorney regarding conducting the referendum vote by mail-out ballot, it was discovered that a rule change would need to be made to change the voting process and that this needed to be done through a committee called JAYCAR. In addition, the board also approved asking the Dept. of Ag to proceed with plans to clean up language in the Marketing Statute. However, it was noted that ICGA needed to take the lead on changing the language. A news conference was held regarding the checkoff increase with three major television networks on hand, along with print media. Illinois Agri-News and Farm Week also carried stories from this news conference. The end result of this referendum vote which was held in December of 1993 was a defeat for the increase. Out of 150,000 to 160,000 eligible voters, a total of 55,000 to 60,000 ballots were returned, with 43 percent voting in favor and 55 percent opposed.

In following through with the request to clean up language in the Marketing Order, the ICGA met with Senators Woodyard and O'Daniel and Representatives Noland and Woolard, leaders of the Senate and House Ag committees, for help in getting changes made. Rule changes were subsequently made to the Illinois Corn Marketing Order which included: absentee ballots no longer had to be notarized, absentee ballots could be cast if it would cause a person a hardship to get to the polling place, and write-in candidates were required to be certified with IDA.

In 1996, another checkoff referendum vote was requested to change the term limits for directors from 2 three-year terms to 3 three-year terms. A walk-in vote was conducted on July 2. The referendum passed.

At the January 1998 meeting the ICGA Board moved to have the president appoint a committee to look into the options of conducting a referendum to increase the checkoff rate. ICMB approved this action and recommendations for this committee were to include a wide representation of the agricultural industry. This group was called the Future Funding Task Force and Kent Kleinschmidt was appointed as chairman. Others appointed to the group were Vic Riddle, Gene Youngquist, John Phipps, David Downs from IFB, Frank Thorp from the seed industry, David Litteken representing elevators, Marty Thornton from Commerce Bank, Mike Williams from

Bank One and Harold Guither from the Cooperative Extension Service. One of the key things that the group identified was the need to come up with a plan for how increased funds would be used. The report given at the June meeting indicated the majority (70 percent) did not support an increase in the checkoff rate, noting that the biggest issue was low prices.

In 2001, it was decided to bring the Future Funding Task Force back together to see whether the time was right for seeking an increase in the checkoff rate. Then, at the January 2002 meeting a paper ballot vote was conducted of ICMB & ICGA directors to determine whether or not they were in favor of requesting a referendum to increase the checkoff rate within the next twelve months. It was decided not to seek an increase at that time.

*Office Building* - In June of 1995, the Business Services Committees approved funding to investigate the possibility of leasing a building with a purchase option. Appointments to a committee to investigate this option were: Kent Kleinschmidt (ICGA) and Merle Miller (ICMB), co-chairs; Vic Riddle (ICGA) and Lynn Laible (ICMB); alternates Mike Hoeft (ICGA) and John Adams (ICMB). After investigating the different options, the New Office Location Committee reported that the cost to purchase an existing building and rehabilitate it were more expensive than constructing a new building. After considering the options, both boards approved the purchase of a lot from Don Owen along Route 9 west of Bloomington. A special joint meeting of ICGA and ICMB was held on December 13, 1995, to discuss construction of a new office facility and ownership of the building. At that meeting, the decision was that it made the most sense for ICGA to own the building and ICMB to prepay long-term rent. The reasoning indicated for this decision was that ICMB was under the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois and should the organization dissolve, the state would own the building. Therefore, it was voted to develop a long-term operating lease between the two boards, noting that the building would be depreciated over forty years. In regard to publicity about Illinois Corn constructing a building, it was noted that the media would be important in presenting this correctly to the countryside. A Building Committee was appointed to oversee the construction: Kent Kleinschmidt, chairperson; Mike Hoeft, Doug Wilson, George Flageole, Merle Miller, John Adams, Floyd Schultz and Gene Youngquist. The building was constructed, and the first retirement reception was held there in August of 1996.



Sign at new office building



Retirement Reception; pictured l-r: Leland Behnken, Jane Carney, Scott Bidner, Fred Reichert, Daryl Reid, Jim Eichhorst



Open House for new building; l-r: Steve Wentworth, Arlene Chidley, Kent Kleinschmidt, Kent Chidley



Staff pictured l-r: Philip Shane, Jim Tarmann, Mark Lambert, Michelle Hoerner, Lori McCubbins, Ann Hodgson, Debbie Spencer, Rodney Weinzierl

Also during 1995, both boards updated their Strategic Plans and hired Jefferson Davis Associates as facilitators for helping with the process. Other action taken through a meeting of both the ICGA and ICMB Business Services Committees was the adoption of some language changes in the lease agreement between the two boards.

In regard to staff, in 1995 it was approved to add a part-time administrative support staff person in the office. Changes in the program staff were as follows:

- 1993     Jim Eichhorst resigned as Field Services Director
- Phil Shane hired as Market Development Director
- Jim Tarmann hired as Field Services Director



Staff in 1997 pictured l-r: Lori McCubbins, Debbie Spencer, Ann Hodgson, Philip Shane, Captain Cornelius, Jim Tarmann, Rodney Weinzierl, Michele Hoerner, Mark Lambert



Staff - back row: Jennifer Klitzing-Weber, Philip Shane, Rodney Weinzierl, Mark Lambert; middle row: Ken Kindler, Debbie Spencer; front row: Lori McCubbins, Jim Tarmann, Ann Hodgson

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR - Each year, year ICGA and ICMB had some type of participation in the Illinois State Fair. A summary of what happened during this decade follows.

1993 - Participation for this year included: participating in the parade were the Peoria bus, Captain Cornelius, U of I hydro electric vehicle and the E85 Lumina; in the Ethanol Expo was an E85 display; and in the Commodity Building there was a static display plus one of the state cars.



Exhibit at State Fair with Keith Yohnka (Kankakee County),  
2nd from left and Gene Novack

1994 – President Randy Adkins spoke at the Ethanol Expo, and Bill Bradley escorted Secretary Mike Espy around the fairgrounds.



Event at Ethanol Expo; pictured l-r: Director Becky Doyle, Kent Kleinschmidt, Gov Edgar, Randy Adkins speaking, Jack Fisher



U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy, speaking at the Ethanol Expo

1995 - ICMB approved funding to conduct a joint State Fair degradable plastic bag promotion with Illinois Beef making sure the bags were actually degradable. Staff negotiated a new one-year contract for the Ethanol Expo Building at the State Fair.

1996 - The main exhibit was done in cooperation with DCCA at the Ethanol Expo where an E85 car along with an E85 dragster from Ohio was on display as well as a display on the ethanol fuel cell. Senator Dole attended the State Fair and visited the Ethanol Expo.



President Vic Riddle speaking at Ethanol Expo with candidate Bob Dole in background at the far right



Pictured l-r: Bill Bradley, IFB President Ron Warfield, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Mike Hoeft



Presidential Candidate Bob Dole speaking at the Ethanol Expo

It was also decided to put together a farm safety exhibit to be located in the Happy Hollow area where the Farm Expo had been moved.

1997 - Participation included a static display in the Commodity Building. In addition, the ICMB Board sponsored Farm Olympics at the fair which involved 4-H and other groups.

1999 - The board approved hiring a summer intern, Katie Boruff, to develop materials for the State Fair and the Farm Progress Show. She developed some interactive electronic displays which were later available for other groups to use. In a review of the State Fair exhibit, it was noted that the location didn't work too well this year because of some of the distractions going on within the building so staff was directed to explore options available for the future. A Farm Price Crisis Rally was held at the fairgrounds.



Gov George Ryan speaking at the Farm Price Crisis Rally



Cong Ray LaHood speaking at the Farm Price Crisis Rally with U.S. Senator Fitzgerald 2nd from right



President George H Bush and Barbara speaking to folks at the State Fair



Pictured left to right at the Ethanol Expo are: George Flageole, Garry Niemeyer, Leon Corzine, Senator Peter Fitzgerald, John Adams, Ron Fitchhorn, Vic Riddle, Fred Reichert

2000 - Changing locations of our State Fair exhibit was discussed, as we no longer had access to the Ethanol Expo building. Both ICGA and ICMB had discussion about constructing a new agricultural exhibit building. For this year, Growmark put up a temporary building just north of the commodity pavilion which was sold at the conclusion of the fair. Even though discussions continued about building a permanent agricultural exhibit building, that never happened. ICGA-ICMB's participation this year included Phil Shane driving the E diesel truck in the parade with baskets on the back containing over 250 food items, and Garry Niemeyer presented the First Lady with a check for \$250.

2001 - It was decided to maintain an ethanol activity around Agri-First, as the Governor was to sign the Agri-First bill at the fair on Ag Day. Also, a static display was put up in the Commodity Building.

2002 - This year was the 150th anniversary of the State Fair, and Director of Ag Joe Hampton requested we have a static display showing 150 years of progress in corn in one of the tents scheduled for Ag Expo and include an ethanol vehicle.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW – In 1994, the Farm Progress Show was in Illinois. A new highlight for the joint exhibit was the construction by staff of some huge corn stalks to help identify our exhibit. Can you see Phil Shane up in the stalk in the picture below?

Also included in the exhibit was one of the Peoria ethanol buses that was used as a theater to show an ethanol video. Those who viewed the video received a travel mug.

In the year 2000, the Farm Progress Show was located at Cantrall near Springfield. Three billboards were put up in the Springfield area.



Ehanol billboard



News conference at Farm Progress Show - Leon Corzine speaking, Joe Hampton, Ron Warfield, IFB President



Phil Shane pictured in the big corn stalk constructed to identify the Illinois Corn exhibit at the Farm Progress Show

## ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

1992-93



Officers LaVern Jordal, Fred Reichert, Kent Kleinschmidt, Bob Fitzpatrick

The board voted to adopt a policy to purchase fax machines for the vice president and all committee chairmen. Another change in policy was to limit the tenure of an Illinois National board member to two consecutive three-year terms unless they were in the position of chair, co-chair or subcommittee chair of the standing committees. Illinois received the NCGA State Achievement Award.

New county associations organized during the year were McDonough, Macoupin, Boone and Christian. It was approved to add a membership application to the back of the bumper stickers, and a membership incentive was adopted. There was discussion about the Minnesota plan to use checkoff dollars to purchase memberships, and the board decided they were not in favor of this.

In order to educate congressional staffers on Illinois agricultural issues, it was decided to participate with IFB and Illinois Soybeans in hosting a congressional staff tour which was held in August. Congressional aides who participated in the tour were from Senator Simon's staff, Senator Moseley-Braun's staff, Cong. Costello's staff, Cong. Durbin's staff, staff from the Office of Management and Budget, staff from the State of IL Washington office, Cong. Poshard's staff, and Cong. Ewing's staff. This congressional staff tour was very successful and was held for several years.

The board did decide they were in opposition to NCGA's position on paid land diversion. A committee was set up to start work on the 1995 Farm Bill. Scott Durbin and Bill Bradley served on the National Farm Bill Task Force. Along with other commodity groups, the board hosted an orientation for new members of the General Assembly. In addition, ICGA hosted a reception for the Governor's Ethanol Coalition and Fred Reichert and Scott Durbin attended. SB 85 was signed by Governor Edgar, and this bill pre-exempted local control of pesticides and kept it in the hands of the federal government. A computer model was to be ran in regard to set aside for 0, 5 and 10 and the board directed national directors to pick the best option for a set aside based on the computer model.



Golfers at the Greater Ethanol Open from left to right are Paul Taylor, IL Rep Bob Pritchard, IL Senator Brad Burzynski, and Rich Clemmons



St. Clair County fair exhibit with Captain Cornelius pictured with a Ford ethanol powered tractor

Membership as of Jan. 15, 1993, was listed at 4,427. Throughout the year, the board conducted a membership call-a-thon, as did McDonough, Tazewell, Grundy and St. Clair counties. Membership incentives were approved for counties. A golf outing for commodity groups was held at Prairie Vista in Bloomington. This golf outing event has continued each year, presently being held at the Fair Lakes Golf Course in Secor, Illinois.

St. Clair County had an activity where they had the ethanol tractor on display along with Captain Cornelius.

Some of the promotional programs funded included: a NAFTA media promotion; ICMB's producer education program which included distribution of full color information cards; a direct mailing from Midwest Grain to every corn producer within a 40 or 50 mile radius of Pekin on their ethanol expansion; news releases done by USMEF, USFGC and NCGA on how checkoff dollars had helped their organizations; interviews with people in Chicago; and information on NAFB news wire and DTN.

### *Highlights from Kent Kleinschmidt*

Kent first participated in the IFB ALOT program and then followed that with the Illinois Ag Leadership Foundation class. He noted, "When you complete a program, especially the IL Ag Leadership program, people seek you out to see if you have interest in serving on a board." Kent actually got asked by someone to serve on the Illinois Soybean Association, but the soybean districts were different from corn, and they needed someone to represent Tazewell County. However, Kent actually lives in Logan County, which is in a different soybean district. Then a few months later, Jim Hoeft, who was getting ready to go off the Illinois Corn Growers Association board, asked Kent if he would be interested



Kent Kleinschmidt

in serving on the ICGA Board. The first meeting Kent attended was the summer meeting of the NCGA Corn Classic where he served as a delegate representing Logan County. This gave him an opportunity to meet the people serving on the ICGA Board, and he was subsequently elected.

Before his service on the ICGA board, Kent was serving on the county Farm Bureau board and looking for somewhere to use the skills he had learned in the Ag Leadership class. So, he decided to get involved with ICGA. Serving on the corn boards has given Kent a great opportunity to network with people all over the country, both on the state and national level and even around the world.

Going through the chairs and serving in the officer chain forced Kent to be more comfortable doing interviews, both on paper and verbally. As Kent stated, "The ICGA and ICMB do a good job of preparing you with a broad base of knowledge to draw from for doing interviews and answering questions. Also going through the officer chain helps you a great deal."



Kent speaking in front of the ICMB exhibit

The biggest that Kent remembers while he served on the ICGA Board was the Reid vapor issue (rvp) on ethanol. This happened while Kent was serving as president of ICGA. Ethanol usage changed from 1987 when he first got on the board up to the present time, having astronomical growth. However, there always seems to be some issue going on with ethanol. Kent did attend the Ethanol Rally in Peoria and remembers Scott Durbin, being up on the stage. Jack Fisher was executive director at that time and while Kent was serving as president, Rodney Weinzierl was hired as the executive director. During Kent's term with the Corn Growers, there were two attempts to increase the checkoff rate, but both attempts were defeated. However, the checkoff rate has now been increased twice. Kent did note that he was involved with corn growers before serving on the state board.



Corn carts announcing Captain Cornelius



Pictures of Tazewell County's corn cart stored in Kent's shed

The board purchased the corn carts during Kent's term on the board. One of his best memories was driving a corn cart in the Illinois State Fair parade where they had a total of ten corn carts going down the street in a big oval formation. Kent noted that Mike Hoeft still has one of the corn carts which was crated up and sent to California at one time. There are still some corn carts around, as a couple were used up at the NASCAR race.

As Kent noted, "Corn had a great working relationship with Governor Edgar back then, and we haven't had that type of relationship since." Governor Edgar was on the Governor's Ethanol Coalition and even served as chairperson one year.

While serving on the ICMB Board, Kent participated in two trade missions, one to Japan and Taiwan through the USMEF and the second one to Japan, Taiwan, and China through the USGC. In the Ag Leadership class, they also went to Japan and Taiwan. Kent would not have thought about going to a foreign country, but as he noted he was in Japan and Taiwan three times.

Another good memory Kent is serving as co-chairman when the ICGA building was constructed. That was a very interesting project, and he thinks it has served the organization well so far. It was a big thing in being able to own your office space rather than renting it.



Kent talking with a trade team

DC visit with U. S. Senator Dick Durbin



Pictured l-r: Daryl Reid, Ella Louise Reid, Kent Kleinschmidt, Cong Glenn Poshard, Bill Bradley, Scott Durbin, Vic Riddle

On a national level, Kent served as co-chairman with Gordon Wassner from the Iowa Soybean Association on the NCGA Commodity Classic Planning Committee. He thinks that the co-location of the NCGA and USGC in Washington, DC is a great thing. He didn't have anything to do with that, but all indications are that they have a very good working relationship, and it has helped both organizations.

A couple of memorable visits to DC for Kent included a meeting in the Executive Office Building located near the White House and in 1993 Kent, Alan Dale from IFB and Larry Quandt from IFU met with Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, Senator Carol Moseley Braun, and at that time Congressman Richard Durbin in regard to ethanol. Kent noted, "That was really neat, and someone took a picture of the visit although he never saw a copy."

While Kent was serving on the ICGA Board he remembers working quite a bit with other organizations such as IFU, NFO, the Grange and IFB. Ethanol was the main issue on which they worked cooperatively. Kent thought this was a good relationship, but this has all kind of disappeared now.

In summary, Kent noted, "It has been a great opportunity to serve on both the ICGA and ICMB boards. Hopefully my service has helped the corn industry somehow through the years."

## 1993-94



Officers LaVern Jordal, Gene Novack,  
Bob Fitzpatrick, Randy Adkins

The first Illinois Commodity Conference was held at the Peoria Civic Center on Nov. 21-23, 1993. Groups included in this conference, in addition to ICGA, were ISA, IBA, Illinois Lamb and Wool, and IPPA. An award was given to Secretary Ed Madigan and Gene Youngquist received the ICGA's World of Corn award at their annual meeting.



Illinois Commodity Conference with Commodity  
Presidents presenting an award to former U. S. Secretary  
of Ag Ed Madigan



Gene Youngquist receiving the World of Corn Award  
from President Vic Riddle

Membership was listed at 4,626. In regard to the seed corn program, the possibility of adding some chemical companies was discussed, as the present program concluded at the end of FY 1994. In other action, it was decided to continue the membership incentive program from last year; to instruct Illinois national directors to recommend that the NCGA/NCDF Executive Committee look into the long-term effect of purchasing memberships with checkoff dollars; to have the Illinois national directors support the present NCGA one-year dues at the same rate of \$15 and raise the three-year dues from \$30 to \$40; to send four people to the officer's training in Indianapolis sponsored by NCGA and Dow Elanco; and to encourage NCGA to pursue a Leadership Program.

*Membership Dues* - The board voted to increase Illinois membership dues from \$30 to \$50 for a one-year member and from \$75 to \$95 for a three-year member. The following seed corn companies agreed to participate in the three-year membership program: Custom Farm Seed, Shissler Seed Co., Stewart Hybrids, Bo Jac, Pocklington Seed Co., Diener Seed Co., Great Lakes Seed Co., Lewis Hybrids, NC+ Hybrids and Growmark.

Thank you letters were sent to senators and congressmen who voted for NAFTA. In regard to the Ethanol RFG issue, the board was still supporting blanket fuel certification and noted that the White House and USEPA were working to resolve this issue. Senator Moseley-Braun set up an Illinois meeting with Sec. Espy, including Kent Kleinschmidt, Alan Dale from IFB, Larry Quandt from IFU, Maureen Crocker from the Governor's Office and Director Becky Doyle. The board supported Secretary Espy on the Targeted Option Payment Program which re-opened the set-aside program condition in the 1990 Farm Bill and allowed for an increase in set-aside resulting in an increase in the target price.

An organization called Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) was formed with the idea to get Illinois involved in funding research for the state. The mission statement adopted was to advance profitable, consumer-sensitive, environmentally sound food, agricultural and related systems by securing funding for relevant research and outreach and fostering public participation in program guidance. Organizations that were a part of this included the land grant universities, Illinois Sustainable Ag sector, IFB, ICGA, ICMB, GROWMARK, ISA, IPPA, IL Wheat Association, Illinois Seed Trade Association and Farm Credit. In the beginning, the state appropriated funding of \$3 million for agricultural research, and a coordinator was hired who was located at the University of Illinois. The board discussed C-FAR and voted to join membership, which has continued each year until the present time. Terry Wolf from Illinois served as chair in 1996-97 and different board members from ICGA and ICMB served on the committees or working groups. Each year the state funding seemed to get cut in this area, and it was finally decided in the late 2000's to reorganize. Today's C-FAR now has the following sector caucuses: 1) Corn, 2) Soybeans, 3) Pork-Beef-Dairy, 4) Specialty Crops-Wheat-Allied Industries. Leon Corzine presently serves as chair of the Corn Sector.

Through a joint project between NCGA and some of the states, Illinois sent 250 curriculum kits up to Chicago for use in the schools. It was decided to place radio spots on Hometown Radio Network's Farm Bureau Annual Meeting reports and to continue funding for radio programming on Farm Radio Illinois in cooperation with Northrup King.

1994-95



Officers Mike Hoeft, Paul Compton,  
Randy Adkins, Vic Riddle

In the Strategic Planning process, three objectives were identified: 1) continue legislative and regulatory efforts, 2) improve public image of the producer and the industry in regard to economic and environmental impact, and 3) increase membership and the number of organized counties.

Total membership according to NCGA records at the end of September was 4,988 which gave Illinois forty-six delegates to the NCGA Corn Classic. Those from Illinois who signed more than twenty new members included Daryl Reid with forty-five members, Gene Youngquist with thirty-two, Dale Haudrich with twenty-three and Gene Novack with twenty-two. Daryl Reid received the membership incentive award which he chose to give as a scholarship to 4-H, and he also offered funding for a scholarship for a second year.

In regard to board policy, it was approved to purchase additional fax machines to allow all board members to have one.

Some of the public relations activity during the year included youth activities of the IL FFA Foundation; Chicago CNN visited Bob Fitzpatrick's farm to talk about new uses; participated in Midwest Ag Expo in Gifford; supported annual meeting of the North Eastern Region National Association of Farm Broadcasters; continued funding of the "News to Corn Growers" on Farm Radio Illinois with Northrup King again helping underwrite the program; Mark Lambert and Jim Tarmann visited a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class.



Jim Tarmann speaking with kids



Mark Lambert speaking to kids

Another win for the communications area was funding of a full-page ad on DTN, which meant we had a full page on their system daily, and in the process that enabled us to reach 6,000 subscribers in Illinois. A contract was also signed with Broadcast Partners to begin placing ICGA news on IL Farm Dayta units. This information source continues to be used today, although it is now a combined effort of Broadcast Partners and DTN. Captain Cornelius participated in the Washington, DC 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

Some of the successful county programs for this year included: Mon-Clair County Corn Growers participated in a free-standing display at Lambert International Airport in St. Louis; Champaign County conducted an "Earth Partners" program; McLean/Livingston Counties had an ethanol race night; Sangamon County promoted ethanol in a parade, and Macon County sponsored a race night and promotion activities for an ethanol powered stock car.

A delegation of sixteen Ag groups went to DC on March 1-2 to lobby for the farm bill, and Vic Riddle represented ICGA. The board approved action to send a letter to the New Uses Council expressing concerns with their source of funding, believing they needed to seek new funding rather than taking from the current USDA budget. The board DC visits this year were held in July, and there were five teams making visits for a total of forty meetings. Through this process they met with nineteen congresspeople and senators, covering the topics of E85, environmental concerns, farm bill issues, CMA research visits, and public relations areas.



Bob Fitzpatrick in front of Capitol



Sangamon County parade exhibit promoting ethanol



Pictured on a DC Visit are: Lynn Laible, Fred Reichert, Cong John Shimkus, Greg Guenther



State Policy Session with Mike Hoeft conducting the discussion



Picture of the memorial for Randy Adkins located to the northwest side of the State Office

In discussions with IFB, it was decided to send out a survey in regard to atrazine to a proportionate share of the corn grower membership. In addition, the board supported a pilot program by Bob Hauser from the U of I, using price and yield futures and options contracts replacing varying degrees of crop insurance in the 1995 Farm Bill. It was voted to support the concept of a Freedom to Farm Act, which was a proposal from Congressman Pat Roberts and the House Ag Republican leadership. The proposal provided for full flexibility allowing a farmer to plant whatever he wanted, called for reduction or elimination of ARPs, and payments were based on historical yields with a flat payment for the next seven years. All of these issues were discussed at the state policy session.

During this year, President Randy Adkins passed away. A committee of Bob Fitzpatrick and Kent Chidley were appointed to come up with suggestions for a memorial for Randy. Because of Randy's passing, the office of president was vacant. According to the bylaws, the vice president could fulfill the duties of president in the absence of said officer. Therefore, the board appointed Vic Riddle as vice president to fulfill the presidential duties. Later the committee came back with a recommendation, which was approved, for a memorial to be constructed in the area in front of the building. This memorial included the ICGA logo etched in green granite and set on a pedestal comprised of rocks from each county in the state with a small brass plaque on the pedestal.

## 1995-96



Board members and staff - back row l-r: Greg Guenther, Daryl Reid, Jim Tarmann, Kent Kleinschmidt, Leon Corzine, Mike Hoeft; middle row: Susan Harbaugh, Phil Shane, Scott Durbin, Doug Wilson, Vic Riddle, Jim Trotter, Fred Reichert, Mark Lambert; front row: Rodney Weinzierl, Mike Clark, Gene Novack, Mike Plumer, Dennis Bogner

Some programs in regard to communications were identified by both ICGA and ICMB committees: farmer imaging, being more active with the Ag Council, working more closely with industry and looking at possibilities of using the Internet. In June of 1996, ICGA-ICMB appeared on the Internet with their first homepage, the address being [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org). Safety and beef commercials ran in conjunction with "News for Corn Growers" and RFD to help consumption of beef and promote both products.

In regard to membership records, it was noted that NCGA purchased a new membership program which meant that all of Illinois' membership records had to now be entered manually. Previously this was done electronically. Two corn coordinators were hired to sign new members at the end of last fiscal year and since the committee felt it was a successful program, it was approved to hire a corn coordinator for another year.

A new county association was formed between Shelby and Moultrie Counties. Gallatin County participated in a parade event in their area.

In a discussion of the farm bill, it was suggested that we try to get involved in the rules process when the USDA rules were written. Another suggestion was to have the marketing loan made available for non-participants in the farm program. Once the farm bill was signed, ads were placed in *Farm Week* and *Illinois Agri-News* thanking congresspeople, senators, and Governor Edgar for their support on the bill.



Parade exhibit with Bill Bradley and Tim Rister pictured

1996-97



Committee chairs Jim Trotter,  
Greg Guenther, Bill Stone,  
Doug Wilson

The Building Committee recommended the purchase of two past president plaques, one for ICGA past presidents and one for ICMB past chairmen. The board approved this action, and the two plaques hang in the office when you first enter into the reception area. This year was the 25th anniversary for ICGA and an event was held at the office commemorating this.



25th anniversary event - Back row: Bob Fitzpatrick, Mike Clark, Jim Hoeft, Fred Werts, Maury Gordon, Daryl Reid, Floyd Schultz, Jim Trotter, Leon Corzine, Kent Kleinschmidt, Vic Riddle, David Meyer, Tim Rister, Lawrence Woessner, Larry Zabel; middle row: John Diedrich, Kent Chidley, Leland Behnken, Mike Hennenfent, Clem Newton, Fred Reichert, Steve Wentworth, Garry Niemeyer, Mike Hoeft, Stan Blunier, Doug Wilson, Gerald Carney; seated in chairs: Bill Mullins, unidentified, Bill Furry, John Block, Rollie Main, Lew Asher, Gene Novack; kneeling in front: Ron Fitchhorn, George Flageole



Pictured are past ICGA directors and leader -  
front row: unidentified, Bill Furry, Rollie Main,  
Lewis Asher; back row: Larry Groce, John Block

At the meeting in November of 1996, a policy was adopted to incorporate the Pledge of Allegiance into the beginning of ICGA meetings, and this practice continues today. Other new policy adopted was to invite three corporate sponsors on a one-year rotating basis to attend board meetings. Awards were presented to counties at the annual meeting as noted in the picture below.



County awards presented to- front row: Keith Yohnka (Kankakee), Bruce Woolley (Kendall); back row: Mike Erdman (McLean), Art Bunting (Livingston), Larry Bilyeu (Christian), Dirk Rice (Champaign), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Tim Main (Knox)

A change in the bylaws and new board policy were adopted in March of 1997. The change in the bylaws pertained to the election of district directors and gave authority to the membership in each district to elect their own representative. (This was formerly done through district caucus meetings.) The portion of the bylaws pertaining to the three positions of at-large directors remained the same in allowing nominations from the floor, following the election of district directors at the annual meeting. The Policy Manual was changed in regard to the logistics for the election process: mail-out ballots were sent to the membership in the districts up for election; nominations for district directors could be done by announcing the desire to run for a district director position no later than the August board meeting or by turning in a petition no later than September 1 with twenty-five signatures of current members from a specific district. In addition, the policy was changed regarding the proxy language to read “unassigned proxies would be voted by your district director”.

In regard to the Livestock Management rules, it was decided to present a resolution during the policy session in support of livestock production operations of all sizes and types using sound environmental and management practices. Vic Riddle attended a meeting on Vision 2000 which concerned a facility that was working with livestock waste management.

There was discussion on deferred payment contracts and the timing for when the money was taxed. The board took a position to encourage the IRS to use the original interpretation of the deferred payment and/or arrangements and to support new legislative efforts to correct the taxing of these contracts except in the year the money was actually received. Some of the Illinois legislation that the board supported included: 1) an income tax credit offered to corporations using biodegradable products made from corn or soybean products; 2) amended language in the Illinois Farm Development Authority on a state funding mechanism for young farmers’ debt, investment guarantees, etc.; 3) eliminated property tax on filter strips. Following is a picture from the congressional visits made to DC.



Pictured on a DC visit - back row, l-r: George Flageole, Stan Blunier, Terry Wolf, Mike Clark, unidentified, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Prussner, Cong Tom Ewing, Vic Riddle, Doug Wilson, Mike Perrine (media); front row: Suzie Harbaugh and Suzie Flageole

Lowell Hill from the U of I conducted a “Managing Moisture in Grains and Oilseeds Conference” on March 26-27.

The board took a position to participate in a coalition opposing the Particulate Matter 2.5/ NAAQ regulatory process. Jim Trotter was one of five farmers appointed to serve on a Federal Task Force on Air Quality, along with the assistant administrator of USEPA and a person from NRCS. This Task Force was assigned to deal with the Ag portion of ozone regulations and particulate matter. Jim served on this Task Force for several years, and through his involvement, he was asked to serve on the Farm Foundation. Since the Farm Foundation was mainly made up of CEOs of major corporations, very large farmers, college deans and most of the past U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, the board thought it would be good to have an average farmer involved with this group. Therefore, the board agreed to support him and cover expenses for attending one meeting per year with a report of the actions to be given to the board. ICGA continues to support Jim Trotter in this capacity today and even though he no longer serves on the ICGA Board, he does report back to them.

NCGA - It was noted that NCGA was entering the third phase of their Strategic Planning process and Greg Guenther, Rodney Weinzierl, John Phipps and Doug Foss served on some of the working groups. John Phipps from ICMB helped with a rewrite of the NCGA resolutions. In July of 1997, a proposed NCGA structure change was announced to combine NCGA and NCDF into one organization. The new structure included a Corn Board of fifteen farmers elected by the delegate body who could serve two 3-year terms to take care of daily operations; 4 Corn Action Teams – Production and Stewardship, Consumer and Business Development, Public Policy and Grower Services; a delegate body called Corn Congress with a total of 126 delegates based on a formula of 1/3 membership, 1/3 funding and 1/3 production. Under the new structure NCGA would pay expenses for the Corn Board and Corn Action Team meetings. Doug Wilson was appointed to be on a transition team to work on bylaws for the new NCGA structure to be in place by the December 1997 board meeting.

### *Highlights from Bill Bradley*

Prior to involvement with the ICGA and ICMB Boards, he was farming and working part time for a seed company. DeKalb hired him to work with some new dealers and while he was making seed dealer visits in western Illinois, he visited a farm that had just gotten involved with Corn Growers. They signed Bill up as an ICGA member and told him what the organization did. Bill was a member for a long time without being involved in the board. Bill was a second-generation board member serving on ICMB, as his dad was on the very first ICMB board elected to represent District 15. Some of the things his dad was involved with interested Bill, and he decided to run for the spot when his dad's term expired.



Bill presenting the past chairman plaque to Gary Schmalshof

Bill didn't stay home right out of high school but went to college and got a couple of degrees. He then worked in education and for a major chemical company in marketing research. When he decided to come back to the farm, he had all of the work experience and worked well with people. Getting involved with ICMB and ICGA allowed him to continue to use some of the experience he had gained, and he hoped it made him a more effective board member.

Bill felt he grew personally by being on the board in learning to collaborate with different people as well as get acquainted with the differences in the farmland in the different areas of the state. For example, the south was much different from the north. All of this helped him to grow as a person as he got into leadership and had the opportunity to work with people from other states and as he traveled to Washington, DC to work directly with elected officials to plead Illinois Corn's cause. The exposure to all other farmers from other parts of the country also helped him to be a better farmer.

Bill felt that ethanol was the biggest issue while he served on ICGA. At the time, they transitioned into the RFS and the farm bill. As Bill noted, "Under the farm bill, the farm program went from the old way of set-a-side to letting us find markets for our corn." Ethanol was the biggest issue about the time he was completing his term in office, and the board was thinking about what the next big challenge would be. Of course, history shows there can always be an obstacle that changes the best laid plans. The opposition to ethanol today hasn't changed much since Bill was working as a board member.

Bill didn't participate in the barge tours on the Illinois River because geographically they were not close to where he lived. He did get to participate in one with Indiana Corn Growers on the Ohio River, and he noted it was a very interesting and educational experience.

When Bill's dad served on the very first board after the first legislation passed, there was a period of time in which the two boards, ICGA and ICMB, had to figure out what the role should be for



Bill and Curtis Bradley with Captain Cornelius



Bill Bradley, Cong Glenn Poshard, Kent Kleinschmidt



Vice President Al Gore  
campaigning at State Fair

each organization and get their agendas sorted out as to what the purpose was for each. That was pretty well sorted out by the time Bill got on the ICMB board. With the two groups learning to work together, that helped bring in people in who had not previously been corn grower members. It did take quite a bit of time sorting out the responsibilities as to which organization did what, and there were some learning curves. That all improved during Bill's tenure on the boards. In Bill's opinion, "It was a combination of good people, good leadership and good staff that helped the organization move forward."

One of the things amazing to Bill as he got involved was how much Corn Growers had to say in Washington, D.C. concerning what was heard and played out. One of the very first experiences he remembers with politicians touting agriculture was when Carole Moseley-Braun was running for the U.S. Senate. Because Bill was from the right political party, he and his dad were able to talk with her when she was campaigning in Carbondale. From that point on, she realized the Illinois Corn Growers were a good source and she used Illinois Corn for a lot of her agricultural ideas and policy.

Another example of Bill being from the right political party happened at the Illinois State Fair when he had the opportunity to meet with Al Gore while he was running for Vice President. Without Bill's involvement in Corn Growers, things like that would have never happened.

While Bill served on the ICMB, he had the opportunity to travel to Indonesia and Australia. This was a wonderful experience and something he would never have dreamed he would be able to do.

According to Bill, "Creation of the ICMB allowed the Illinois Corn Growers to become more effective, because ICMB could fund some of the ICGA programs. The two organizations working together really helped the farmers in the state as well as agriculture." Bill felt the impact of Corn Growers was to help shape public policy. One of the most important reasons for the ICGA and ICMB's existence was helping to shape public opinion which used to have animosity against the farmer.

## 1997-98



Committee chairs Leon Corzine, Bill Bradley, Garry Niemeyer, Lou Lamoreux



Officers Doug Wilson, Bill Stone, Greg Guenther, Ron Fitchhorn

It was approved to send directors to the USFGC meeting in February 1998 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Those who participated were Greg Guenther, Mike Hoeft, Doug Wilson, Lou Lamoreux, Leon Corzine, George Flageole, Martin Barbre and Stan Blunier.

Vic Riddle and Ron Fitchhorn attended a meeting with the Florida Sugar Growers which was put together by Keith Heard from NCGA. Eight growers participated with two from Missouri, two from Colorado, two from Kentucky and two from Illinois.

McDonald's worked with DCCA on the whole recycling issue, and it was proposed to have an essay contest with advertising of the contest to be on posters displayed in every McDonald's. The board approved getting involved, and it was noted that all the McDonald's locations in Illinois would list ICGA as co-sponsors.

A new membership recruitment tool adopted by the board was to offer ICGA members an opportunity for a 20% premium discount toward a Long-Term Health Care package through Coady and Associates. To date there have been 300+ policies written on long term care insurance. The membership program for 1998 included conducting phone-a-thons, sending out membership mailings, a corn coordinator, a value-added corn cooperative, members signing members and the insurance program. The final membership number for 1998 was 4,328 with a retention rate of about 74%.

The bylaws were changed relating to delegates to the NCGA policy development session to include the following: national directors, 15 district directors plus 3 at-large directors, and county delegates to fill the quota. This then required a change in board policy to note how the NCGA delegate positions would be filled: ICGA would appoint membership delegates, ICMB funding delegates, and the ICGA President and Vice President and ICMB Chairman and Vice Chairman production delegates. In addition, a second change to the bylaws was made to make it a requirement for the two at-large director positions, not including the IAA interlocking director, to announce their intentions to run for election. This announcement was the same as the policy for district director positions: either appear at a state board meeting no later than the August meeting or send in a petition with twenty-five member signatures by September 1. The board felt by using this procedure the membership would know prior to the annual meeting who was seeking election.

A past director event was held at the office, and the picture below shows those who attended.



Past ICGA Directors 1998

A new public relations project was the development of a farmer image public relations campaign based on safe food.

ICGA voted to support the Illinois Animal Agriculture Coalition and become a sustaining member for a one-year commitment. This was an effort to form a coalition of all the primary Ag players and was made up of five groups: beef, pork, Farm Bureau, corn and soybeans. Ellen Hankes (IBA) was contracted to coordinate this group and Lou Lamoreux served as ICGA's representative.

On the federal level, the board approved action that Congress should immediately implement the following to help corn producers in Illinois deal with the current Ag crisis: Fast Track negotiating authority; Administration and Congress should modify the U.S. sanctions policy to allow greater flexibility for food exports to restricted countries; Congress should appropriate \$35 million for the FMD program; Congress should restore funding to allow MAP to operate at the current level;



Fast Track news conference with Gov Edgar speaking



Fast Track news conference with IFB President Ron Warfield speaking; immediately behind him is Gov. Edgar, Cong Ray LaHood and Greg Guenther

Congress should immediately approve funding for the Research Title of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act, providing additional funding for Ag research. It was voted to oppose any effort to raise the loan caps or the extension of the nine-month loan for corn. A press conference was held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

A unique program to gain congressional support for Fast Track authority was to get producers to send a milk jug containing corn into the state office. ICMB helped with funding this producer awareness and educational program. In addition, an ad ran in *Farm Week* on Fast Track. Many of the milk jugs were collected at the barge tours on the Illinois River, and the office mailed the jugs to DC. (This presented a challenge for office staff, as all kinds and sizes of containers were received, and it was interesting figuring out how to send them to DC.)



Examples of milk jugs sent in during the campaign

**1998-99**



Committee chairs Ron Fitchhorn, Bill Bradley, Mike Clark, Martin Barbre

Leadership training - pictured in back row: Mike Rohan (NCGA staff), Art Bunting, Neil Strong (Syngenta), Steve Pigg, Roger Hubele, Mike Thompson (Sangamon Co), John Kuhfuss, Jim Tarmann; front row: Roger Sy, David Tice, Theresa Schmalshof, Ross Pauli, Jim Rapp



NCGA, ICGA and Novartis held a Leadership Training session at the ICGA office on January 26-27, 1999. Participants included: Mike Clark, Jim Rapp, Roger Sy, Steve Pigg and John Kuhfuss.

In February of 1999, another change was made to the bylaws to change representation to the State Policy Meeting to include all eighteen ICGA directors, any NCGA Corn Board member, Action Team member or Task Force members, county representation according to number of members, and the fifteen ICMB directors.

In regard to legislative issues, it was noted that 4.5 million acres were initially accepted into the CRP program, and the board voted to oppose any CRP contracts for less than ten years or that would lower the environmental standards as accepted. In addition, the board supported SB1087, the Open Land Trust Act.

During futuristic thinking sessions, one of the highest-ranking priorities was to do more in the value-added area. HB1897 on Value Added Initiative passed and was signed by the governor.

Pioneer provided 450 bags of seed corn (choice of any hybrid) for use in some type of program, and the Field Services Committee decided to use this seed as a membership recruitment tool on the barge tours or at the State Fair. A second recruitment program was sending a letter to the membership noting that those who signed up or renewed their membership would be put into a drawing to

receive Pioneer seed. A booklet was also put together on all the marketing services offered to the membership for a cost of \$15 per book.

The board voted to place information in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News* to educate producers on the pros and cons of the proposed farm bill changes.

Officers Leon Corzine, Garry Niemeyer,  
Doug Wiklson, Roger Sy



### *Highlights from Doug Wilson*

Doug was serving on the Livingston County Young Farmers at the time they were trying to form a Livingston County Corn Growers Association. He was encouraged by the county farm bureau manager, Roger Naylor, who thought Doug had talents they could use. Doug attended the organizational meeting and ended up on the county corn growers board. As a member he went through the officer rotation and served as president, and he then decided to go on to serve on the state board. The main reason Doug got involved with Corn Growers was that he felt farmers needed a voice to be their own advocate. Corn Growers was more focused on one area while IFB was focused on a broader scope, and Doug felt Corn Growers was an area where he could do some good and feel good about what he was doing.

Personal growth – Doug noted, “I ended up in a lot of doorways that a farm kid from Pike Township never would have imagined he would be in. This included presenting testimony before House Committees numerous times, being at the White House, and dealing with foreign trade visitors on the farm, as well as just learning leadership skills overall.” Doug felt he had knowledge in his own area of expertise, perhaps more than some others. In his words, “In your own way, you are just as good a lobbyist as the people you are talking with, because they don’t know about agriculture while you don’t know about their specialty, but both have things to offer each other.”

Doug felt the biggest issue during his term on the board, was the opportunity to do a lot of media interviews, and he ended up with a number of VHS tapes with segments of interviews he did. Consequently, when he retired from the Illinois and National boards, he had more than a few tapes. His wife encouraged him to consolidate them into one tape. What struck him while going through these tapes was that they included the same topics - ethanol, farm bill, biotechnology, trade and transportation which the organization is still working on today. On a positive note, there was a lot of measurable progress made during his years on the board. One thing Doug feels he first contributed to, and had a large impact on, was probably ethanol and the level it has gone to now. Doug was a part of USDA when the ethanol boom happened, and there was a lot of effort put into building a market that uses a good portion of every year’s corn crop. Another area where



Pictured in a visit to DC are: John Fulton (Kankakee Co), Vic Riddle, Cong. Tom Ewing, Stan Blunier and Doug Wilson.



Doug speaking at an event on Fast Track

Doug feels he contributed was some of the environmental things he was involved in. He took some ribbing from some of his peers, but a lot of times he went to meetings with rooms full of environmentalist and their advocates, so Doug felt if he showed up there, he at least kept a voice for agriculture.

Doug rode on several barge tours and traveled most of the Illinois River. One of the more interesting times was when candidate George Ryan, who was running for governor, decided he wanted to get on a barge tour. Everyone was concerned about him spending that much time in that type of environment, but everything worked out well. Candidate Ryan got to visit with a lot of people in a controlled environment, and it offered him time to sit down with a variety of groups. That one-on-one time with farm groups helped him to be a good advocate for agriculture. Another memory from a barge tour in Peoria was when it was learned that Green Peace was going to be there to protest. Because of Doug's environmental contacts, he got a call from someone who knew him from the River Environmental Association who had gotten word about the protest. So, they were able to work together to structure the time and it all worked out well. The barge tours helped Corn Growers to educate a lot of others, but Doug noted it is disappointing that we still don't have improved locks and dams on the Illinois and Upper Mississippi Rivers today. Overall, Doug learned that what's done in Washington and Springfield, and even county seats, impacts the farmers much more than what they think when they are back on their own farms.

Doug served on NCGA under the old structure which had over 100 board members. He was involved with the transition when the new NCGA structure was put into place, and that was a mighty interesting time. Among the groups on which Doug served through NCGA were field services, governmental affairs, and a couple of special committees such as the biotech working group and a supplemental farm bill group in the late 90's, on which Doug served as chair. At that point, Chuck Connors was with a grain association such as cereal or millers. Then, in later years when Doug was the state director of USDA Rural Development, Chuck was his boss when he was liaison to the White House and during Doug's second term served as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Doug liked to kid him about that and bossing him around. If you had told Doug when he went to the first organizational meeting in Livingston County, he would have an opportunity to serve on Corn Growers and go on to the USDA, he would not have dreamed about that. He learned a lot of different things which helped him in serving on other boards.



DC Visit - pictured Mike Clark, Stan Blunier, Doug Wilson, Cong Tom Ewing, Art Bunting



DC Visit - Doug Wilson, Cong Dennis Hastert, Kent Chidley, John Phipps

Doug served on NCGA Governmental Affairs, he ended up as vice chair and had the opportunity to work quite a bit with Bruce Knight. Sometimes their agendas were a little different, but they got along well together. Doug had good relationships with the Illinois delegation, especially Congressman Ewing and Congressman LaHood. Bruce got Doug into a couple of different hearings where he was able to offer testimony and through working with the different congresspeople, Doug learned it was good to try to “spice up” the testimony.

Doug noted he also worked well with Mark Lambert. Doug felt the area of governmental affairs was another strong point where he had a lot of influence. He had a strong working relationship with members at that time and a lot of the board members involved. Back in his time they used fax machines and would get the talking points. Then Mark Lambert would give him a call and say he would be talking with Max Armstrong or the Washington Post. Doug appreciated how that was handled within the organization in involving the directors as the voice of the organization. As Doug noted, “It takes a greater commitment from the board members, but that is something some other boards don’t do.” Also, Doug enjoyed watching other board members, such as Roger Sy and Steve Ruh, develop. These were folks he could mentor and teach positive things to.

Doug asked to go on record offering his thanks to the folks that went before him on the board. When he became involved, it was an interesting group but one he really wasn’t sure about at first. He really came to enjoy working with others such as Bob Fitzpatrick, Kent Kleinschmidt, Mike Hoeft, Scott Durbin, Floyd Schultz and a variety of others. Doug felt they really went out of their way to help the young guys to learn and pay attention. As Doug stated, “These mentors didn’t mind telling you if you needed to brush up on something and that made for a strong group. Board members could fight around the board table, but by the time they went out the door they were on a united front, and Doug really appreciated Corn Growers for that.” That was something of a reference point he could use as he went in other directions. Doug noted the importance of being able to talk something out, even when you don’t agree, rather than being told what to do. Doug felt that Corn Growers did a lot to help expand his abilities. His aspiration for future directors was that they could have as much fun while also feeling they had accomplished things in the same way as those from his era did. As Doug stated, “You build friendships with corn growers within the

state and from other states that you may not see for years, but these are lasting friendships. Even within USDA, a lot of those connections continue. On some boards, once you are gone that's it and they don't have that same connectivity. That says something to the type of organization that Corn Growers is." Also, Doug felt that Illinois Corn had patient staff. The directors would bring in their own pet projects which they thought were important and leave them for staff to take care of. Several got involved with projects more than what they had time for.

## 1999-2000

A new commodity group, Illinois Milk Producers, was added to the Illinois Commodity Conference. However, in 2001, Lamb and Wool Producers withdrew their participation. Following are some pictures taken at the ICGA Annual Meeting.



Committee chairs: Roger Sy, Steve Pigg, Martin Barbre, Pat Dumoulin



President Leon Corzine presenting the World of Corn Awards to Daryl Reid and Fred Reichert



President Corzine presenting retiring director awards to Doug Wilson, Greg Guenther and Stan Blunier



Exhibit promoting products made from corn and soybeans

At the NCGA/ASA Commodity Classic, Henneberry Advertising, a vendor that ICGA worked with, exhibited during the trade show. They promoted products made from corn as well as soybeans.

DC Visit - back row: John Adams, Gene Youngquist, Roger Sy, Greg Guenther, Leon Corzine, Roger Hubele, Kenneth Hartman, Ken Greene; front row: Theresa Schmalshof, Terry Wolf, Cong Janice Schakowsky, Martin Barbre, Mike Plumer, Floyd Schultz, Vic Riddle



*Membership* - A new web site for “Members Only” was added to the Illinois Corn homepage and was called “CornPicker”. The ICGA bylaws were amended to adopt the following levels for corporate partner dues: \$500 for bronze status, \$1,000 for silver status and \$2,000 for gold status.

Legislation the board supported included HB2932, “Farm Retraining” program, which pertained to retraining farmers going out of business and being retrained for another position. A farm bill listening session was held in the Quad Cities. Roger Sy and Greg Guenther attended a farm bill school in DC with the purpose to give a background and history on issues and programs that made up previous farm bills. Doug Wilson was appointed to a new group called Illinois Ag Assembly, and he reported the first meeting went well. IDA scheduled six meetings around the state to get input from the grassroots to determine where agriculture should be going in agribusiness, food and agricultural research, and agricultural education.

## 2000-2001



Officers Jim Trotter, Ron Fitchhorn, Garry Niemeyer, Jim Rapp

*Membership* - Changes to the bylaws were approved to add another class of members called “Retired/Absentee Landlord”, and new dues for that class were adopted of \$30 for a one-year member and \$60 for a three-year member. Beginning in May, an electronic newsletter was sent out to members in addition to two newsletters which were mailed. It was noted the July newsletter

would probably be the last printed newsletter mailed to the members, as plans were to change to an electronic newsletter.

An interesting project that happened during this year really had no origination with the corn boards, but it was related to corn. Downtown Bloomington had a “Corn on the Curb” project which consisted of giant models of ears of corn with artwork done by various groups in the community.



Delegate session at NCGA Corn Classic - second row: Jim Rapp, Martin Barbre, John Kuhfuss; first row: Ron Fitchhorn, Steve Pigg



Picture of one of the ears of corn

In the legislative area, the state legislature passed funding of \$650,000 for value added initiatives, with most of the funding going to universities. The board made a decision that help was needed to get legislation passed in the Illinois Legislature, as well as general education regarding agricultural issues. Therefore, it was decided to engage the firm of GovPlus to help with lobbying and education in the Illinois legislature. In addition, ISA agreed to share the contractual lobbyist costs with ICGA. This lobbyist contract continues to date, although ISA no longer shares the cost. Tom Madsen was the first lobbyist the board worked with, and today the lobbyist is Rich Clemmons who retired from IFB Governmental Affairs.

*Farm Bill* - The board voted to support maintaining the current non-recourse marketing loan and loan deficiency payment program in the next farm bill and also to support updating of bases and yields, using 1991-95 bases and yields, for a counter-cyclical payment.

Steve Pigg and Leon Corzine were appointed to the Governor's Task Force.

## 2001-2002



Officers Steve Pigg, Garry Niemeyer, Pat Dumoulin

With the passing of the Farm Bill, NCGA scheduled two workshops at the ICGA office conducted by NCGA, FSA, NRCS and Dr. Barnaby from Kansas State. Farm Business Farm Managers (FBFM) came up with a detailed calculator that would work for every farm, and this was available on NCGA's web site. In addition, the information could be downloaded, and CDs were burned for the membership. During the year, the board did have some discussion on disaster aid and the need to defend the farm bill and not open it up, as it was felt we needed to protect crop insurance. Discussion also included the refunding of premiums, as disaster aid was paid out and there was a concern about livestock.



DC Visit - pictured in back, l-r: Leon Corzine, Martin Barbre, Ken Hartman, Roger Hubele, Terry Wolf; front row - Cong John Shimkus, Garry Niemeyer

The Ag Legislative Roundtable sponsored an Ag Forum at the Funk Farm in Shirley, and Attorney General Jim Ryan and Congressman Rod Blagojevich attended.

At the annual meeting, three candidates declared intentions for seeking an at-large director position. Pictured below are those who received the county awards.



Back row: Walt Townsend (Wayne), Chuck Weber (Will), Mike Thompson (Sangamon), Alois Hoffman (Mon-Clair), Art Bunting (Livingston), Tony Storm (Knox), Eldon Gould (Kane), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Dirk Rice (Champaign), John Diedrich (DeKalb); front row: Mark Prose (Macoupin), Ross Pauli (Peoria), Troy Uphoff (Christian), Jerry Matthews (McLean), Mike Hoeft (Tazewell), Steve Pigg (McDonough), Hank Cryder (Kendall), Dewey Long (Macon Co)

### *Highlights from Steve Pigg*

Steve first joined ICGA in the late 80's. In 1992 someone started the idea of forming a county organization in McDonough County, and Steve was involved in this group. He was eventually named president in which capacity he served for seven years. In those days county presidents were much more involved with the state organization than they are today, because the NCGA structure at the time gave Illinois so many delegates to the national meeting that they took county presidents. Then, in 1992 Steve decided to apply for an NCGA Action Team and because he was serving as a county president, thought the Grower Services Action Team would be the best fit. He was appointed to the action team.



Steve received the World of Corn Award in 2011

Steve speaking at an event

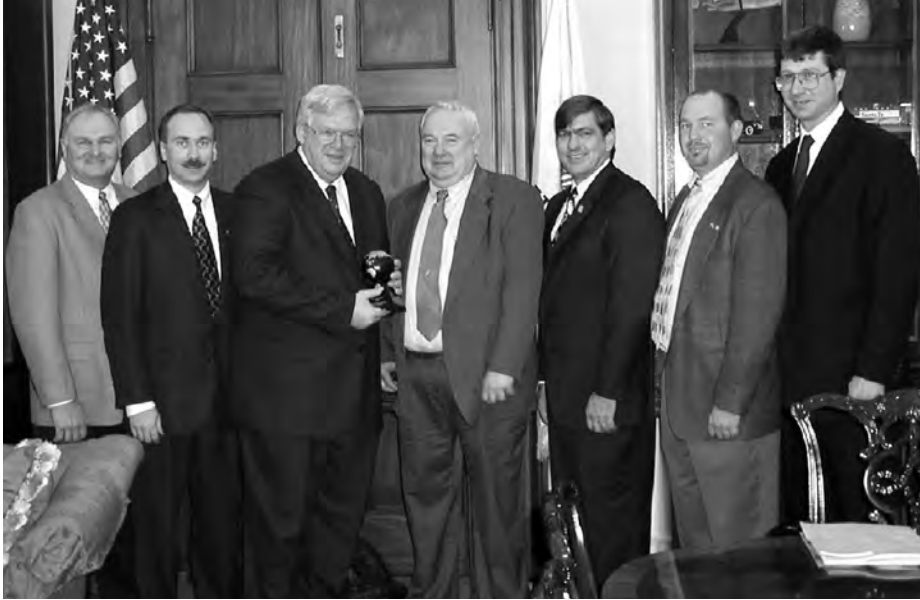


With his involvement on the national level, Steve thought it made sense to get involved with the state board. His district director at that time was Jim Trotter and he didn't want to run against him. So Steve decided to run as an at-large director. His competition for the two at-large spots were incumbents Vic Riddle and Doug Wilson, and he was defeated. This was very discouraging to Steve, but a good friend, Floyd Schultz had a long talk with him and told him not to give up. Then the next year an at-large position opened up and Steve was successfully elected. He served on the state board until after he was past president.

After being involved, Steve could see how important the organization was in standing up for corn grower rights with legislation and regulations and just being involved in those processes. He learned to value what the organization meant. As he stated, "On a personal level, Corn Growers advanced me so much in my leadership abilities, public speaking ability, and in lots of different facets. It kept me more up to date on issues. If it hadn't been for corn growers, there were lots of things I would never have had the opportunity to do. When I went away to college and then decided to return to farming, I would never have imagined I might one day be involved in an organization where I would have that much influence and impact."

One memorable event Steve recalls was the time his daughter answered the phone at his office and told him the Speaker of the House of the United States was on the phone. Speaker Hastert wanted to make sure IFB and ICGA were okay with whatever he was doing at the time. As Steve noted, "It is kind of hard to explain the value of things like that which happen when you are in leadership."

After Steve's involvement on the state board, he served on the NCGA Public Policy Action Team where he served as chairperson for three years. During that time, he was involved in the negotiations for our position on the 2008 Farm Bill. An idea that started in the action team eventually became a piece of legislation because a couple of senators liked the NCGA idea.



Pictured are board members presenting the World of Corn Award to Speaker Dennis Hastert - l-r: Jim Rapp, Rod Weinzierl, Speaker Hastert, Ron Fitchhorn, Steve Pigg, Steve, Barry Smith



Pictured are Ryland Utlaut from NCGA, Sen Carol Moseley-Braun, Doug Wilson and Steve Pigg

Steve recalled a couple of issues that happened during his term on the ICGA Board. One was when an elevator went bankrupt, which in turn bankrupted the grain insurance fund. In looking at how to rebuild that fund, Steve recalled a meeting he attended in Springfield at which Ron Warfield, President of IFB was also present. As Steve noted, “Our proposal was to assess ourselves for every bushel sold and IFB was not keen on that solution.” The second issue was when he used

the words “train wreck” in the media and that came back to haunt him, as it made the headlines in the Ag news. His reference was to an issue dealing with Monsanto selling some of their biotech traits in the Decatur area which were then being exported to Europe. ICGA was trying to stop them from doing that. In the end, they did a total turnaround and said the biotech traits were not being exported. At the time, which was a pretty important issue.

Another memorable side activity took place during a state board meeting to DC when the board went to the Marrakesh Restaurant for dinner one evening. Steve’s comment was, “Not only did I see Ann out on the dance floor, but I witnessed the chief executive officer relaxing and letting go. Rod was always in business mode, because his brain never shut down on corn grower business and this was the first time, I saw him relax and let go.” Steve thought that Rod having a family had made a difference. In fact, he recalled sitting in Rod’s office one day when one of his daughters was there and that fact opened Steve up to the idea of having kids around him at the office. That gave him the idea to incorporate having his grandkids around at his business today. Through changes in staff, Steve got to know a lot of people. The first executive director during his term was Jack Fisher, and Jim Eichhorst was the field services director who later went on to work as a legislative aide for Congressman Ewing. Steve noted it was always fun being around Jim Tarmann and Mark Lambert who liked to have a good time but were also very, very good at their jobs.

One personal experience that Steve will never forget was the time his wife Linda and daughter Erin accompanied him to Washington, DC for the ICGA visits. His daughter was a member of FFA and wore her FFA jacket on the Capitol Hill visits. At that time, Speaker Denny Hastert had a son who was in the same fraternity house as Steve’s son, and his daughter had a goal to get into the Speaker’s office. His daughter got her picture taken with the Speaker. Later when Steve was vice president, he was in the Speaker’s office and asked him how his son was doing. The Speaker noted that he had finally graduated from college and was working in the Vice President’s Office.



DC Visit - Dean Miller (DeKalb Co), Linda Pigg, Erin Pigg, Cong Dennis Hastert, Paul & Bill Dumoulin, Barry Smith (DeKalb Co)



DC Visit - Jim Trotter, Jim Rapp, Theresa Schmalshof, Cong Lane Evans, Erin Pigg, Steve Pigg, Linda Pigg

Steve's Linda was fortunate to be in a group which got into the West Wing of the White House and met with John Podesta, Chief of Staff. So she had her picture taken along with the group which included Bill Bradley. During his term on the board, Steve met with several key people in the Executive Building, an annex to the White House. These are all memories Steve would never have dreamed would happen in his lifetime. After Steve's many visits to DC through serving on the state board and on the NCGA Public Policy Action team, everything became more matter of fact. But he was in awe of the whole DC environment on his first few visits.



DC Visit - back row: Art Bunting, Mike Plumer, Bill Stone, Terry Wolf, Mike Clark, Greg Guenther, Stan Blunier, Vic Riddle, Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, Leon Corzine; front row - Senator Dick Durbin, Lou Lamoreux, Steve Pigg

The next few pages are pictures from some of the congressional visits made during this decade.



Pictured l-r: Ron Fitchhorn,  
Greg Guenther, Senator Paul Simon,  
Vic Riddle, Mike Hoeft



Pictured l-r: Bill Bradley, Mike Hoeft, Senator Richard Durbin, Lynn Laible,  
Floyd Schultz, Kent Kleinschmidt



Pictured l-r: Art Bunting, Bryan  
Fogerson, Cong Tim Johnson, Doug  
Wilson, Roger Sy



Rod Weinzierl family with Cong Jerry Weller - Rod, Kathy, Gracie, Claire and Hannah



Pictured l-r: Senator Richard Durbin, Leon Corzine, Steve Pigg, Garry Niemeyer, John Adams, Doug Wilson, Floyd Schultz, Roger Hubele, Ron Fitchhorn, Rod Weinzierl, Senator Peter Fitzgerald



Pictured l-r: John Adams, Cong Jerry Costello, Greg Guenther, Phil Shane



Pictured with Governor Edgar signing a bill are Vic Riddle, Fred Reichert and Garry Niemeyer

Autographed picture from Speaker Hastert with Rod Weinzierl and Cong. Ray LaHood



## **ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD 1992-93**



Officers Bill Bradley, George Obernagel,  
Gene Youngquist, Lynn Laible

A new policy was set for the board to purchase fax machines for all board members. The board voted to have a representative participate in the USFGC/NAFTA Mission to eastern and western Canada and Mexico.

Joe Hampton testified at the Association of FAS Cooperators in Washington, DC at the request of the USFGC.

Public relations projects approved for funding included: providing paint to county associations to refurbish the corn carts, funding for the Capital City Farm Show in Springfield along with the use of Captain Cornelius, funding to build an educational commodity game and purchasing permanent displays for the Taste of Illinois at ISU and purchasing ten “Abundant Food and Fiber” education units for use in the Chicago metropolitan area. This was an educational curriculum program for schools that included information on corn.

Of significant note was the U.S. exporting the 50 billionth bushel of corn in the spring of 1993. That was enough corn to fill nearly 175,000 miles of rail cars that would circle the earth seven times. April 27 was designed as C-Day and corn producing states from across the U.S. conducted a series of high-profile events to recognize the significant contribution corn producers and corn exports had made to the U.S. economy. To celebrate the milestone, the USFGC held an event in Louisiana, and Gary Schmalshof represented ICMB at that event. ICMB decided to celebrate the 50 billionth bushel promotion at the Peoria barge loading facility.

Another item of interest was that the June 1993 issue of National Geographic showcased corn in an in-depth and entertaining article entitled “Corn, The Golden Grain”.

The name of the Research and Education Committee was changed to Research and Commercialization.

## 1993-94



Officers Don Doehring, George Obernagel,  
Gene Youngquist, Lynn Laible

New directors Merle Miller, Terry Wolf,  
John Adams, Doug Foss



The board adopted policy that one ICMB director participate annually in market assessment or development missions organized by national organizations funded by ICMB. Also, new policy listed the make-up of the Business Services Committee to be the past chairman, chairman, vice chairman and treasurer.

At the July meeting, it was reported that the refund rate was running at 8.7%. The retiring board member recognition was set for August 31 at Alexander Steakhouse.



Larry Zabel presenting plaque to retiring director Eldon Gould



Larry Zabel presenting plaque to retiring director  
Terry Ferguson



Captain Cornelius in the classroom

NCGA-NCDF - The new CEO for NCGA/NCDF was Chris Wehrmann.

A joint relations project done in cooperation with NCGA consisted of curriculum kits targeted to fourth grade students. These were mailed to county farm bureaus and Ag-in-the Classroom coordinators. The kit contained experiments, a video, a teacher's guide, a World of Corn booklet, a weekly reader and a classroom poster. Other projects approved included development of a second comic book, ordering a new Captain Cornelius costume and the purchase of additional Captain Cornelius curriculum kits. A program with Captain Cornelius was conducted in Pekin with over 350 kindergartners through third graders participating. This was a joint program with Tazewell County Corn Growers.

In an effort to educate those who requested refunds, it was decided to develop a series of post cards containing checkoff facts to be mailed quarterly. This program continues to this day.

*Farm Bill* - The board approved additional funding for the IRAM Model contract which was currently being used for the 1995 farm bill. In addition, this model looked at the IFB "START" program, the Iowa proposal and the National Grain & Feed program.

A couple of new research projects were funded. The first was for a refrigerant which could be put into an E85 vehicle with the project called "CLEERTM Cooling Liquid Environmentally and Ecologically". The researcher was a local person by the name of Tim Lee from L & R Research, which later changed to Bio Research, Int'l. This refrigerant was put into the E85 vehicles being used by office staff. After funding the project for about three years, the board decided to terminate the contract in 1997 because the project work was behind schedule. The second project funded was in regard to nitrogen runoff from corn by researcher David Lightfoot from SIU. Co-funding was received from Kentucky on this project. This project was working on a gene trait to assimilate nitrogen to help improve water quality, and some of the work was taken to Hawaii.

It was decided to have staff investigate research payback of royalties for research funded by the board. Research tours were held at the U of I in June.

### *Highlights from George Obernagel*

George was originally approached by Joe Hampton to serve on the ICMB Board. At that time George owned farmland in the Shelbyville area. He didn't know much about the organization but knew he had checkoff taken from corn he sold. Joe took him to meet Jack Fisher, who was the executive director at that time. Dave Meyer retired from the district where George resided, so George decided to seek election.

George noted that most people didn't know much about what ICMB did, and he learned that they funded national organizations such as USMEF, USGC and NCGA for research projects at universities. At the time when George was involved with the board, ICMB funded several research projects with the majority of those projects being done at the University of Illinois on ethanol and byproducts from corn. He further learned that working with the USMEF involved marketing of beef, pork and lamb overseas and the USGC promoted agricultural products. George hadn't realized just how much ICMB, and all these organizations did. He encouraged the board to get involved with the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), because chickens eat a lot of corn. There are so many uses for corn that inspired him, and he noted that we still get new production today. Personally, George gained so much knowledge on what happens.



George Obernagel

George felt the two biggest issues when he served on the ICMB Board were ethanol and an effort to increase the checkoff rate. On ethanol, the board worked to make people aware of it. The public at the time was afraid to use it in their cars. George did attend the Ethanol Rally at the ADM plant in Peoria. As he stated, "All the farmers were supporting us as well as a lot of legislators, because we had so much corn that was not being used and had to find uses for it." In regard to increasing the checkoff rate, the board felt there was a need to do that to try to get higher corn prices.

George participated in overseas trade missions five or six times through the USMEF. Some of the countries he visited were Hungary, Poland, England, Taipei, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and Viet Nam. The USMEF celebrated their 25th anniversary in Japan and had a big celebration where the agricultural minister was present. George was chairperson at that time in 1999 or 2000. The big promotion was to educate the people about meat, and commercials were produced for grocery stores in Korea and China. Besides promoting products overseas, they toured livestock facilities and went to slaughter plants, but the people were not always receptive. Some people didn't like animals and didn't like us shipping products overseas. George found these missions to be very educational, and he got to meet people and learn about their culture while promoting our product. He noted, "Everyone on ICMB should take an overseas mission through UGSC or USMEF to learn the different cultures. You come back home and say, 'What can we do to promote our products overseas?'"

George further noted, "Increased funds are always needed to do research projects, and people need to understand that we need to create new products from corn. It is a big thing to meet people around the U.S. to discuss what other states are doing and get new ideas for your state." George felt serving on ICMB was a great experience in helping him to learn all the fundamentals about what local or state leaders do to promote the corn product.

Obernagel tractor



The board was not always in agreement on how to fund the different organizations, as each person seemed to have their own idea. But in the end the board members worked together to come to an agreement on the funding. Growing conditions in southern Illinois are much different than those in northern Illinois and consequently, everyone has some different ideas.

Another thing which George always found to be great was working with the different staff people from the executive director on down. Staff he mentioned were Jack Fisher, Rod Weinzierl and Jim Tarmann. He liked the camaraderie with the board. According to George, “You worked hard and had fun in the evenings, but you established friends for life.”

## **1994-95**



Officers Terry Wolf, Lynn Laible,  
Gene Youngquist, Floyd Schultz

A group consisting of IFB, IDA, IFU and Illinois Grain and Feed Dealers Association worked on the Grain Code rewrite for three years, and a lot of debate took place in the Illinois House and Senate.

The board approved funding for NCGA’s study on farmers’ attitudes nationwide towards membership, communications and various other areas. It was hoped this would give some insight into producer attitudes toward checkoffs.

During this period of time, discussions were taking place about combining the Meat Board and the MEF, and it was noted that MEF planned to take a position at their June meeting in Denver. ICMB was opposed to this merger. The MEF meeting in June was the World Meat Export Conference. Staff and the board chairperson were directed to identify the most effective poultry export group for ICMB to become involved with. As a result, the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) made a funding presentation at the June meeting, and it was noted they were a cooperator with the FAS. The board subsequently approved funding of USAPEEC, which they continue to fund today. It was noted that chickens do eat a large quantity of corn. The board recommended appointment of Gene Youngquist and Terry Wolf to serve on the USFGC Executive Committee.

The Ag Council of America developed a FoodWatch Communication Model, and the board voted to invest in this program. John Adams was ICMB's representative on the Ag Council, and he reported the meeting he attended was very informative. They continued to increase guidelines like media placements and trade media placements and were learning more about the food safety issue.

During this year, ICMB voted to develop regular radio advertising on RFD Illinois Radio, and this project continued to be funded each year. In addition, funding was approved to support IFB efforts to further Ag education through a Summer Ag Institute program. Again, this program has been funded each year up through today, although Illinois Corn now has its own intern who presents their part of the program.

In an effort to learn about ways of communicating with the public, an ethanol video was sent out to grain elevators, county farm bureaus and service companies. Then about six weeks later a survey was sent out. About a 20% return was received and the video was rated between 7 and 8 and as the number 1 way of communication.

New promotional items or programs approved included: the printing of 100,000 trading cards featuring Captain Cornelius; "Ethanol for Cleaner Air" bumper stickers; and conducting a radio promotion distributing America's Solution and ethanol grill-charcoal lighter to NAFB stations. The name of the committee was changed to Communications and Education. It was decided to print the ICMB Annual Report and three additional information sections in *Farm Week*, *IL Agri-News* and the IFU paper.

NCGA - A new research project for NCGA was a corn genome project. Also, it was noted that the Commodity Classic would be combined with the Soybean Association and would be in Phoenix in February 1996.



Board members and staff - back row l-r: Jim Tarmann, John Adams, Floyd Schultz, George Obernagel, Gene Youngquist, Rodney Weinzierl; middle row: Mark Lambert, Merle Miller, Doug Foss, John Beatty, Tim Rister, Larry Chamness, Russell Williams, Theresa Schmalshof; front row: Phil Shane, Terry Wolf, Don Doehring, John Phipps, Lynn Laible

## 1995-96

A new project for working with the Illinois FFA was to lease an E85 car for their officers' use in traveling the state doing promotion activities on ethanol. In addition, it was approved to pay for signage on the car. This arrangement still continues today.

Funding was approved for a project to investigate starch yield identification of different corn hybrids. This project was to identify forty or fifty popular hybrids and evaluate them to find out what their starch content was and what value they might have for wet millers.

Some of the promotional programs funded during the year included: broadening of media exposure for checkoff programs on stations with full-time farm broadcasters; November and January education ads in *Farm Week* and *IL Agri-News*; conducting a targeted post card mailing on utilization of checkoff dollars; purchasing two new displays; and a summer beef promotion in Illinois grocery stores in cooperation with IBA. The post card proved to be successful. A follow-up survey to the one sent last year to track producer awareness of the checkoff was also approved. In order to save money and hopefully reach more producers, it was decided to print the annual report in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News*; and that same procedure has continued up to the present time.

New documents signed with the University of Illinois included: 1) a patent and royalty agreement stating that we would receive 20% of the net proceeds, and 2) an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the U of I and ICMB.



Officers - back row: John Adams, Terry Wolf;  
front row: Floyd Schultz, Theresa Schmalshof

## 1996-97

Funding for a new area was approved this year to sponsor a Value-Added Cooperator program. The purpose of the program was to increase the profitability of corn producers by facilitating and providing start-up funding for programs that create new value for corn products. The conference was held on August 25 and proved to be very successful.

Another avenue for promotion of corn was a contribution to the McLean County Historical Society for a corn exhibit, which later won an award.

Lowell Hill from the University of Illinois requested funding for a conference on “Managing Moisture in Grains and Oilseeds”, and the board approved to help with this conference.

*NCGA –NCDF* – As noted in the ICGA section, NCGA-NCDF changed their structure to become one organization. Therefore, ICMB signed a new contract which outlined some of the legalities of ICMB funding. Additional funding was approved this year to be designated to the NCGA Transportation Task Force for an economic model on the Upper Mississippi River.

*USMEF* – The board voted to carry George Obernagel as an ex-officio member on ICMB during his tenure in office on USMEF. George went through the chairs and served as president. USMEF also had a Market Expo March 7-15 in Japan and Korea, and the board approved sending George Obernagel, Don Doehring and Dennis Denton to the Expo.

*USGC* – The board approved sponsoring elevator managers to attend the USFGC - International Value Enhanced Grains Conference in Phoenix, AZ. In addition, it was approved to send up to ten media to this meeting.

### *Highlights from Terry Wolf*

Actually, Terry was going to apply for the Illinois Ag Leadership program and had an application ready to send in. He was asked to speak at an NCGA breakout session in Denver and while there he ran into Fred Werts from Sidney who asked him to take his place on the ICMB. Even though Terry told Fred he was applying for the Ag Leadership program and might be interested after completion of that program, Fred was persistent. After much thought and talking with his wife, Terry finally decided to apply.

Terry feels like he got as much out of the organization as he put into it. He thought it was really a tremendous experience. Through Terry’s involvement with ICMB, he got involved with the U.S. Grains Council; and from Rod Weinzierl sending him to a meeting, he got involved with the Illinois C-FAR program. He ended up leading that organization for four years, and as a spin-off was involved with starting the National C-FAR effort. At one point in time, Terry was president of three organizations during the same year—ICMB, IL C-FAR and National C-FAR. However, he noted by serving in all of these organizations, he had some experiences he would never have had. He loved the international and domestic policy aspect. Terry enjoyed the interaction with all the people that he met through all of these organizations and to this day, some of his best friends are people he met from all over the world through USGC.

The biggest issue Terry identified was being involved with the USGC when they were looking at how they were organized, did extensive restructuring, and were involved in the strategic planning process. At that point, NCGA was looking at how it would fit in with USGC and vice versa. It was a changing time for the USGC, and Terry had some great people to work with such as Don Jacoby and Jerry



Terry Wolf

Salzman. He noted, "It is amazing to look back and think about all the time spent in meetings during my two years of involvement and how amazing it is to see how committed people were to spend all that time in traveling." Terry remembers one of the meetings in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he ended up filling in for Chairman Don Jacoby who had to have open heart bypass surgery. Terry was sent to lead the meeting and to try to move forward with some consensus in the restructuring plan of the Council. The recommendation was to vote on this at the July meeting. At the end of the business meeting, the delegates wanted to vote on the restructuring plan, and it passed unanimously. This was unique to see because all sectors of USGC worked together to put that in place. Although their strategic plan was fluid, Terry is satisfied to see the same structure still in place today.

While Terry served on the USGC, he traveled through a lot of countries because of being an officer. Terry noted, "Every place I went to was exciting and interesting, and it was a constant learning experience." To Terry, everything in life seems to be an adventure, and he felt these were very interesting times. He enjoyed all the people he met through the Council and the agribusiness people involved on the officer team of the Council were great. One of his most memorable experiences was when the officer team went to Cuba in 2001. After being there three days, they got a call at 10:30 p.m. to meet with Fidel Castro at the Presidential Palace at 11:00 p.m. So the officer team, including Ken Hobbie and Chris Corey, met one on one with Fidel Castro until 3:30 a.m. They had dinner with him and sat across the table from him.



USGC Office Team with Fidel Castro



Terry with Fidel Castro and his interpreter

When Castro found out Terry was a farmer, he had a great conversation with him. After Terry was back at the hotel and at the checkout counter of the hotel in Havana, Cuba, he turned to Ken Hobbie and said, "Have you ever done anything like this in your life?" It was just an amazing experience and Terry was even able to joke and poke fun at Castro and felt no one else probably ever did that. Terry noted, "Whether you agree with his politics or not, it was a unique experience to meet someone who had a big impact on history, positively or negatively." In fact, traveling through Cuba was amazing, because he realized they had met with all the people in charge of policy throughout the country. Terry noted that it was such a poor country and most of the buildings in the country looked like those from 1958-59, but at the end of the day you realized how

key these people were to the Cuban government. It was amazing to realize how important the USGC was in opening up doors to meet with leaders and businesspeople throughout the world. Terry was able to travel to Cuba two other times and each time met with Castro, but the first time was the most intimate and unique.

From Terry's viewpoint, the USGC at the time prior to their restructuring was the most unique organization in the U.S. The producers were from three different sectors: corn, barley and sorghum; plus, agribusiness leaders, along with people from the foreign Ag service and the U.S. government all worked together with a unique plan to develop markets around the world and improve their way of life. If they were going to improve exports of corn, they had to prove they could help improve the quality of life. Terry is concerned today that the agribusiness influence in the Council has been reduced. Just as an example, he noted Owen Newlin from Pioneer was very influential in getting the checkoff programs put into place in Iowa and Illinois. In Terry's view, experience like this is missing from the USGC officer team today. He realizes that it is a huge commitment for an agribusiness person to be involved, and the company needs to be behind that person. However, Terry believes the Council could have benefited over the last few years from having someone like Jerry Salzman from Case IH, who was a wonderful leader, involved in the leadership team. Many farmers don't have the business experience like the agribusiness people do for working internationally. Business experience is helpful at certain times.

## 1997-98

Funding was approved for a new agricultural exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The grand opening for this new exhibit called "The Farm" was held in 2000.



Officers Roger Hubele, John Adams,  
Theresa Schmalshof, Floyd Schultz

A second Value Added Conference was held with the speakers being Alan Andreas from ADM, Robert Fraley head of the Ag Division at Monsanto, and Sano Shimoda who spoke on bio sciences.

A research project was funded in cooperation with Nebraska on succinic acid.

The past director event was held at the office, and there was a good attendance as shown from the following picture.

USGC - Continued funding was approved for elevator managers and media to attend the USGC conference in Orlando. A new gift, Cross pens, were purchased to pass out on trade missions.



Back row l-r: Fred Werts, John Adams, Roger Hubele, Larry Zabel, Ken Hartman, Gary Edwards, George Obernagel, Don Doehring, Gene Youngquist, Eldon Gould; middle row: Tim Rister, Floyd Schultz, Terry Wolf, Dennis Denton, Theresa Schmalshof, Gary Schmalshof; front row: David Meyer, Maury Gordon, Clem Newton, Gerald Carney, Lew Asher, Lawrence Woessner, Meredith Worner, Joe Hampton

### *Highlights from Floyd Schultz*

Floyd noted that he had served on a lot of boards, but the years on Corn Growers he remembers as being helpful; and a good influence for the organization included, Lew Asher and Bill Furry. Floyd always thought of Lew as his corn grower dad. Jerry Davidson, George Beutel and Bob Muehling encouraged Floyd to go with them to a meeting with IFB and ICGA, because they wanted to do something about membership for ICGA. Bill Furry was the first-person Floyd met. They had a discussion about creating a three-year membership, but at that particular time it was noted this would cause a problem because ICGA didn't have any money. So, they went back home and organized the Will County Corn Growers Association. During this time, John Campen was on staff with IFB, working with corn growers and the milk producers. Floyd's first exposure to the state board was when he went to a Soy Corn Conference held in the winter. The ICGA needed new directors and Bob Muehling encouraged Floyd to run. Floyd was subsequently elected as an at-large director.



Floyd Schultz



Meeting with U. S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun - Bill Bradley, Kent Kleinschmidt, Senator, Mike Hoeft, Floyd Schultz



Floyd with Jack Block

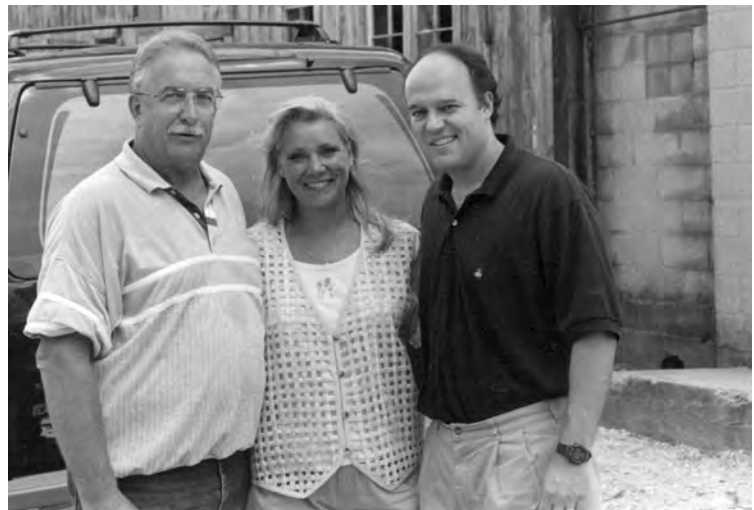
During Floyd's term on the ICGA Board, he got involved with working on the checkoff program. He noted they always had obstacles to overcome. He remembered Dain Friend and Maurie Gordon working hard for the organization. After the creation of the checkoff and election of directors to the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, the working relationship between the two boards got off to a rocky start. Floyd credits Gerald Carney for mending the fences between ICGA and ICMB. Once the personality issues got straightened out, the working relationship got to be what it should. ICGA was disappointed because the ICMB directors didn't really know the history of how they got there. ICMB didn't realize what the benefits of the combined efforts of state and national corn growers were going to bring to agriculture. Joe Hampton also worked to get the two sides together, reminding them about the strides made from the groundwork laid in using 5 billion bushels of corn to make ethanol and for the livestock industry, which was in a lot better shape than they liked to admit. They had high hopes and ambitions but today we keep developing corn no matter what. As Floyd noted, "What would we do with corn today if it wasn't for ethanol and other programs?"

When Floyd went to Washington the first time for six or seven days, he was really happy to get home. He did learn when you visited with congresspeople on agricultural issues, the people listened. Staff put together a good packet of information which could be backed up with numbers that were positive to agriculture. Floyd remembered visiting Congressman Jesse Jackson's office where they met with his legislative aide. This aide indicated he didn't know anything about agriculture but did understand how important agriculture was to the state of Illinois and the income it produced for the state. He indicated if Corn Growers needed something and it was logical, the Congressperson would back it, but they needed to send them the information to keep them informed. Congressman Jackson usually voted favorably to agriculture.

While on the NCGA Board and serving as secretary, Floyd remembered having a meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, and he thought Clayton Yeutter was part of that meeting. He noted this was the room where the Cabinet meets when the President is not there. That was where Floyd got the M&Ms with the presidential seal on them. Floyd also had the opportunity to meet with Vice President George W. Bush.

Floyd served on the NCGA Board after the restructuring when the Market Development Committee became the Research and Education Committee. As chairperson of that committee, Floyd worked hard with Bob Mustell from NCGA staff to get the legislation for the corn genome mapping. As he noted, “That was a highlight of some of those times when you were working to get new research done and had the opportunity to see those things actually get put into place. It was a very positive experience for the whole group of guys that sat on that committee. Before NCGA was restructured, there was such a large board that it was hard to get things done, and the committees handled a big load. Sometimes you would leave the meeting to have conversations in the hallway, and when you returned to the meeting, they were still discussing the same topic as when you left. It was difficult for some, while others may have thought the idea was good, but I didn’t like the way it was being done. In all reality this all makes for a stronger, more viable organization. Every organization experiences growing pains and often has to refresh and change every so often.”

Floyd had the opportunity to go to Guadalajara, Mexico for one of the USGC meetings. He noted it was really impressive to see how far behind the agricultural community was in Mexico compared to the U.S. That was in the late 1990’s – 1998-1999. He went to a county fair south of Guadalajara where they were showing cattle and other livestock. There was some of the new machinery on display which included a John Deere four-row corn planter that had the same parts as the one used by Floyd’s dad in 1952. As Floyd noted, “It was interesting that they were that far behind, but that’s where their technology was. The Grains Council formed a coop for the dairy people, which gave them the opportunity to get their milk sold and delivered. The coop would actually take milk into the dairy in cans, and then right next to the dairy was a feed mill so that they could pick up feed to bring back to the farms. It was noted at one time they would just take the milk out and hope that someone picked it up. This was quite a step up, and USFGC put this all together. It was a good eye opener.” Floyd also went to a state-of-the-art poultry production facility where they had millions of birds, but not an egg ever left that facility. It was laying production. All eggs left in liquid form in stainless steel trucks. Again, that was a real eye opener. The Grains Council had a lot to do with getting that set up. Two gentlemen, the father retired, had taken over the cattle feeding lots; and Floyd talked with the son who could speak English. He apologized for his English but did note that he had studied at Concordia University in Chicago to learn the language. It was good to see this type of industry flourishing which created jobs for people. Floyd noted the people working didn’t seem to be downtrodden, and the conditions at the plant looked good. He did note there were a couple of places in the poultry facility where they were not allowed to walk through because of sanitary reasons, but mainly they got to see the whole production facility.



Floyd and Karre Schultz with Senator Peter Fitzgerald

On a personal level, Floyd noted he was a pretty lucky guy to get to go to Washington, D.C., because without corn growers, he was just a guy that steered the plow up and down the field. This gave him the opportunity to see what things were away from the farm and how you could bring the knowledge learned back to the farm as far as to how legislation was built. As he noted, “You have to understand that Springfield and Washington somewhat control what you are doing so it was better to be part of it than just stand aside and watch the world go by. This was an opportunity that I would never have had if I stayed on the farm and didn’t get involved with Corn Growers.” Floyd thought Lou Faivre said it the best when he stepped down, “Corn Growers gave a lot more to me than I could ever give to them”. As Floyd noted, “Anyone active would say the same thing.”

When Floyd first started, it was a changing time, and he was young for the group. ICGA had been set up in the structure of the IFB, as they were the supporters that helped get the Corn Growers started. Floyd stated, “ICGA met every year with the Commodities Division of IFB, and they gave us guidance as to how they thought we should be looking at things. It was almost like a dad having a talk with his son who he didn’t want to turn the reins over to yet.” Floyd went through a couple of those meetings and felt they were more of a listening session than a discussion session. So when Floyd took over as ICGA president, he decided ICGA needed to have more of a two-sided communication with IFB. John Campen, who was on the IFB Commodities Division staff, was a little nervous about this. There was quite a discussion where they talked about the issues and had a good roundtable discussion. However, after that, ICGA met with a staff person from IFB rather than the IFB Board. Again, this was one of those growing pains of organizations. Floyd felt, “It was alright for IFB to give direction because they had spent a lot of time and effort to see that ICGA got up and on their feet. It was just time to move to the next step.”

Floyd was part of the group that established the Syngenta Leadership Program but because of timing, he never had a chance to go through the training until he served on the NCDF Board. He did enjoy the leadership training which helped him learn how to establish goals. The year Floyd was going to be president of ICGA, he took the Dale Carnegie course and that helped him. Will County Farm Bureau board helped to sponsor his involvement in the course. Through that course he learned to deal with your everyday family life as well as help for running a business, and he still has friends today that he made during that training. When Floyd had to make presentations for NCGA, he noted it was hard trying to convince them that he didn’t need a prepared script; “Just give me the bullet points and let me talk about an issue.”

A memorable event happened for Floyd during his report as chairperson of ICMB at the ICGA Annual Meeting. ICMB had funded a project on zein from corn beginning in 1995 at the University of Illinois; and as part of Floyd’s ICMB update, he was showing a sample bookmark made with zein. He was explaining how flexible and pliable it was, when it broke into two pieces. However, research on that project continued and will be coming into production in the near future. Today Floyd serves on a joint venture board called Big Rivers Prairie Gold which is developing a plant they hope to have on-line sometime within the next year to eighteen months. The plant will be in Galva, Illinois. Floyd noted it is hard to put a timeline on a new development, and this is an exciting time. In the research area, anyone will tell you if you can get it done and out the door within ten years, it is considered to have done well. It is impressive to Floyd that he

was able to be involved with something like that from the time of concept to the finish. Others, who have previously served on an Illinois Corn Board, who are now serving with Floyd on the Prairie Gold Board, are John Adams, Roger Hubele and Gene Youngquist.

In Floyd's opinion, bringing Dave Loos to Illinois Corn staff has been a positive move. Floyd noted, "The organization does have a good staff when it comes to knowledge and expertise. Finding people like that is a positive thing. It is good to get people with the expertise to help with whatever the organization is doing and important that you have a good team. Corn Growers working together as a team has a lot to do with where the organizations are today."



Officers Roger Hubele, Theresa Schmalshof, Ken Hartman, John Adams

### 1998-99

ICMB directors gained a right to vote at the State Policy Session, because ICGA adopted changes to their bylaws allowing them to do so.

The third value added conference was set for July 22, 1999, at the Holiday Inn in Normal. The conference talked about farm structure, a GMO panel was a highlight, and there was also a panel of producer groups. Following the conference, a reception was scheduled at the office with Illinois members of USGC. Past ICMB board members were also invited. The next day, the USGC put on the first International Trade and Marketing Workshop to teach participants about exporting. The USGC mission this year was to Taiwan.

The board decided to send a team to Mexico in regard to marketing white corn, and it was felt this mission was much more valuable and successful. It was noted this happened as a result of grain tours to Illinois under the direction of Terry English. The Mexican people were very interested in working together on marketing. The board continued funding for elevator managers and twelve media to attend the USGC conference in Orlando.



Exhibit at State of Illinois event - pictured are John Adams, USGC barley guy, Theresa Schmalshof, Terry English (Dept. of Ag), Ken Hobbie (USGC)



Promotional brochures

In conducting a survey to determine what kind of promotional materials were needed, it was learned that most people still wanted printed material. Therefore, it was decided to order additional Captain Cornelius comic books, a new general corn brochure, and to produce some value-added brochures. Also, a new value-added corn exhibit was developed. (insert picture – Chapter Four Pictures/Ethanol-Corn Brochure)

A new exhibit approved for funding was an “Amaze Your Friends Corn Exhibit” which was located at Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida. This was done in cooperation with other states. Since the exhibit was so popular with children, the board approved additional seed money in 2000 for a larger Corn Exhibit.

A couple of research projects funded this year included one on corn zein into Environmental Packaging Materials by Dr. Cheryan and a project for specific testing of different hybrids and their traits “Corn Hybrid Testing for Alkali Cooked Products”. On the corn zein project, it was learned that additional work was needed because the first product was very brittle, as noted in Floyd Schultz’s highlights when the product he was demonstrating actually broke into two pieces.

During this year Joe Hampton, former ICMB director, was appointed as the Illinois Director of Agriculture.

### *Highlights from John Adams*

Kent Kleinschmidt first approached Sue Adams about serving on the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. Sue was busy with the Ag Leadership Program so John thought he would be interested in serving on this board, and that is how he got started. John noted that it was a tremendous experience which he really enjoyed.

The opportunity to serve on the ICMB broadened John's horizons so much. He noted, "When you farm, you are in your own little area and at about that time I was becoming bored with farming. Serving on the board invigorated me more and gave me the chance to meet new people. It was good to work with a board of directors as well as those serving on national organizations such as the USGC and Ag Council of America. Illinois had a very good staff working for them."

As John further stated, "The whole experience was an eye-opening experience which gave me a broadened perspective beyond my own front door and a good background for serving on other boards." He now serves on an elevator board. This experience also helped to broaden his knowledge of international trade and what happens on a bigger picture in the world of grain. John noted that attending meetings in DC or anywhere else were always very informative.



John Adams



John speaking



Jim Tarmann presenting award to John

During John's tenure on the board, NCGA was experiencing some problems as an organization which caused some struggles for Illinois. In the end, this all worked out and is much better today. Also during this time, Illinois helped with getting the Adkins Energy ethanol plant started. A lot of research projects were funded during the 1990's, mainly through the University of Illinois. A couple of projects were in regard to zein and butanol. A company called Prairie Gold was set up to work toward commercializing zein, and it was recently announced that is coming to fruition with a plant to be built. John serves on the Prairie Gold Board. In regard to butanol, John remembers visiting with ADM, which was an interesting experience personally and from ICMB's point of view. John was also

involved in attending meetings with Phil Shane on the ethanol tractors. During the time John served as chairperson of the Public Relations Committee, they started to sponsor monster truck pulls.

Quite a few trade teams have visited John's farm. Phil Thornton took a gentleman from Japan who wanted to see corn production across the Corn Belt. Another time John enjoyed showing one of the Korean marketers at harvest time the rolling wagon. The group wanted to get a sample, and John couldn't believe how fast they got to that wagon. While attending a meeting at Advance Trading for an elevator meeting, John recognized a guy present who had been to his farm. (insert pictures: Chapter Four Pictures/Adams-Trade Team)

John served on both of the Building Committees, the building of the original structure and the expansion. He noted it was interesting to work with everyone and to plan and see it being built and utilized. Over all, John is just amazed at how much effort it took the original people to get this organization going. One surprise that John received after serving on the board was being awarded the "World of Corn" award.



John visiting with a trade team on his farm

## 1999-2000

The opportunity to be part of a new IFB group called Producers Alliance was offered to the board. The Executive Vice President and CEO of this group was Larry Groce, who served as a coordinator for ICGA in its beginning years. Accepting an agreement with this group required a three-year commitment to provide \$250,000 of in-kind services through corn projects in exchange for 50,000 shares of stock and a nomination to the board of directors with full voting rights. John Adams was appointed as ICMB's representative. In addition, a representative from Producers Alliance attended ICMB board meetings. Their first representative was William Olthoff and that later changed to Stan Blunier. This group worked on contracts for grain, isoflavins, soybeans GTI and nutria-dents. In 2000, Producers Alliance changed from a for-profit organization to a not-for-profit organization in order to qualify for more grants. This meant ICMB stocks were returned and with the change in structure, a board representative was no longer necessary.

*USGC* - The board decided to continue the practice of sponsoring elevator managers, farm managers, and media to the USGC meeting in Monterey, California. In addition, with funding from ICMB, nine elevator managers, representatives from producer groups and university

representatives attended the USGC “Meet Your U.S. Grain Supplier” meeting in Mexico City. It was noted that the Grains Foundation, which was formerly an entity of the USGC for years, had to be reinstated to attract money from other foundations.

*USMEF* - In order to review poultry and edible meat rendered to Mexico, the USMEF hired a consultant to explore electronic document transmission with Mexico. Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois all committed funding toward the project.

During the year 2000, the board decided it would be advantageous to subscribe to “The ProExporter Network”. This subscription continues to this day.

*Research* - Funding was approved for the NCGA degerm project in cooperation with Iowa and Nebraska. In June it was noted that project was moving forward and an engineering company, Katzen, began engineering work. Another project funded was on “Activated Carbon” which was done by the Illinois State Geological Survey at the U of I. It was noted this was the second stage of work to determine the engineering aspects required for production and to determine the quality of the carbon. In 2001, it was noted that the preliminary test from the power plant on activated carbon project looked good. In 2003, it was reported that the activated carbon project was moving toward commercialization with the final report received. The U of I determined that activated fiber from corn fiber looked as well as anything on the market for the use of mercury removal. The project appeared to have great potential.

### 2000-2001

*Cooperator Programs* - It was decided to continue the practice of taking media to the USFGC value added meeting. Terry Wolf was asked to join “The Bennett Agricultural Round Table” (Farm Foundation), and the board decided it would be good to have farmer input with this group and approved paying expenses associated with his involvement.

As noted earlier, the board funded science teacher projects each year through Illinois Agri-Women. One of the exhibits showed a new product that had been developed from corn starch called “magic noodles”. This product was safe, non-toxic and completely biodegradable and made its own glue. The inventor of “magic noodles” was Dr. Ramani Narayan, professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at Michigan State University. Below is a picture of the ICMB exhibit at the science teacher trade show.



ICMB Exhibit at Science Teachers Conf

*Farm Bill* - Research was funded to develop a prototype for use with the farm bill and beyond which would update the IRAM model.

*Research Projects* - It was decided to apply for a patent on the Pulse Electric Field Dryer project.

## **2001-2002**

A very notable event that happened during this year was the Ty Walk Elevator declaring bankruptcy. As a result, that left the Grain Insurance Fund out of money. Therefore, the IDA formed the Grain Insurance Task Force on which Rod Weinzierl, Ken Greene and Steve Pigg served. In the legislature, there were two bills associated with this issue – one to deal with the mechanics on how to reimburse the fund and improve the oversight of the fund, and the second one was a trailer bill passed as a shell bill.

Another unique opportunity that the board decided to explore came as a result of Williams Energy (ethanol plant) being up for sale. The board decided to investigate the value and opportunity of this plant in Pekin, identifying the value to ICMB in being able to partner with an interested party to buy the plant and perhaps influence them toward a farmer cooperative structure. It was also noted that the IFB Producers Alliance group had a lot of interest in this. In the end, the company was sold to another ethanol company.

*Cooperator Programs* - USMEF scheduled a Japan BSE public relations campaign to get consumption of beef back up, and the board approved funding. The USGC meeting in 2003 was scheduled for February of 2003 in Guadalajara, Mexico and the board decided to continue their past practice of sponsoring key individuals from the grain industry and media to attend the meeting.

In 2001, Frank Buerskens put together a project evaluation and performance measurement system for the Market Development Committee to use in evaluating the cooperator funding presentations. This committee found this process to be very helpful and decided to continue with this evaluation process to include development, project evaluation, a review of last year's process and set up a better estimated performance process enabling them to do more in-house.

Some of the research work approved this year related to dried distillers grains (DDGS) including a DDGS project for pigs and a Pro Exporter Study by Bill Hudson on DDGS. In addition, a Dried Distillers Grains Conference was held in August in Prior Lake, Minnesota, and the board voted to send four university people to the conference. The U of I offered ICMB the opportunity to fund a position of Ag Policy Chair. This was a program to put a person in place at the U of I who had expertise in Illinois agriculture and who could answer policy questions, as well as having a friendly voice speaking on behalf of agriculture in the State of Illinois. The ICMB thought this would be very beneficial and funded the program for three years.

*Trade Missions* - In 1999, new Cross pens were purchased to give to trade missions. ICMB directors participated in several trade missions during this decade. Some of them were as follows:

1994	Larry Chamness	Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia - Pioneer & USFGC (Max Armstrong from WGN provided about 20 hours of video coverage on this mission which he ran on U.S. Farm Report)
1995	Terry Wolf Rod Weinzierl	Mexico, Columbia and Venezuela – USFGC Japan/China or Indonesia/Malaysia - Pioneer
1997	John Beatty & Gene Youngquist Dennis Denton	Russia and China - USFGC & Pioneer Brazil - USFGC & Pioneer
1998	Doug Foss & Roger Hubele	Hong Kong, Taiwan & China - USMEF Market Expo
1999	David Tice, Lou Lamoreux & George Obernagel Tim Rister	USMEF Mexican Expo London, Poland and Hungary - USMEF Expo Korea & Japan - USMEF Market Expo
2001		
2002	Tom Martin, John Beatty & Dennis Denton Terry Wolf Wendell Shauman & Rod Weinzierl Mike Adams (media)	South America – IFB South America – Top Producers Mission Russia, Hungary & Italy – USGC Cuba – USGC

*Trade Teams* - During this decade, there were several trade teams that came to Illinois. The ICMB decided to purchase letter openers to be used for a trade team gift. Some of these trade teams in which ICGA was also involved included:

- 1993 Samara, China and Malaysia.
- 1994 Taiwan and Russia at Eldon Gould farm
- 1995 Indonesian trade team visited Eldon Gould's farm



Wayne Meyer with a trade team

- 1996 Korea – hosted by Theresa Schmalshof  
Japanese – hosted by Lynn Laible, Merle Miller and John Adams  
Columbia – hosted by Terry Wolf
- 1997 China, Mexico, Japan, and one from France meeting at office with Hoeft and Weinzierl.  
Soviet Team visited Terry Wolf's farm.
- 1999 Egypt – hosted for dinner by Terry Wolf, Bryan Fogerson, Roger Sy, Mike Clark and Mark Lambert  
Malaysia & Indonesian visiting the Terry Wolf farm  
China visiting with Ron Fitchhorn and John Kuhfuss
- 2001 Japanese Scientific Feed Association toured Niemeyer's farm where seed beans and high oil corn were grown.



Ron Fitchhorn visiting with  
a trade team on his farm



Garry Niemeyer visiting with  
a trade team on his farm

- 2002 Niemeyer reported on a Taiwan Trade Mission where grain contracts worth \$1 million of grain were signed. In attendance were State Treasurer Judy Barr-Topinka, Director of Ag Joe Hampton, and Director of DCCA Pam McDonough.  
Indonesia, Malaysia and China – hosted by Terry Wolf and John Adams

# *Chapter Five*

## **2003-2013**

Because it had been some time since both boards updated their strategic plan, a session was scheduled on December 18, 2003, with outside consultants Bill Hudson, Frank Buerskens and Darrell Good in attendance. A second session was conducted at the January meeting with comments noting that members had found the sessions to be very beneficial. In January of 2005, ICMB and ICGA met together and brought in Bill Hudson and Marty Ruikka from ProExporter for some help regarding a business plan and a good structure for the boards. The boards then divided into two groups to become more educated in two key areas which had been identified: industrial and exports. At the March meeting, ICMB experimented with a two-committee structure for this meeting, one for industrial and the other for exports. In July they adopted the two-committee structure. Each committee identified the need to set measurable goals and then identified objectives to accomplish those goals. The ICGA decided to adopt a similar new committee structure also, although they had a few challenges with how to manage the membership area, which you will note in their section below.

In June of 2005, a suggestion came from a former board member that it might be good to consider adding a storm shelter to the office. Another idea identified was to also consider more office space to handle the size of the committees under the new committee structure. These suggestions led to the formation of a Building Committee which was charged with coming to the August meeting with four different options: 1) keep the building in its present form; 2) put a storm shelter in the ground at the north end of building; 3) construct a 40 foot addition to the building; 4) construct a 60 foot addition to the building which would maximize the lot. In addition, it was suggested some investigation be done into the feasibility of selling the present building and constructing a whole new facility. In June of 2006, both boards voted to proceed with construction of a 56-foot steel addition to the building plus purchase of new equipment.



Shows equipment for beginning construction

*Checkoff Program* - In June of 2004, , the ICGA board voted to move forward with requesting that ICMB seek a referendum vote, but it was later decided the timing was not conducive at this time. In January of 2007, in a secret straw poll, ICGA and ICMB approved conducting a referendum to increase the checkoff by 1/8 cent, making the new rate 3/8 cent. Areas identified for the needed increase were ethanol, DDG's and promoting the use of E85 vehicles. The referendum was conducted on March 29, 2007, and voting was done by walk-in ballot. The referendum passed with 69% "yes" votes and 31% "no" votes.

In 2012, ICGA and ICMB voted to request a referendum to increase the checkoff rate, and areas identified for additional funding were: infrastructure improvements, challenging new USEPA regulations and a need for more science, public perception of farming, and higher ethanol blends. ICGA sent a survey to their membership to learn what their feelings were toward an increase in the checkoff rate, and the results were positive. A public hearing was held and five people testified in support of an increase while no one testified in opposition. ICMB voted to request an increase in the rate from 3/8 cent to 5/8 cent. A reminder of the referendum vote, which was conducted by walk-in ballot, was published in *IL Agri-News* and *Farm Week*. The checkoff referendum passed to increase the rate to 5/8 cent per bushel with 78% voting in favor and 22% against.

*New staff positions* - In 2007, a new staff position was approved for a Project Coordinator. With nutrient management issues coming to the forefront in 2013, the boards decided there was a need to hire two full-time staff positions to start researching and collecting data. Job descriptions were approved, and it was noted the new staff would be housed with the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association. Therefore, new staff positions were added, one for a Director, Water Quality Science and the other for a Nutrient Water Shed Manager.

#### Program Staff Updates:

Nov. 2006	Phil Shane left ICGA to become president of Prairie Gold
Aug. 2007	Dave Loos hired as Technology Business Development Director (title changed)
Nov. 2007	Lindsay Mitchell hired for new position of Project Coordinator
June 2009	Mark Lambert resigned to accept position with NCGA
Aug. 2009	Tricia Braid hired as Communications Director
Oct. 2013	Caroline Wade hired as new Nutrient Water Shed Manager
Dec. 2013	Laura Gentry hired as new Director, Water Quality Research

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR - During this decade, , ICGA and ICMB continued to have a presence at the Illinois State Fair. However, there were some changes made in where these exhibits were located on the fairgrounds. Some of the notable exhibits were as follows.

In 2005 the exhibit was located behind the AFL-CIO booth, next to an antique tractor display. There was a race car on display, an E85 exhibit, and DCEO and the American Lung Association had two or three people working at the booth. The exhibit did have good traffic.



Pictured with the race car are Art Bunting, Garry Niemeyer, Samantha Slater (NCGA), Pat Dumoulin and the race car driver

In 2006, the exhibit was located in the old “Happy Hollow” area and included the Avalanche and the F150. The American Lung Association staffed the exhibit. A lot of pictures were taken with the F150 truck.

Beginning in 2010 a new agricultural exhibit called “Farmers Little Helper” was put together, and each of the commodity groups had an exhibit space. The exhibit was geared towards small kids and gave them the opportunity to visit small barns focused on different commodities and to have interactive experiences about agriculture. Both young and old enjoyed the hands-on nature of the exhibit. After this new exhibit area was developed, this continued for the years of 2011, and 2013.



Staff Becky Finfrock in front of new “Farmers Little Helper” area at State Fair



Corn exhibit in the “Farmers Little Helper” area at State Fair

*FARM PROGRESS SHOW* - By this point in time, it had been decided to have a permanent site in Illinois for this show. Also, Indiana was no longer in the mix for hosting the show, meaning that it would be in Illinois every other year. In 2003 the permanent site identified for the Farm Progress Show in Illinois was on land located near Richland Junior College in Decatur, Illinois. In discussing the options for the Illinois Corn exhibit, there was some thought about having a more permanent exhibit structure. However, for the first year, it was decided to go ahead with using a tent to allow more time for planning something more permanent. Our exhibit for this year was shared with NOVECTA, NCGA and Indiana Corn. Secretary Veneman planned to attend. “Our Crops, Our Fuels” bulk tank decals, bumper stickers, window stickers, and shirts were produced and passed out.

Again in 2005 there was discussion about the possibility of constructing a permanent building for our exhibit. After investigation, it was noted there were some concerns about a permanent building, as the cost was pretty high for a structure being used for only a few days every other year. The Board did, however, vote to do further investigation into a permanent structure. For this year, it was approved to have a joint exhibit with ISA.



Pictured inside the exhibit are: Norm Marek (IL Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity), Tom Madsen (Gov Plus lobbying firm), Julie Day, Phil Thornton, Roger Sy, Phil Shane, Lori McCubbins and Dave Loos (DCEO)



Picture of front of exhibit



Picture of the race car



Art Bunting speaking at the Farm Progress Show with the Ford E85 Escape in the background



Staff Phil Thornton talking with Angela Tin from ALA and Jim Tarmann working the booth at the Farm Progress Show

Tim Seifert, Tim Lenz and Mark Lambert met at Richland Community College to get information on the options for constructing a permanent building at the Farm Progress Show. It was noted that the property was owned by ADM and overseen by Richland College who had a long-term lease. In June of 2007, it was reported that Farm Credit had learned it would cost \$246,000 to construct a 60' x 90' building. For 2007, the boards used a tent for the exhibit which covered the topics of E85 and Food versus Fuel.

By the year 2009 it was learned that the cost of a permanent building would be approximately \$200,000. The boards decided the continue researching the option for going ahead with a permanent building in a couple of years, if another organization would be interested in sharing one with us. For the show this year, it was approved to place ads along the Farm Progress route.



Front of exhibit



American Lung Association exhibit inside Illinois Corn exhibit with Angela Tin in center of picture



Shows the ethanol trailer exhibit



Part of exhibit which shows billboards used in Washington, DC for the Corn Farmers Coalition

Kenny Wallace race car with staff and board from l-r: Wayne Anderson, Jim Reed, Jim Tarmann, Scott Paddock, Becky Frinfrock, Tricia Braid, Kenny Wallace, Martin Barbre, Phil Thornton, Dave Loos, Don Duvall



In the year 2011, the exhibit included the ethanol trailer exhibit which was owned by four ethanol plants in Iowa. The educational materials within the ethanol trailer were updated. Another unique event that happened at the show was the launching of the KIC 2025 program by Gary Hudson, president of C-BMP.

At the show in 2013, Kenny Wallace from NASCAR appeared at our exhibit. As in past years, participants drafted faxes to be sent into congressional offices regarding support of the RFS II.

TRADE TEAMS - Several trade teams visited the U.S. during this decade. In 2004, it was decided to produce an Illinois photo book to use as give-a-ways for trade teams. In 2012, Illinois Corn began working with the USGC on a database of trade teams coming into the country and

leaving the country to measure the value of the visits/missions for US corn interests. Following is a list of some of the teams that came to Illinois:

- 2003 Muldova Mission toured the U.S. for two weeks. In meeting at the office, Garry Niemeyer explained the corn growers, and they also toured the John Kuhfuss farm



Trade team visiting the State Office

- 2003 Steve Ruh hosted representatives from Jordan, Syria and Egypt at his farm.  
2004 Teams from Columbia and China  
2005 Japanese Trade Team



Japanese Trade Team  
visiting the State Office  
with Phil Thornton the  
first one on the left in  
the second row

- 2006 Trade teams from Korea, China and Egypt hosted by Wendell Shauman,  
Steve Ruh and John Kuhfuss  
2007 Taiwanese group in Springfield to sign an agreement  
2009 Chinese professionals toured Art Bunting's farm  
2010 About 20 trade teams visited the U.S.

2010 Teams from Korea, 2 from China, Costa Rica, South Korea, and Dubai



Picture of Chinese Trade Team visiting the office. Phil Thornton is in back row, third from left and Tricia Braid is in purple.

2010 French Buyers Mission by Trader's Group - Group of DDG buyers from EU

2011 Teams from Finland, South Africa, Viet Nam and France

2012 John and Sue Adams hosted a trade group from Japan interested in seeing the effects of the drought.

Japanese Trade Team talking with John Adams at his farm



Phil Thornton met with Japanese and Chinese trade teams. He noted that the Chinese, who were federal regulators and high-level government officials, mostly asked about federal crop insurance because they were concerned about how to keep their farmers in business.

## ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

2002-2003



Pictured in back row: Mike Hoeft, Gene Youngquist, Kane County members; front row: Steve Ruh, Randy Pauli, Kane County member

Kane County County Corn Growers donated money for a flagpole to be placed near the road at the front of the building lot. Some of the members of their county group attended a board meeting to present the plaque.

It was approved to have board members participate in the U.S. Grains Council meeting in February in Guadalajara, Mexico. Those who participated were Jim Rapp, John Kuhfuss, Steve Ruh, Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, Henry Kallal, Art Bunting, Pat Dumoulin and Mark Lower.

*Membership* – Novecta and Adkins Energy brought in some new members with an increase of 193 over last year. Current membership was reported at 4,294. The “CornPicker” was updated, and a full-page ad was run in *IL Agri-News* as well as some radio spots on RFD. The board also approved the purchase of the first plot data.

*Political Action Committees* - In July of 2002, it was formally approved to form two Political Action Committees (PAC), one for state and one for federal. Designated members of the PAC Committees were past president serving as president of the committees; legislative chairperson, market development chairperson, and two at-large directors. Kent Kleinschmidt and Hank Cryder were the at-large directors appointed to serve for the first year, and it was decided the two at-large directors needed to be appointed each year. NCGA later formed a Political Action Committee, and the board voted to allow the ICGA Federal PAC to contribute to the NCGA CORNPAC.



Pictured are Senator Durbin, John Kuhfuss, Rod Weinzierl, Steve Pigg, Henry Kallal and Senator Fitzgerald



Ken Hartman and Steve Pigg in front of the Capitol

For this year, the schedule for the DC visit in March was modified with only the committees participating in agency and congressional visits and no formal board meeting was held. Congressional visits to DC continued each year, some years with only committees and some years with a formal board meeting.

The Illinois Commodity Conference decided to move to a one-day format. The Past Board Member event was held in conjunction with the ICC in 2002, and it was decided to move that event to the August meeting beginning Aug. 27, 2003. County awards were given at the annual meeting, and those receiving awards are in the picture below.



County awards - pictured l-r: Hank Cryder (Kendall), Ross Pauli (Peoria), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Kent Kleinschmidt (Tazewell), Randy Pauli (Kane), Walt Townsend (Wayne), Dave Bossert (Livingston), Floyd Schultz (Will), Dale Haudrich (Mon-Clair), Ray Prussner (Kankakee)

Beginning with this year, it was decided to no longer fund the “News for Corn Growers” radio program. To replace this program, it was decided to work with Rita Frazier from WSMI in Litchfield to run 160 radio spots between April and October, sponsorship of speech events, and interviews of corn grower leaders. The ICGA annual report was published on the website. It was noted that this year marked the 50th anniversary for the Farm Progress Show.

The board voted to join the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, which gave ICGA a seat on the Infrastructure Council and Transportation Illinois Coalition. That membership continues today.

Because there were often issues with aflatoxin, the board voted to participate with the Texas Corn Producers Board in the U of I study entitled “Creation of Commercially Usable Corn Inbreds and Hybrids with Low in Grain”. This study was to try to identify and isolate the different varieties to improve aflatoxin resistance.

### *Highlights from Garry Niemeyer*

Garry got involved with ICGA through a good friend and neighbor named Fred Reichert who was going off the board in 1995. From 1987 to 1995 Garry had been a director of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau, serving as president in 1994-95. Since Garry was going off the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board and Fred was going off the ICGA Board, Fred asked if Garry would be interested in serving as a director for the Illinois Corn Growers Association. Even though he didn't know much about Illinois Corn Growers, he decided to run for the board.

On a personal level, involvement in Corn Growers increased Garry's knowledge base of corn, whether it was policies for ethanol, policy work such as building locks and dams, or identifying the kind of policies which needed to be put in place. Through his involvement with Corn Growers, Garry learned a lot about the technology of growing corn. By serving in the organization, he learned a lot about corn production, nitrogen utilization and conservation issues. Garry noted it was just amazing the things you think you know about, but after being involved you learn you really didn't know the particulars.



Garry receiving the Environmental Award from President Vic Riddle

Garry gained self-confidence by being a director of this organization and learned good communication skills. He will never forget the endless days Mark Lambert spent in helping him to learn to communicate effectively. He not only learned the policies of the organization and how to move forward with those but also how to communicate those policies effectively to national political leaders. As Gary stated, "In general, as a person you have a particular way you feel about politics but to be an effective leader, you have to learn to work in a bi-partisan manner. This is a challenge for everyone that comes in. You have your own opinions that you have formulated your whole life, and you really need to learn how to deal with other leaders." Ironically, Gary felt he learned more from opposing points of view, which he had never thought about until being challenged. He further noted, "Getting a more worldly view of working together helps you to accomplish things." He learned in working with NCGA, the strength of the organization is its unity.

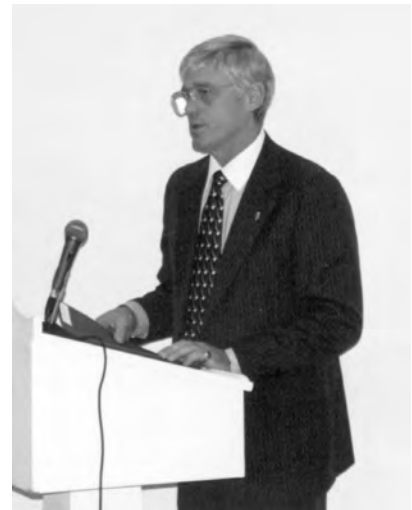
Another point Garry mentioned was that it really helped him was to be a better spokesperson for the industry. He learned by doing interviews, knowing your policy points, and making sure you stay on target, you become an effective spokesperson to influence the elected officials to buy into your point of view. That was really very important to him. "Quite honestly," Garry noted, "it taught me a lot and prepared me to move up to a national leadership position."

Garry got to work with a great assortment of farmer leaders by being president of ICGA and he learned where things are. Illinois is a huge state and by being president, you get to meet leaders of the different county corn growers. As he stated, "This helps you begin to understand their points of view when it comes to policy development meetings." The friendship of the people he has known has been very important to Garry and greatly helped him to be able to work together for a common cause with someone from a different part of the state.

Being an elderly farmer, Garry had the opportunity to learn a lot of new technology which helped with computer skills and organizational skills. His granddaughter even helped him to operate his own cell phone and work on the internet. Being in leadership, especially of ICGA, Garry learned a tremendous amount of skill sets he would never have accomplished on his own. He credited the staff for helping him to learn how to use this to be an effective communicator.

"Last, but not least," Garry stated, "as a leader you get more involved in politics than you ever expected to be." Through farm bureau he learned the importance of grassroots organizations and the policies that you have to create opportunities for profit as a farmer.

The first big issue he identified during his term on ICGA was ethanol. He was tremendously surprised at the lack of knowledge of the public in thinking the high price of corn was because of ethanol. The beginning base was set up through ICGA to understand ethanol policies and develop this. When he ended his term in 2004, it was NCGA's priority to pass the 2005 & 2007 Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which helped him understand how to develop markets for the extra 5 billion



Garry speaking at an event

bushels of corn. “Unfortunately,” Garry noted, “the last few years there have been a lot of weather problems which have run the price of corn up, but we are still growing more corn and will probably have the largest crop this year in spite of all the weather problems. It all goes back to the technology base on the other side of those.”

Garry in front of one of the ethanol billboards



A tremendous opportunity that Garry had was getting to stand behind President George W. Bush as he signed the 2002 Farm Bill. That was a unique experience which Garry will never forget and would never have dreamed would happen. He had the frustration to be president of NCGA when they were unable to get through the farm bill vote in 2012 so Garry has seen both sides of the farm bill. As he noted, “It is essential to have good policy to help farmers to be profitable and effective at their job.”

Garry noted he will never forget when he first started in 1995, Rodney Weinzierl asked him what he did with his corn—feed livestock, sell to the elevator, or what? At that time, Garry was hauling his corn to the river. Rodney asked Garry if he would be interested in the project for upgrading the locks and dams along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Garry didn’t know much about it but after going on his first barge tour in 1995 and seeing the locks in disarray and how they were crumbling before everyone’s eyes, Garry figured it had to be a piece of cake, as everyone would see the need for upgrading the locks and dams. So, he took that as a challenge and got involved. In about the year 2000, Garry provided testimony in front of the House Infrastructure Committee, and he remembers a gentleman saying, “The books are cooked” and Garry thinking ironically, so are we. ICGA regrouped at that time and formed a coalition with the Carpenters’ Union and several environmental groups as well as soybeans and farm bureau. Through that coalition, Garry learned more about politics than ever before in his life. By working together through a concerted effort where all were equal, Garry remembers walking into congressional offices and questioning whether guys would commit and saying, “We have come here because we want to pass the 2007 WRDA”. A highlight he still remembers is that 83 senators and 46 congressmen voted to pass WRDA 2007. That was the largest vote count he ever worked on before in his life, but it was a bi-partisan approach and that was

just for authorization. As he reiterated, “You have to learn there are two things you need to get before you can get something done. Through the appropriations process is where you get the money to complete the project that was authorized.”

When Garry first began working on the locks and dams in 1995, the locks were approaching seventy years of age; and now, almost eighteen years later, nothing has happened as far as building new locks and dams. There have been a lot of appropriations on other things, such as miter gates, cleaning out the rivers, sedimentation, and even removal of rock pinnacles a year ago, only to see flooding within nine months. It is hard to believe the country could go from a drought to a flood in that short a time period. Since that time, Garry has assumed the position of directorship on the Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI), which was formerly MARC 2000. Again, there are still eighty-three votes in the Senate for the WRDA bill, but we continue to work on the House. On September 16 they talked about moving the bill into the House but as of the time Garry did this interview, there was a hold-up with the whole issue in Syria, which was slowing the process down. Garry hopes before he completes his term on the WCI Board they will have appropriations for the WRDA bill, which will hopefully start the process for building at least one lock on the Illinois River and one lock on the Mississippi River before twenty years have gone by (1995-2015). He would just like to see appropriations granted for building.

Personally, Garry believes that the successes and effectiveness of Illinois Corn which helped him to grow was the staff. In his mind, Illinois Corn has a tremendous staff, some of which have come and gone, and he still runs across some of those people every day in other industries. Garry noted, “There has been no other organization I have been involved with that has provided the depth of knowledge that was generated and the concerns about growing our crop and finding a market for our crop.” On top of that, he learned how to communicate what you know. As he has grown into national leadership, Garry has really realized the importance of being able to communicate effectively what you are doing and the importance of that. He doesn’t believe you ever get enough leadership training. Garry has had all kinds of opportunities as a grower leader to learn firsthand, whether on the local level, state level, regional level or national level, the ability to communicate effectively what you are doing and the importance of getting to the next higher level.

Garry received the World of Corn  
award in 2009



With ethanol, reducing the dependence on foreign oil started back in the 1980's with Farm Bureau when there was 68 percent dependence on foreign oil. Today that is now down to 40 percent. This has all happened because we grew a product, created production where the product is grown here in America, and reduced greenhouse gases tremendously compared to gasoline.

On the issue of locks and dams, one person asked Garry how important it was to get legislation passed. In the last three years, there has been only one piece of legislation that he is familiar with related to agriculture that has passed effectively through the House, Senate and presidential levels. Congress has passed three free trade agreements for South Korea, Panama and Columbia. Ninety-five percent of the population of the world lives outside the borders of the U.S., and we have to export our products. Unfortunately, the 2012 drought reduced the amount of corn exports worldwide, but we are sure that will come back as we have larger crops in the future.

"Historically," Garry commented, "industry has created huge markets by working on infrastructure issues so that we can move our product. We have worked with all kinds of transportation – railroads, the barge industry, and new methods of containerization to move our product overseas. It really sums up what ICGA stands for – 'To maximize the profitability of Illinois corn growers'" (original mission statement).

After Corn Growers, Garry plans to continue his agricultural involvement through the following groups: membership in the Farm Foundation, a group called 25 by 25, which is another ethanol group working to promote 25 percent renewable fuel in the U.S. by the year 2025, and a member of Illinois Channel where they talk about agricultural issues and how they affect the State of Illinois. Garry noted, "As you look at the State of Illinois, we are uniquely positioned with essentially three rivers surrounding us - the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio. Fifty percent of our crop has the ability to be exported because of our unique geographic position, and for that reason we need appropriations for building new locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers."

Garry would like to thank everyone for the opportunity he had in the time frame from 1995-2013 to be part of growing agriculture from where we were. He remembers growing \$2 corn and how frustrating that was. Now we are really probably at the peak of agricultural production, although he is sure we will continue to grow further. The whole point is that we have laid the groundwork for profitability in farming.

## **2003-2004**

A new pilot project that came on the scene was in regard to carbon credits. The Chicago Climate Exchange announced a four-year pilot project accumulating a list of farmers willing to sell carbon credits into large enough blocks that the Exchange could effectively decide what carbon credits were worth. The Board approved participating in the Chicago Climate Exchange as a carbon credit aggregating member. In surfacing participants for this program, 18,000 acres out of 25,000 were identified. IFB and Growmark also considered the program.

In regard to membership, ICGA finished the year with 4,493 members. Even though recruitment of members continued to be a challenge, ICGA decided to continue to place emphasis on encouraging a higher level of political producer involvement to help open doors in both Springfield and Washington, DC. The Political Action Committee (PAC) worked to expand the political influence of the organization by forming Grassroots Teams in some of the legislative districts. It was noted that NCGA membership dues were to increase beginning in 2005 with their portion being \$5 per one-year membership and \$15 per three-year membership. Therefore, the board decided to increase Illinois membership dues to \$35 for one year retired/absentee landlord membership; \$75 for one-year producer or associate membership; \$75 for three year retired/absentee landlord membership; and \$145 for three-year producer or associate membership.

It was noted that ICGA recognized the contribution that exports made to the Illinois farm economy and the key role that ICMB played in developing and defending key export markets. ICGA played a significant lobbying role in boosting federal funds for overseas Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP) funding.

The sugar program created some problems with bilateral agreements, in addition to some of the other free trade agreements. A meeting with the Corn Refiners Association was held in Decatur to discuss the sugar program, and those who attended the meeting were Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, John Kuhfuss and Rodney Weinzierl. Another hot issue that came to the forefront during the year was high fructose corn syrup (HFCS). National advertising blamed HFCS for obesity in the U.S. However, true facts indicated HFCS, and sucrose had virtually the same metabolism.

Exploration began on the idea of developing a new for-profit entity. This idea came forward because ICMB was looking at licensing a technology on research which was being done at the U of I. ICMB could not own a for-profit entity, but they could assign their licensing rights to a company of their choice. Therefore, since both boards had a good cooperative arrangement, ICMB requested that ICGA form the new entity, noting that ICGA could license the technology from the university under a memorandum of understanding. Also, with ICGA forming a for-profit entity, that entity could become a holding company for different technologies and as the technologies were commercialized, they could license them to another company. This meant that two companies were needed – the first company would require an investment and the board could be made up of ICGA and ICMB members, and the second company would need more expertise and sources of funding. The two companies formed were Illinois Corn Opportunities (ICO) as the holding company and Prairie Gold, Inc. as the company for commercializing the zein technology. The beginning board of directors for ICO included Roger Hubele (ICMB), president; John Kuhfuss (ICGA), Tim Lenz (ICGA), Ken Greene (ICMB) and Matt Carley (at-large). In 2005, ICO began to apply for grants which included an Agri-First grant. In March of 2006, it was voted to capitalize ICO by transferring \$10,000 into it. Prairie Gold, Inc. was officially formed in February of 2006.

**2004-2005**



Pictured are: Legislative Chair Steve Ruh, President Roger Sy, Vice President John Kuhfuss

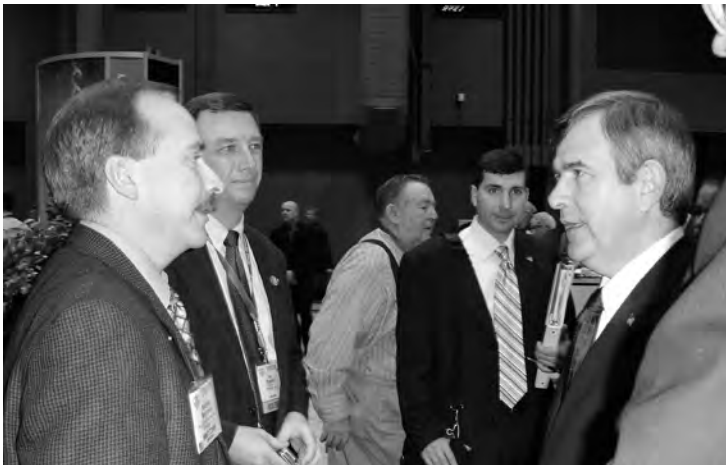
A suggested change in the committee structure was discussed, as ICMB was considering changing their committee structure to deal with subject areas. These changes came about with the updating of the strategic plan, and the two subject areas identified were industrial uses and corn exports. However, ICGA needed to consider how membership would be handled under that type of structure and how PAC would be handled. In March of 2005, the new committee structure of Industrial Committee and Exports Committee was adopted with the continuation of Field Services and Education for membership and county programming. At the June meeting, it was decided to use the two-committee structure through the November board meeting, with the addition of a Grassroots Committee to run concurrently with the Executive Committee. The make-up of the Grassroots Committee was the immediate past president, two vice chairs of the new committees, two county leaders, two past directors and two current directors.

State caucus at the Commodity Class. Pictured are - front row: Donna Jeschke, Jill Parnell, Andy Goleman; second row: Mike Plumer, Steve Koeller; third row: Jeff Scates, Phil Thornton; fourth row: Ken Greene, Mark Lower; fifth row: Gary Schmalshof, Ken Hartman, Art Bunting

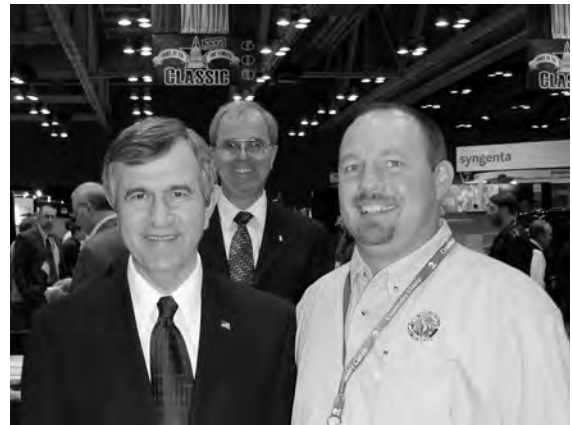




Leon Corzine family  
at the President's Reception



Pictured are Rodney Weinzierl and Jon Doggett of NCGA  
visiting with Secretary Johanns (at right)



Secretary Johanns and Steve Ruh with  
Leon Corzine in back

Leon Corzine was honored at a president's reception at the Commodity Classic in Nashville, TN. U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Johanns spoke at the general session, and delegates had an opportunity to visit with him.

New board policy adopted gave board members an allowance for internet technology.

A new form of transportation came to the forefront in 2005 with the DeLong Company starting to rail corn to the Pacific Northwest in containers. They were loading up to 100 cars per day in Joliet and Rochelle and doing fifty per day with Consolidated Grain and Barge. It was noted that 90 percent of the world's cargo would be containerized by the year 2010. At the January 2006 meeting, the ICGA Board toured Scouler Company, which was a container loader, and BNSF in Elwood. A lot of dried distillers' grains (DDG's), a byproduct from the ethanol industry, were being shipped by container and in 2006, Chris and Kari Manns, owners of the Traders Group, helped with shipping 500 metric tons by container to Vietnam through a group called ProConco. ProConco toured the farm of Donna Jeschke from ICMB. The Traders Group was a new group related to exports which had contacts overseas and Chris and Kari Manns visited with the ICMB board to

educate the board members about their group. The ICMB Board allocated funding to promote the use of containerization in Southeast Asia. There were three feed mills that Proconco worked with which were now using DDG's from the U.S. The board also approved funding to create two DDGS container loading facilities on two of the remaining four Class 1 railroads in Illinois. In 2011, GIPSA came out with a program to allow only twenty containers to be combined under one certification, and that was a change because the number of containers that could presently be combined was unlimited. ICGA submitted comments to help make this work for Illinois corn farmers.

Pictures of DDGS  
at Illinois River Energy



DDG's could be fed to livestock and with three proposed ethanol plants coming online, that meant 249,000 cows would be needed to eat the DDG's. In the State of Illinois there were only 160,000 cows, however, the state of Texas had a lot of cattle. White Energy, LLC in Texas proposed a 100-million-gallon ethanol plant in Hereford, TX and was interested in buying Illinois corn to use in making the ethanol. Another fact noted was that 5 billion gallons of ethanol would yield 10 million tons of DDGS per year. In 2006, representatives from ten elevators committed to going to Mexico to meet with Mexican buyers and then the Mexican buyers would travel to Chicago to meet with elevator managers. Through the Mexican program, twenty-seven train loads of corn were sold, which equated to 11 million plus bushels of corn.

Roger Sy was appointed to be ICGA's representative on the Illinois Livestock Development Group (ILDG), and it was noted ILDG had hired a new coordinator, Nic Anderson. Through Nic's efforts progress was being made toward providing a step-by-step plan for siting a livestock operation. Another focus for ILDG was addressing the regulatory issues and nuisance suits regarding siting of facilities. ICGA placed a renewed emphasis on working jointly with Illinois Pork Producers Association and the Illinois Beef Association to educate legislators regarding the overall benefits and economic value of a healthy and growing livestock sector.

One of the legislation areas in regard to trade agreements on which ICGA worked this year included the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreements (CAFTA-DR). CAFTA-DR met the goals of eliminating high tariffs and making U.S. Ag products more competitive. Corn tariffs as high as 35 percent had effectively blocked this market until the passing of this agreement. Since more than 40 percent of the corn crop was currently being exported, trade and market access were key issues for Illinois corn growers.

A Farm Bill Task Force was appointed to be chaired by Steve Ruh, with ICGA members being Tim Lenz, Andrew Goleman, Jeff Scates, and John Kufuss as well as ICMB members Scott Stirling, Tom Martin, Ron Gray and Kenneth Hartman. In the first meeting, some of the goals and main bullet points were identified. It was hoped to meet with the Iowa Farm Bill Task Force. Farm bill listening sessions were held around the state in 2006, and 77 percent of the respondents said the farm bill should be trade compliant.

## 2005-2006

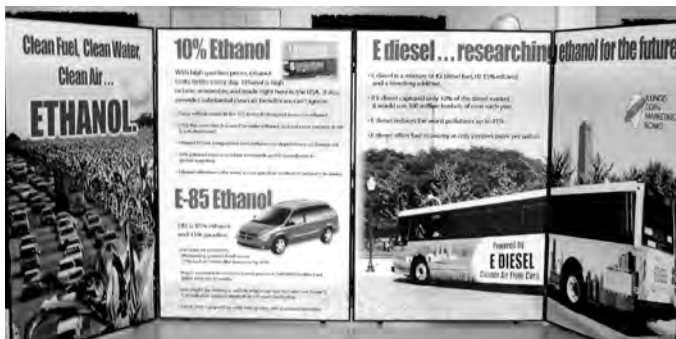


Staff - Back row: Ann Hodgson, Phil Thonton, Rodney Weinzierl, Jim Tarmann, Brian Hansen, Phil Shane; front row: Julie Day, Lori McCubbins, Mark Lambert

The board voted to keep the three committee structure: Industrial, Exports and Grassroots.

In the membership area, encouragement was given to ethanol plants to sign up their members as ICGA members, noting that Adkins Energy had been paying ICGA membership dues for their members for several years. It was also decided to do a media training for ICGA, ICMB and county leaders.

Examples of some of the displays that were available for use by county groups and others in promoting corn are depicted in the pictures below.



Display on ethanol and e-diesel



Ethanol display

The bylaws for the federal and state PAC Committees were amended to change the makeup of the committee to be the immediate past president of ICGA and four additional members appointed by the current ICGA president. Annual solicitations for contributions were sent each year in the July/August time frame.

## 2006-07



Officers - Art Bunting, Steve Ruh, Jeff Scates and Craig Buhrow

Staff - back row: Phil Thornton, Brian Hansen, Jim Tarmann, Rodney Weinzierl; front row: Annette Cherry, Ann Hodgson, Julie Day, Mark Lambert



In August of 2007, new board policy was adopted to cover the premium for directors for Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance for \$100,000 of coverage. This was a group plan offered through Illinois Farm Bureau.

*Legislative issues:* In an effort to expand efforts to reach the congressional delegation, funding was approved for doing visits in the Chicago congressional offices. These proved to be very successful. The board also approved funding to participate in the Iowa Presidential Caucus program. A legislative intern was hired for the summer who spent time doing research on the agriculture voice in the northern part of the state. On the state level, the board voted to oppose the Gross Receipt Tax proposed by the governor. The following picture was taken at the NCGA Commodity Classic during the Illinois delegate governor.

The following picture was taken at the NCGA Commodity Classic during the Illinois delegate caucus.



Pictured in the front row: Jim Tarmann, Kent Kleinschmidt; second row: Jim Rapp, Kenny Hartman; third row; Jeff Scates, Leon Corzine, Mark Lower; fourth row: Tim Seifert, Bill Christ; fifth row: Theresa Schmalshof, Larry Hasheider

Membership in the American Sugar Alliance was renewed. The board approved funding for a study by DTB Associates on the impact of the sugar program.

The board continued to be involved with the livestock industry, especially in the area of DDGS. Scott Stirling (ICMB), Mark Lower (ICGA), Larry Hasheider (ICMB) and Rodney Weinzierl met with the Illinois Pork Producers Association to discuss how to better utilize DDGS in the livestock industry. Novecta worked on standardization of testing methodology on DDGS. It was noted that each ethanol plant generated different DDG's. It was suggested doing a sampling of every corn processor in the state and having NCERC evaluate these samples. Once the testing was done, results were published on the WIU Rural Development site.



ICGA Board - Front row: Art Bunting, Steve Ruh, Craig Buhrow, Jeff Scates; second row - Andrew Goleman, Rob Elliott, Jill Parnell, Paul Taylor, Mark Lower, Jim Reed; back row: Richard Gates, Jim Holstine, Jim Schielein, Mike Plumer, David Niekamp, John Kuhfuss, Mark Degler, Tim Lenz

*Farm Bill and Crop Insurance* - Figures for a revenue revenue assurance program needed to be nailed down and work continued with the NCGA Public Policy Team. Also under discussion was crop insurance, and ICGA voted to support ICMB in following the U of I's recommendation for a proposed crop insurance program. This allowed the U of I to explore ideas with the Risk Management Association (RMA). If RMA approved of the program they developed, all costs in Phase II of the project would be reimbursed. The board took a position that they were willing to adjust payments to pursue a revenue-based program. Gary Schnitkey from the U of I developed a model to show how the different farm bill proposals would affect individual farmers. It was noted that the current model showed the current bill wouldn't fill the gap and crop insurance wouldn't fill the gap. A suggestion was made to have the computer model at the Farm Progress Show.

## 2007-2008



Officers Andrew Goleman, Rob Elliott,  
Art Bunting, Paul Taylor

Staff - back row: Rod Weinzierl,  
Brian Hansen, Jim Tarmann, Phil Thornton,  
Becky Finrock, David Loos; front row:  
Julie Day, Lindsay Mitchell,  
Ann Hodgson, Mark Lambert



Probably the biggest obstacle to overcome throughout 2008 was the misinformation out in the countryside that there would not be enough corn to both feed and fuel the world. When heavy rains kept most growers out of the fields until summer weather arrived, negative ads and news columns overwhelmed the media. NCGA finally identified the source of this negative publicity as the Grocery Manufacturers Association. Corn Growers needed to restore the American people's

faith in the corn grower, and ICGA and ICMB developed a public relations campaign called “Corn Growers Fighting Back” to address concerns around ethanol’s effect on food and gas prices. This campaign was conducted in the Chicago and St. Louis markets and included radio buys on the three major radio stations in the Chicago market, WLS, WGN and WBBM; a direct mail piece to 26,000 members and non-members; and four half page ads in *FarmWeek*. Also, members were encouraged to write letters to the editor and to call in on radio talk shows. In June, the ICMB granted additional funding for a Food and Fuel campaign, including radio buys in the Chicago and St. Louis markets, around the 4th of July and in early August and radio buys downstate.

**It's been a fight unlike any we've fought before...  
And Corn Growers Are Making a Difference!**

Big Oil and Big Food came out throwing haymakers at corn farmers—blaming us for high food prices. They thought we were lightweights. But instead of covering up, your Illinois Corn Growers Association went on the offensive.

The Illinois Corn Growers Association has been taking the fight to Big Oil and Big Food—in the media and in Congress. And we've landed our share of punches.

**We pointed out that energy costs were the real culprit.**

- Corn farmers get only a small percentage of retail food costs.
- Ethanol is actually helping lower gas prices.
- Imported oil is coldcocking our nation's economy and energy security.

Although we've scored some points, we still need your help. Don't be a spectator. Get in the ring with us.

**We Still Need Growers In Our Corner....Join Today!**

**When we're all in the fight together, we can be heavyweights.**  
Join the Illinois Corn Growers Association by visiting our website at [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org) or call 888-WHY-CORN (888-949-2676).




Picture of President Art Bunting in the boxing ring with staff Julie Day and Phil Thornton to the right

Fighting back ad

Food products-2008 campaign



NCGA requested each state to send two or three people to DC on June 24-26 to work their congressional delegation and others relative to the whole “Food and Fuel” issue and Art Bunting, Rob Elliott and Andrew Goleman participated. Because the negative publicity blaming ethanol and corn for the high price of food continued, ICGA launched another program asking members to mail selected products containing corn which were manufactured by the Grocery Manufacturer’s Association (GMA) to their congressmen. The four products identified were corn flakes, Corn Chex, corn meal and cornbread mix. Products were sent directly to congressional offices, in turn asking them to donate them to a local food pantry. A sample of the products was also sent to county farm bureaus asking them to participate in the program with a goal of putting 100 of these boxes in every congressional district office in Illinois. The result of the program was that over 1000 boxes of the four food products containing corn were sent to Illinois Congressmen and Senators. In addition, these four products were also sent to Illinois Senators and Representatives.

*Farm Bill* - The ICGA membership indicated a need for a new type of farm program, one that would provide a revenue-based safety net for growers in the event of a low-price year. ICGA worked hard with lobbying efforts in DC for NCGA's championing of a revenue-based safety net. The outcome of their efforts was the Average Crop Revenue Election program (ACRE) which provided a market-based state level crop revenue protection program based on the five-year state average yield and the rolling two-year national average price. With the weather conditions experienced this year, in addition to the high cost of inputs, calls were received from some members in regard to prevented planting. They were encouraged to go ahead and plant. A cooperative effort was made with Iowa and Ohio to put together a farm bill calculator to evaluate the farm bill, with the program to be launched at Corn Congress. It was felt that once the farm bill was signed, we needed to provide some educational information to members and tools for analyzing it. The board allocated funding for creation of a Farm Bill Calculator as well as a brochure and CD for distribution.



Board members - back row: Tim Lenz, Gary Hudson, Richard Gates, Mike Plumer, Mark Degler, John Kuhfuss, Steve Koeller, Jim Reed, Jim Schielein, Jeff Scates, Steve Ruh; front row: Jill Parnell, Andrew Goleman, Rob Elliott, Art Bunting, Paul Taylor, Craig Buhrow

Another transportation infrastructure issue addressed was the rail efficiency issue. A Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program was developed to alleviate bottleneck problems in the Chicagoland area. ICGA committed funding for this program and Illinois Grain and Feed Association also committed to help. By 2009, the CREATE Project had raised \$190 million, although it had not yet received any of the stimulus monies. The Melrose Connection was finished in September. A couple of other rail transportation projects included working with the American Association of Railroads and Go21 to feature Ron Gray (ICMB director from Claremont) in a Super Bowl commercial and Paul Taylor, Garry Niemeyer, Art Bunting and Dan Cole participating in a BNSF rail tour. BNSF projected all rail lines would be at capacity by 2025.



Pictured are the Lobbyists from DCLRS, David Beaudreau and David Crow along with Dave Loos

An addition to the board congressional visits to DC in March included covering the cost for six Indiana Corn Growers to participate. In order to help with legislative efforts in DC, the board approved to hire DC Legislative and Regulatory Services Inc. (DCLRS) on a twelve-month contract. This group was to do government relations consulting on ethanol policies, climate change, and public relations efforts relating to agriculture and biofuels. In addition, they were working to get data for corn to be classified as an advanced biofuel. Considering the success of this working relationship, funding for this lobbyist firm has continued to the present day.

The ICGA Political Action Committee increased their involvement in 2008, hosting six fundraisers for candidates in the November elections. The PAC also contributed to several state elected officials. Due to these increased efforts, a need was identified for increasing funding opportunities. In August, the first PAC auction was hosted.



Pictured talking to Cong Debbie Halvorson is Mark Schnedewind from Will County and Glenn Ginder on ICMB



PAC Event for Candidate Aaron Schock (center) with Rod Weinzierl on left front, Sandy Christ next to Schock, Eric Kunzeman and back center are Kent Kleinschmidt and Bill Christ



Pictured are Stefanie and Rob Elliott (left), Theresa and Gary Schmalshof (backs) talking with Cong Hare (center)



John Kuhfuss, Ross Pauli, Congressional Candidate Colleen Callahan, Kent Kleinschmidt



Donna Jeschke, Congressional Candidate Ozinga, Jim Rapp

A new group called Corn Vision 2012 was organized and included two representatives from each of the participating states. This group met during the months of December 2007 through February 2008 to seek a common understanding of how to address major issues facing the corn industry. A total of eighteen states participated in the project: WS, TX, VA, SD, PA, OH, NY, NE, ND, NC, MO, MN, MI, KY, KS, IN, IL and IA. The group divided into five subcommittees and Steve Ruh from ICGA was appointed chair of one subcommittee and Donna Jeschke from ICMB chair of another subcommittee. Some board members also served on subcommittees. From the final report, the ICGA board voted to support the process of evaluating, in greater detail, the concept of one national corn organization.

### *Highlights from Art Bunting*

Art first got involved with Corn Growers through the Livingston County Corn Growers Association. He was asked by a friend to take his place on the county board. Art went through the officer positions on the county board and as county president did a few things with the state board, such as legislative visits to D.C. Also, as a county board member he worked at the Corn Growers exhibit at the Illinois State Fair. Then in 1999, Mike Clark and a friend of his, Don Johnson, both urged Art to get on the state board and get involved.

The reason Art got involved was that he felt the story of corn needed to be told. In his words, “If we don’t speak up for ourselves, no one else is going to.” Art noted that in the early days working with the state board, it seemed like they were always putting out fires when an issue would come up with ethanol or biotech. He doesn’t remember being at any state meeting where ethanol was not discussed.

One of the biggest issues during Art’s term in office would have to be ethanol. Looking through old information, he saw a picture of Roger Sy standing by a big pile of corn in 2004 and Art noted, if it wasn’t for ethanol we would still be standing on a big pile of corn. When the ethanol plants were built in Illinois, no one knew what was going to happen with all the DDGS created. However, through funding of research by the corn growers, that product continues to be very much in demand today.

Another big issue that corn growers worked on was the locks and dams and passage of the WRDA bill. The board worked on those forever, but the outcome is still not good today. Although the authorization bill was passed, we are still trying to pass the appropriations to get new locks and dams built.



Art and Gary Schmalshof at a NASCAR race



Art Bunting



Bunting boxing



Art speaking at Ag Day at the State Fair with IFB President Phil Nelson in back

Another issue that the corn growers have worked on is biotech, and they came out with a “Know Before You Grow” booklet so that farmers would know where to take the corn after they produced it. In the early days, only certain places accepted GMO corn.

With the leadership programs that Art participated in through corn growers, he met a lot of people and went places he would never have dreamed about. When he started on the county board, he wouldn’t get up in front of a microphone to save his life. After being president, and all the training he received, that helped him to be more comfortable getting up to speak. He never would have gotten as involved if not for being president. Before email, the board members talked about their fax machine running all the time and after being president he noted they would barely run. However, all that information kept them well informed.

While Art served as president, he was involved in a promotion program called “boxing versus fuel” in the spring of 2008. Big oil and the Grocery Manufacturers Association came out with a big add campaign stating that food prices were going up because of ethanol. Illinois Corn started a campaign to fight back, and Art went to a gym where they put him in boxing gloves and a helmet as an illustration for a media campaign that we needed to fight back. The campaign included sending out cards and requesting farmers to write their congresspeople or send articles to the newspapers. This whole campaign was to try to get farmers involved. Another part of the campaign was to put some coins in cereal boxes showing the price the famers get was very minimal compared to the price of the cereal. Also while Art was president in 2008, a WRDA bill and a farm bill with ACRE were passed. So, a lot of things happened that year while he was president. He noted it was interesting going up through the different officer positions.

Through NCGA, , Art served for two or three years on the Growers Services Action Team and about three or four years on the Production and Stewardship Action Team. Because of his involvement with the NCGA Action Teams, Art had a great experience in participating in tours to Washington State and to New Orleans to see where our exports go. He was able to meet people from other states, including talking to dairy farmers from South Dakota that were on the board, and learn how their climate was so much different than Illinois'. Art learned a lot about farming from others in different states, what you have in common with others and what you don't have in common.



Steve Ruh and Art to the far right in the front row at an NCGA Classic delegate session



DC visit with Senator Dick Durbin; front row: Art and John Kuhfuss; back row: Jim Tarmann, Roger Sy, Rob Elliott, Rodney Weinzierl

In Art's words, "The people that make up the organization, both state and national staff and the board members, really help to make a good organization. When you attend the past director event that Illinois Corn has each year, they talk about how tough it was. You learn to appreciate that the corn industry wouldn't be near as strong if not for all those involved in the past with NCGA or the state organizations. The staff provides information to the board members and puts them in front of others."

During the legislative visits to D.C., Art remembers meeting with EPA, auto manufacturers, and quite a few consulates including the Mexican Consulate. He participated in quite a few meetings with EPA and the Waterways Council, Inc. As he noted, “Meeting congressional staff and members, you learn they are just people too.” Art did help Jim Tarmann with quite a few of the barge tours and went to a lot of Army Corps of Engineer hearings to testify on behalf of farmers about the need for new locks and dams. While serving as president of ICGA, Art went to some EPA wastewater hearings for a couple of different ethanol plants in Annawan and Hennepin.

Art attended the Syngenta Leadership Program with Ron Gray, and he noted that was a good exercise. He also participated in two or three leadership training programs on the state level, and those were a big help in learning how to speak in public and get your thoughts together.

## **2008-2009**



Officers - back row: Paul Taylor,  
Gary Hudson; front row:  
Rob Elliott, Tim Lenz

One of the more notable new priorities ICGA had to work with was the increased focus of the new administration on environmental issues, specifically reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the ways farmers were already contributing to the solution to this problem included planting crops that sequestered carbon, reducing their chemical and fertilizer input per bushel, utilizing no-till practices and reducing trips over the field. Also, transporting products by rail or barge saved energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. ICGA remained neutral on the Climate Change bill, which passed in the House of Representatives, as a way to be “at the table”, negotiating the best deal they could for Illinois agriculture.

Mission to Texas cattle lot with Art Bunting, Gary Schmalshof, Phil Thornton, Scott Stirling, and Larry Hasheider pictured



Pictured left to right beginning with front row: Bill and Sandy Christ, Rod Weinzierl, Wendell and Janet Shauman, Craig Buhrow; middle row: Larry and Marla Hasheider, Mary Cole, Stefanie Elliott, Theresa and Gary Schmalshof; back row: Dan Cole, Leon Corzine, Valerie and Mark Degler, Rob Elliott, Kent Kleinschmidt, Richard Gates, Ken Greene, Jeff Scates, Phil Thornton

Funding was approved for several market study tours during this year: 1) cooperative trade mission, along with Iowa and Nebraska to Brazil in Jan. 2009; 2) market study of Chesapeake Bay area and the poultry industry in cooperation with Ohio, Virginia and Indiana with Bill Christ, Paul Taylor, Mark Degler and Phil Thornton participating; 3) Exports Committee went to the USGC meeting Feb. 7-14 in Guatemala City and then on to Panama; 4) Paul Taylor participated in IFB's Market Study Tour to China ; 5) worked with Nebraska and Iowa on a Texas market study; 6) sent an ICGA leader on Governor Quinn's commercial mission to Mexico City; 7) Dan Cole, Scott Stirling and Phil Thornton went on a mission to Texas to meet with cattle producers.

A couple of producer-listening sessions were held, one in District 2 and one in District 11. Jim Tarmann, Lindsay Mitchell, Rob Elliott and Kenneth Greene attended the session in District 2. ICGA continued the push to educate growers about their farm program options. Every ICGA member received an updated Average Crop Revenue Election calculator, and ICGA also hosted several ACRE webinars which reached more than 300 people. As a result, the USDA Farm Service Agency reported that of all the eligible corn acres in the U.S., 15.6 percent were enrolled in ACRE with 21.8 percent of those acres being enrolled by Illinois farmers.

*Membership* - In continuing efforts to try to gain new memberships, the board approved contracting with a company called Comnet to do member database updating and lapsed member solicitation. A new membership tool was co-sponsoring the “Stateline Farm Rescue” bin safety training program along with Grain and Feed Association of Illinois. This was a relatively new rescue method which was being used to hopefully improve survivability in grain bin accidents.

The picture below shows those receiving the county awards at the annual meeting.



County award recipients: Hank Cryder (Kendall), Jerod Brown (Knox), Kent Kleinschmidt (Tazewell), Kent Blunier (Livingston), Mike Hardt (DeKalb), Jim Seboldt, (Mon-Clair) Ross Pauli (Kane), Floyd Schultz (Will), Art Bunting

*Crop Insurance* - Filing was done for an Advance Notice/Prefiling of a new crop insurance program, with a goal of having this out as a pilot product for the 2010 crop. In 2011, the Risk Management Association (RMA)’s review of crop insurance came back mostly positive, and it was noted they would be reimbursing Illinois for half of our costs. This new product developed was called “Yield Trend Endorsement”. Later it was learned that the crop insurance product was delayed and wouldn’t be available for the 2011 crop. Gary Schnitkey continued working on the project to get everything ready for the 2012 crop. The Yield Trend Endorsement program did come to fruition, which resulted in a big success story for Illinois Corn.

With livestock being the number one user of U.S. corn, ICGA continued to work to make the livestock industry profitable in Illinois. To help in the fight for the rights of livestock producers against animal welfare activists, ICGA approved funding toward the Ohio campaign against the Humane Society of the United States to ensure that livestock producers could continue to operate without the burden of onerous regulations. They also wanted to be prepared should the same fight relocate to Illinois.



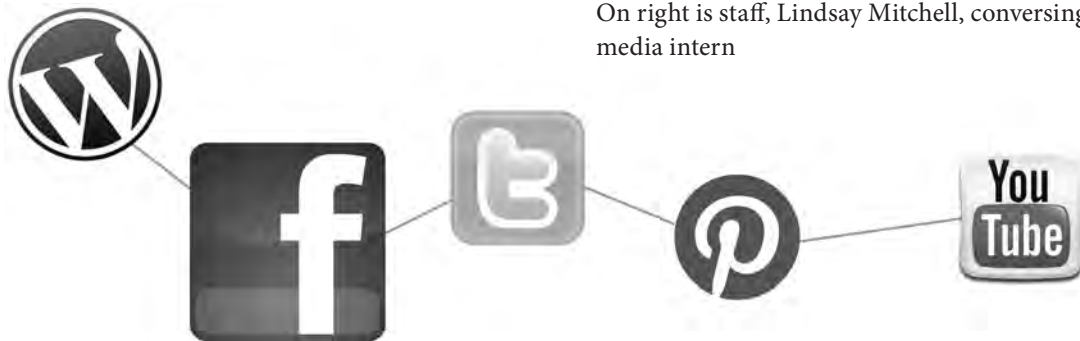
Michelle Payne-Knoper spoke on social media at the Illinois Commodity Conference



Picture of some of the social media collaborating



On right is staff, Lindsay Mitchell, conversing with a social media intern



Social media became the new “buzz word” as a form of communication. With the new generation seeking to obtain their information quickly and from new avenues, the board identified the need to adopt new ways in reaching a consumer that understands less and less about the farm. To help in this area, ICGA and ICMB utilized college interns to increase their presence on YouTube, Facebook and other online media to get out their message that corn farmers provide safe, abundant and affordable food.

2009-10



ICGA Officers Dan Cole, Eric Kunzeman, Jim Reed, and Tim Lenz with the Capitol in the background

Board policy was changed to increase the communications expense reimbursement to add an additional amount per year for those who had the ability to receive email on their phone. In addition, the board adopted some new IRS reporting requirements in regard to the Form 990, which is the non-profit organization tax form. These new requirements included a “Whistleblower Policy” and a “Conflict of Interest” policy which board members signed.

Another new venture for the board came about with a request for input into a documentary being developed based on the book “Fragile”. This documentary pointed out how modern agriculture helps feed the world. Since the work was being done by a Foundation, it was deemed we needed to form a foundation. Therefore, the board approved funding for the creation of an Illinois corn farmer foundation with 501(c) 3 status. The foundation was called the Zea Mays Foundation, which received a grant from Monsanto in 2012.

Farmer imaging was a term which came to the forefront this year. The majority of consumers, who are not farmers, seemed to have the opinion that corporate farms were producing their food. This image hurt the farmers politically, and this led ICGA to work to improve this image. Full page ads were placed in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News* to help with farmers’ imaging. In addition, NCGA, along with Illinois and thirteen other states, formed a group called the Corn Farmers Coalition (CFC) which ran ads in the DC area designed to put the faces of family farmers and the sustainable story of corn farming up front and center. CFC continues to operate today, and you can find more information in the ICMB section. ICGA decided to update their website to showcase the board members and their families working on behalf of ICGA.



Pictured in the front row from l-r are: Sue and John Adams, Tricia Braid, Ken Beck, Lindsay Mitchell, Martin Barbre; second row: Donna Jeschke, Gary Hudson, Leon Corzine, Garry Niemeyer, Mark Lambert; back row: Doug Wilson, Becky Finfrock, Kent Kleinschmidt (back)

As noted last year, communication in the world was moving toward social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs. Therefore, a social media training session was held at the office to get board members up to speed with this new form of getting the correct information out to the general consumers. The Illinois Corn website was also updated, focusing on directing visitors where they needed to go with new tabs for members, teachers, and the media. The new website allowed for more flexibility to highlight important issues as they arose.

With the state of Illinois experiencing budget problems, a smaller group of representatives from commodity organizations and IFB met to come up with a unified solution to minimize cuts to Ag in the state budget. Their plan was called “Integrity Project on State Budget” to which the board committed funding.

*Missions* - Jim Rapp, Kent Kleinschmidt and Paul Taylor visited with importers, millers and pork operations in Mexico immediately following the USGC meeting. A group led by Phil Thornton went to Panama, and Ken Hartman, Eric Kunzeman and Jim Tarmann went to New Orleans and then on to Panama to join up with the first group. It was noted that there were fourteen shuttle train loader sites in Mexico, and the U.S. exported our grain to Mexico for livestock and poultry. Also of note was that Mexicans liked to get DDGS from the U.S. because those gave yolks a good color.

*Farm Bill* - Rod Weinzierl presented a proposal from the U of I to prepare for the 2012 Farm Bill. The Board committed funding to the U of I to carry-out phase one, which was to discover synergies between ACRE and crop insurance. A Farm Bill Task Force consisting of the ICGA President and ICMB Chairman plus Paul Taylor, chairperson; Bill Christ, Lou Lamoreux, Ron Gray, Gary Hudson, Richard Gates, and Jeff Scates was appointed and began meeting in the summer to start thinking about what policies would best benefit farmers. Farm Bill listening sessions were held with a total of 130 participating in those sessions.

*Membership* - NCGA rolled out a “Green Energy and Growth Fund, LLC” plan available to corn grower members. The board decided to provide this information to the membership by making them aware of the webinars that were scheduled.

A conference called “Growing Opportunities for Illinois Livestock and Ethanol Industries” was held in September with the purpose to build relationships with the livestock industry, the ethanol industry, researchers and animal nutritionists to help undermine all the misinformation out in the country.

A unique dilemma presented itself in the summer of 2010 when some elevators were hit with a surcharge because they had to dry grain during days when the temperature was below the agreed upon temperature. Jim Reed, John Adams, and Phil Thornton participated in a Natural Gas capacity meeting to address these concerns. It was noted that gas used at below that rate was triple the cost, and many elevators were unable to get enough natural gas.

## 2010-11



Officers Gary Hudson, Jim Reed,  
Jeff Scates, Dan Cole

Several videos were put together profiling Illinois corn farmers to help consumers see them as people who are concerned about their family and the preservation of their heritage. These videos drove home points that farmers are knowledgeable about their craft, they are knowledgeable about the land and resources in their care, and they want to pass on this legacy to future generations. Also, ICGA leaders participated in communications training where they discovered how to talk about themselves to people of various different learning styles.

*Membership* - Under the ICMB section, you will note that they became involved with the Normal CornBelters, a minor league baseball team, which was done to improve education of consumers about who farmers are. It was decided to schedule a membership event in Marion at the baseball game of the Marion Miners and the Normal CornBelters to give our members an opportunity to experience how we are trying to get our message out. Another program approved was a GIS Mapping System to track detailed information about the entire corn and wheat industry.

Tim Lenz and Jim Reed presenting  
an award to Senator Richard Durbin



One of Illinois' proposed uses was to track the location of E85 tanks and flex fuel vehicles by zip code as well as doing Congressional district analysis. ICMB also approved funding to help with this GIS product, and in 2012 the program was populated with additional elevator information, including capacity and bridge information. This GIS system also included the Illinois state board of elections information, which was valuable to the PAC committee. ICGA hired a consultant during 2011 to look at our PAC activities to make sure we were in compliance and possible ways of improving the PAC program to get better results.

ICGA contacted members of Congress, reminding them free trade agreements were the right thing for agriculture. In addition, the membership was contacted to do the same thing, and draft letters were sent to the county Corn Growers Associations to encourage positive news in local papers. On October 12, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passed the Panama, Colombia and Korea Free Trade Agreements. An award was presented to Senator Durbin at the Annual Meeting.

To help with connecting international buyers to domestic sellers, Phil Thornton worked with four trade missions interested in DDGS – three from Japan and one from China. In addition, he worked with a group called A T GRAIN operating from Chicago but headquartered in Korea. It was also decided to fax a letter to the agricultural attaché of Africa, African Embassy and Republic of Congo to offer assistance as a trade team to open up trade between Illinois and Africa.

*Crop Insurance* - Research showed that farmers in the Corn Belt had significant and consistent low "loss ratios" relative to other crops and other regions of the country, which meant that farmers throughout the Corn Belt were paying insurance premiums that were too high. Therefore, through the work of ICGA, NCGA and ICMB, the Risk Management Association (RMA) proposed a re-rating which could lower premiums for the 2012 crop year. In addition, Illinois Corn, with help from Iowa Corn, developed the Yield Trend Endorsement product, which was approved by the RMA. This allowed the farmer to factor in a trend yield adjustment to their average production history (APH), which allowed for insuring a more correct anticipated yield instead of a historical average. Again, the Yield Trend Endorsement product was available for the 2012 crop year.

A cooperative effort was cost sharing with ISA the completion of the study on surface transportation. The study would look at the impact of the inadequacy in the infrastructure and the economics of what the impact would be on the agricultural industry should a bridge go out.

*Livestock* - ILDG did some advertising in regard to Rantoul FFoods which had just opened back up and welcomed them to the community from all of agriculture. BOS Dairy was trying to get established in the Rockford area, but the Governor was fighting the issue, as well as the public in that community. After a great deal of effort over about three years, the owner finally decided to pull out of Illinois.

### *Highlights from Jim Reed*

Jim first got involved in Illinois Corn because he received a letter in the mail announcing there was a vacancy in his district. Ron Fitchhorn was retiring before the end of his term and a letter was sent out seeking to fill his position. Jim had been active in Farm Bureau for some years ahead of that but had taken five years off, as he was starting a family and felt he should concentrate more on his business. When this letter came, he saw this as an opportunity to re-engage with policy development and activities to serve the industry. Ultimately, he was chosen to fill that position.

Most fulfilling to Jim on a personal level was the opportunity of networking with different people across the country. As he stated, "You get to hear how their crops are doing, different production techniques, different financing techniques, and get exposure to people that grow different crops than you do." This was a great network of people to plug into with all the very diverse, professional and forward-thinking producers, and it helped him bring back a lot of experience to benefit his own operation.



Jim Reed

Jim feels his leadership skills were developed a great deal by being around very great leaders within the organization—just watching them, learning from them and dealing with them. Corn Growers has a Syngenta corporate level leadership development program which is very beneficial. As Jim stated, "It helps you grow and also helps you to understand the different difficulties in other parts of the country." For example, Jim had never previously thought about prevented planting which they have in the Dakotas, or the problems faced by peanuts and rice in the south. This all gave him the opportunity to grow with his understanding.

In regard to the most important issue during his tenure, Jim felt there were two different ones. First would be the Farm Bill. This last bill was the second farm bill Corn Growers dealt with during Jim's tenure. Jim feels the accomplishments the association made the first time through were huge. Getting the ACRE program implemented into the farm bill in 2008 was something Corn Growers focused on and really did all the work to get that put in there. Illinois had a lot of leadership involved in this with Steve Pigg serving as chairperson of the NCGA Public Policy

Jim Reed, Richard Gates, and Gary Hudson  
headed to meet with a congressman in DC



DC visit - Scott Stirling, Jill Parnell,  
Jim Reed, Cong Tim Johnson,  
Art Bunting, Bryan Fogerson

Action Team and a lot of other people in national leadership, which really helped to get the bill moved forward. Now, in dealing with the 2012-13 farm bill, we are dealing with a lot of the same issues. Because Jim was involved in 2008, he feels he brought experience to 2012, and that was the number one policy issue.

Right behind behind that comes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation which Illinois Corn helped with in developing a close working relationship with labor to get that bill accomplished and signed into law. It is unfortunate that we haven't received the funding necessary to move this forward. Getting the legislation passed and building a relationship with labor was something new and unique to Illinois and not a traditional way of working the Hill. Jim did have the opportunity to go on a barge tour and also went to a hearing in Peoria where they all wore red t-shirts and flooded the room to get the point across that we were a unified voice to move this forward. Illinois had several lobbying trips to DC to activate the Illinois congressional delegation, and Jim felt these were all very interesting and really made a difference.

During Jim's time on the board, he feels the one thing which needed to be understood about Illinois Corn was that we have been able to advance people into national leadership on many different levels. During his time on the board, Illinois had three NCGA presidents in Leon Corzine, Garry Niemeyer and upcoming president Martin Barbre and a couple of different leaders in the U.S. Grains Council in Wendell Shauman and upcoming president Ron Gray. Jim also remembers guys when he first got on the board like Gene Youngquist, who was very involved in NCGA. As Jim noted, "This is something to look back on - how we have given people the background in serving on the state board which allowed them to go on to serve in national leadership to really benefit and help Illinois famers."

Other things of significance during Jim's time on the board was Illinois had both a dues increase for the association and also developed lifetime dues which are unique and a great investment for young farmers just getting involved. Also, during his time on the board, ICGA helped ICMB in two checkoff rate increases.

Of historical significance during Jim's term was the entire development, beginning and ongoing discussion on biotech and GMO's. There was really no mention of this when he first came on the board. This was in its infancy and just being talked about with just the first few commercial releases with broad spread acceptance. In looking at the industry today, there is a huge acceptance of biotechnology. As we get into the second and third generation traits, we are starting to see some talk of resistance in certain areas and starting to see some displeasure from the organic movement as they try to channel their stuff and develop their markets. This has all evolved while Jim was on the ICGA Board. Today there are things you can't even foresee coming at you. Jim related to the time when his dad started farming with horses and by the time he retired, when Jim was first starting in farming, they had the first computers in the cab to control sprayer rates. His dad saw them walk on the moon. We have gone from paper documents to electronic documents. In Jim's words, "The evolution of technology is huge, and it is hard to image how everything will advance another thirty years down the road."



Staff - back row: Tricia Braid, Jim Tarmann, Becky Finfrock, Phil Thornton, Rodney Weinzierl; front row: David Loos, Lindsay Mitchell, Ann Hodgson, Julie Day, Suzie Rogers

## 2011-12



Pictured are three of the four officers: Tom Groppel, Paul Taylor, Gary Hudson - missing is Grant Noland

A change in board policy was approved in regard to the makeup of the Executive Committee beginning in 2013. The new members of the committee included the five officers - president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and past president, plus the chair (or a representative) from each of the standing committees. It was decided to have a celebration for the 40th anniversary of ICGA in conjunction with the past director event in August.

*Membership* - In November of 2011, the bylaws were amended to reflect the adoption of two new membership classes: "lifetime producer" and "lifetime associate," with the dues of \$750 prior to December 31, 2012, and after that date \$1,000. Should a lifetime member pass away, it was decided to allow a transfer of the membership to the spouse of the person in whose name the membership was listed. Plans were to roll out the lifetime membership option in August, but that got delayed a few months. There was discussion about creating a new lapel pin for lifetime members. Again this year, CornBelter membership events were done in Bloomington, Evansville and Marion and were well attended.

The PAC bylaws were changed at the recommendation of the consultant hired. The change was in the make-up of the committee and allowed no more than two people from a legislative district and no more than seventeen members. The change allowed for getting more people involved to minimize the board members' time commitment. Because members of the committee would not necessarily be board members, the board allocated funding to cover travel expenses for the PAC meetings. It was noted that the consultant, Pam Hashem, would be under contract for the next couple of years. She also did a lot of work in setting up the GIS program for Ohio. The PAC committee developed a scoring system for legislators in order to make an objective decision on distributing their funds, and this system has worked very well.



ICGA Leadership - Ken Hartman, Tom Groppel, Paul Taylor, Gary Hudson, Jeff Scates, Andrew Goleman

Committee meetings during the March DC congressional visits were held at the new NCGA/USGC office building. A congressional staff tour was held again this year with new sponsors, GROWMARK, ISA and ICMB. This was formerly organized by IFB but due to a change in the election rules, the event could not be sponsored by anyone working with a lobbying firm in DC and the group sponsoring this event had to be changed.

ICGA gained a new neighbor when the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) moved their office to the building just north of ICGA. In addition, IFCA and the Grain and Feed Association worked with the Asmark Institute for constructing a new building located directly behind theirs to use for a training facility. This presented a good opportunity for Illinois Corn to work with IDA to see if we could get this facility certified as a pesticide training facility. Legislation on moving the Fertilizer Research and Education Council out from under IDA was successful. ICGA was allowed a representative to sit on this Council.

Picture of Cong Schock visiting the Asmark facility with Jeff Adkisson (Grain & Feed Association) on the left and Jean Payne (IFCA) on the right



Phil Thornton and Rodney Weinzierl met with IFCA, GROWMARK, IFB and IDA regarding training classes on anhydrous, as there was a lot of concern about people getting hurt. ICGA approved pursuing a safety program for anhydrous application training for farmers, partnering with other farm organizations.

*Farm Bill* - Gary Schnitkey from the U of I worked on evaluating the different farm programs which had been identified – AARM, ACRE and SRRP. Producers needed to be thinking about what they wanted in the next farm bill. For example, did they want a risk management product delivered by a public FSA or a public/private plan? The Senate did pass a farm bill, but the House did not.

*Missions* - Richard Gates traveled to Texas with ICMB, Iowa Corn and Nebraska Corn. Eric Kunzeman traveled to the EU with ICMB, Iowa Corn and Nebraska Corn. Paul Taylor traveled to Columbia from Panama following the USGC meeting. Richard Gates participated in the IFB mission to Cuba.

## 2012-2013

*Membership* - The big kickoff for the lifetime membership program was done right after the annual meeting. Since this date had gotten pushed back, it was voted to amend the bylaws to change the date for the reduced rate for lifetime membership from December 31, 2012, to March 31, 2013. After that time the rate became \$1,000. Membership at the end of September was listed at 4151. It was noted that one of the reasons for a decrease was the loss of the Adkins Energy members, as they decided to no longer pay ICGA dues for their members. The practice of sending out prospective membership mailings continued periodically, but getting members remained to be tough with the number of farmers decreasing. It was approved to publish and send two PAC newsletters.

Pictured are recipients of the county awards given at the annual meeting. Front row, l-r are: Matt Rush (Wayne Co), Jim Seboldt (Mon-Clair), Ross Pauli (Peoria), Paul Taylor (Kane), Jeff Scates; back row: Keith Yohnka (Kankakee), Kent Blunier (Livingston), Glenn Ginder (Will), Ted Mottaz (Knox), Kent Kleinschmidt (Tazewell)





Picture of a training session

Part of our association with ASMARK gave us the availability to plug into their programming, and we scheduled producer training sessions at the ASMARK building. The first training session had twenty-two in attendance, the second one was cancelled due to lack of interest, and the third session had thirty in attendance. Each session covered different regulations such as fuel tanks, oil storage on farms, anhydrous, etc.

*Crop Insurance* - The yield trend endorsement was available this spring, and the data showed that most people remained at a percentage of coverage with some going to a higher level. It was pointed out this had been a very good investment for ICGA and ICMB.

Jeff Scates and Jim Reed made visits in DC with the main message pushing for a five-year farm bill. The board approved funding to educate the Illinois congressional delegation on the farm bill and crop insurance issues, with the work to be done by Gary Schnitkey and Bruce Sherrick from the U of I. Garry Niemeyer attended the FARM BILL NOW Rally in DC as pictured below.



Garry Niemeyer at the  
Farm Bill Now Rally in DC

The congressional staff tour done jointly with GROWMARK and the Illinois Soybean Association had eight participants this year.

There was a new focus on an EU/U.S. Free Trade Agreement, as industry was pushing them to adopt hard and fast rules about what they would and wouldn't accept. Although the Free Trade Agreements were finalized with Korea and Columbia, the drought of 2012 caused our exports to fall considerably.

Phil Thornton worked on the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) and how it would affect Japan. For example, if Japan participated in the TPP, the tariffs on meat would go to zero over time. This would decimate the livestock producers in Japan, because they would be able to import finished product cheaper than they could grow it. This could give the U.S. an upper hand, as the 3.5-5 metric tons of corn that we export to them would be taken off the market. The extra corn could be fed to livestock in the U.S., but additional demand could be filled by other countries.



Picture taken at a Corn Fest Event in DC. Front row: Art Bnting, Jill Parnell, Garry Niemeyer, Martin Barbre, Theresa and Gary Schmalshof; middle row: John Kuhfuss, Jon Scholl, Steve Ruh, Donna Jeschke, Jim Rapp, Rod Weinzierl, Mark Lambert; back row: Eldon Gould, Bryan Fogerson, Tim Lenz, Scott Stirling, Wendell Shauman, Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, Jim Tarmann

Pictured in a DC visit with the two IL Senators are from l-r: Senator Durbin, Bryan Fogerson, Jim Reed, Scott Stirling, Art Bunting, Tim Lenz and Senator Obama





Pictured are Dale Roth (Carpenters Union), Eric Kunzeman, Kent Kleinschmidt and Cong Aaron Schock during a DC visit



Visting with Senator Durbin from right to left are: Paul Taylor, Jim Reed, Craig Buhrow, Kent Kleinschmidt, Randy DeSutter, Brad Middleton (staffer for Sen Durbin), and seated is Glenna Taylor



Pictured are: Dave Loos, Jim Rapp, Cong Bill Foster, Aron Carlson, Ted Mottaz and Steffen Mueller (U of I-Chicago)

## ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD

### 2002-2003

In an effort to educate new board members, the Board decided to develop a mentoring program to pair up new members with members who had already served a few years.

A new grain code passed in the legislature. Some issues were being experienced with moisture testers, and Ken Kindler worked with Syd Colbrook from IDA, IL Grain and Feed Association, and Marvin Paulsen from the U of I on testing these. They found a big discrepancy on moisture testers, however, the positive things to come from this testing were that all the data was entered into USDA's GIPSA and the U of I published the results.

The USGC set up a "Structure Task Force" project to which Illinois approved funding as well as others such as Nebraska, AFBF, Syngenta, Iowa, and Ohio. Tom Martin was appointed to this task force as well as Rod Weinzierl and Garry Niemeyer. A proposal was presented at the USGC meeting in Guadalajara, and then focus group discussions followed. In other action, the NCGA and USGC combined their Trade Policy Advisory Teams to help with opportunities for the WTO in regard to the lawsuit with the EU.

Pro Exporter began developing market intelligence on the Brazilian corn market, and the board approved funding for this.

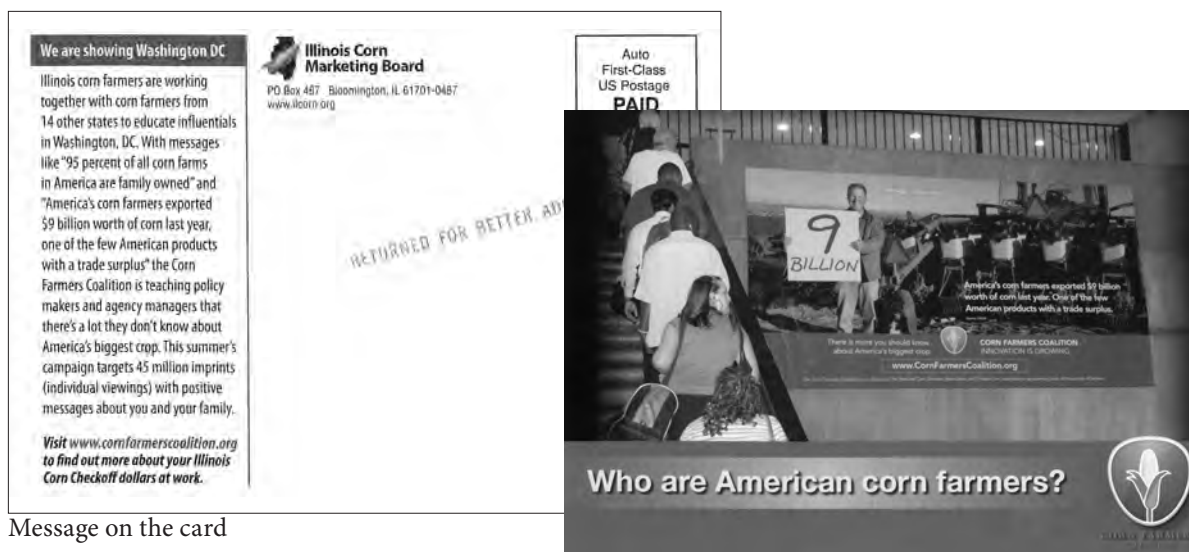
Some new promotional materials were ordered: river brochures, ethanol brochures, bumper stickers and kids' stickers. An educational campaign about checkoff activities called "Producer Education Campaign" was developed. This program included sending out a series of post cards to educate farmers about the activities on which their checkoff dollars were being spent. This program was considered very successful and continues today. The following are a couple of examples of cards.



Example of one of post cards sent out over the years



Message on the card



Message on the card

Another example of post card sent out

**Livestock** - Developed a livestock display for use by Illinois livestock organizations.

**Research** - The U of I Geological Survey received a \$1.5 million grant from DOE to work on a carbon sequestration project. Phil Shane committed to working with the Robinson area for sequestering the CO<sub>2</sub> from their ethanol plant, because the plant was located close to rock formations which were conducive to pumping carbon into the ground. It was noted there was a lot of political interest in this project. The board approved hiring of two consultants to complete a detailed economic study on activated carbon, and also approved funding for an activated carbon pilot run and economic analysis. Another research project funded was on "A Photodegradable Cornstarch-based Polymer".

## 2003-2004

A first opportunity to speak to the IFB Board came about in 2004. Martin Barbre, Tom Martin and Roger Sy made a presentation to the IFB Board of Directors regarding the direction that ICMB and ICGA were going in the state. This was a tremendous opportunity to get our message out. Since Terry Wolf was elected as an officer to the USGC, the board voted to carry him as an ex-officio board member for the period of one year.

As part of a strategic planning process, the officers were charged to come back with a plan at the August meeting for board structure. During the August meeting, PowerPoint presentations were given on "Sector Trends" on the topics of U.S. corn into feed, U.S. meat consumption, corn exports, export sector projects, industrial sector and U.S. corn supply. The first mission statement read, "To maximize the profitability of Illinois corn producers," and the board voted to update this to read, "Create opportunities for increasing Illinois corn value and utilization."

Some special cooperator projects were funded during this year, such as NCGA's Ethanol Portfolio and Trade Portfolio and a Corn Export Workshop which covered issues such as industrial uses and livestock issues. Those invited were board members, 10-15 elevator managers,

10-15 non-board member producers and Illinois Grains Council members who were Ag related. The Corn Export Conference was held on June 28 in Peoria and was very well attended. Al Jarand from RFD interviewed all the speakers and put together a CD.

A unique opportunity came about this year when a team of reporters from the Sacramento Bee interviewed Leon Corzine and Ron Fitchhorn on their farms. In addition, they toured the Yuton Elevator and an elevator in Jerseyville. Some of the topics they discussed included why farmers sell the products they do, why corn was put into storage bins, etc.

A meeting was held with Orion Samuelson and Colleen Callahan to determine whether commodity groups could help with the dwindling media coverage on Ag issues.

*Livestock* - The board sponsored a U of I livestock conference called “Producing High Quality Grading Feed”, and supported USAPEEC efforts to address avian influenza.

*Research* - An updated Memorandum of Understanding with the U of I was approved. New research projects funded were: “Commercializing New Uses of Corn Protein” by Gordon Selling; “Evaluation and Development of Quick Fiber” by Dr. Singh; “Reinforced Zein Films for Agricultural Applications” by Dr. Padua, WIU “Value Added Rural Development Center” project, and a project for pulling starch off fiber and sending it back through the fermentation process to be done by Aventine. Projects funded through NCGA included the second year of “Separation of Corn Fiber and Conversion to Fuels and Chemicals” by Renee Skunk of NCGA, “Maize Traits” by Nate Danielson of NCGA, and a Texas research proposal on aflatoxin.

### *Highlights from Tom Martin*

Tom got involved because of John Adams, who was the current representative from his area on the ICMB. John approached Tom about his interest in serving on the board and tried to recruit him for several years. At the time, Tom was very busy with other things in his community and his children were young. John’s persistence paid off, as Tom finally decided to run for a seat on the board. Tom believes that John knew him well enough that he knew Tom would enjoy it.

Tom felt that serving on the Corn Board made him a better time manager. His wife was employed outside the home, and he had young children who were eight and twelve years old when he first got involved. Tom moved up through the ranks of the officer chain of the board. Serving on the board made him good at planning his time. He set a goal to plan his time so that he knew when he would be at certain meetings and knew how to plan around his business. Tom didn’t want to lose the ability to run his business, as



Tom Martin with equipment



Tom and his family while attending a USGC meeting

he saw that happen to others. The experience allowed him personally to grow among his peers, not only from the state of Illinois but around the nation. When he attended meetings, he tried to listen and observe and bring new ideas back to the farm. While he was away, he always tried to come back with one or two ideas for running his own business. He noted that he saw a lot of things that were on the cutting edge. The opportunity of serving on the board allowed him to be more out in the forefront than some of his neighbors, and that helped him quite a little.

The biggest issue Tom remembered from his term on the board was being involved with the reorganization of the major partners of ICMB, such as NCGA and USGC. They were trying to make these organizations more responsible and to be more representative to their members and to the monies coming in. Tom believed any organization needed to take a look, probably every four or five years, at what it was doing and how it was responding. Tom got heavily involved in the Grains Council reorganization. It all came down to responding to large donors, but he noted that you also have to listen to all who are part of the organization, although maybe not necessarily the loudest voices. Even though there were struggles, Tom felt that the organization ended up in a better place. Tom stated, “As an organization, you need to keep focused on how you are responding and what you are doing.”

Tom noted that while serving on ICMB he always tried to be cognizant of whose money he was spending. He was dealing with money from his neighbors and corn growers across the state, so he tried to put himself in the place of a neighbor and be able to answer some of their questions. The biggest issue was the challenge every time you had to make a decision.

Another big issue the board dealt with was trying to come to terms with all the different state issues. Tom noted, “You need to try to understand others’ priorities in addition to explaining your priorities and come to a place where you move the whole organization forward. A lot of times you see a state issue that can become rather polarizing, because some people have pet projects, and it is always difficult to work through that. For example, a project may be good for your state, but not for everyone.”

Dealing with ethanol was an ongoing area and during Tom's term on the board, there was a lot of work done on giving grants to a lot of developing ethanol plants. The board reviewed the grants to make sure the right people were in place to put a viable company together. As Tom stated,

"This was not easy, and we had to depend on staff to help us through this process, meaning we had to educate ourselves." These plants were actually ramping up and going and if Tom remembers right, the board gave out 10-15 grants which really helped jump start some of these plants, in addition to helping them get other grant monies.

Tom had the good fortune to go on a memorable USMEF mission to Asia, South Korea and Japan along with Ken Greene. He also thought George Obernagel went on that mission. Tom had never been to Asia, and he was especially impressed by Seoul, Korea, and the number of people they have living in one small area. It was interesting to note that Korea is a country close to their roots and how dependent they were on the U.S. and others. Japan, being one of our major partners, was much more of a modern city and a more mature market. USMEF showed how they promote our meat products and how they related to the population there.

Another mission Tom participated in was with IFB to Brazil and Argentina. Steve Ruh also went on this mission. It was very interesting, because these countries are huge producers of our same products. They established a good relationship and were able to get a firsthand review of how their farmers operated and dealt with a large ethanol industry and promoted it. Their products were promoted by their government, and it was interesting how that worked. Of course, their ethanol was made from sugar cane rather than corn.

According to Tom, "It was good to participate in the missions because you became more comfortable with traveling and doing and seeing things. You not only learned from specific agricultural logistics but saw the traditions of other countries and how much they are dependent upon the U.S." Hopefully, he brought something back to the board to help them make good decisions on promoting our agricultural products to other countries. Tom had previously traveled but not this extensively. As he noted, "These missions are not just what you learn from a specific agricultural area, but it also gives you experiences in traveling and expanding your horizons. It is hard to get your hands on just what you are bringing back."

One thing Tom wanted to point out is that people need to realize how much of a commitment and how dedicated the board members are. You get some really good people on these volunteer boards, and those out in the countryside take them for granted and don't see how dedicated and important those people are. Some producers hear about the trips and some of the limited work the board does, but they don't see how dedicated they are and how much time they spend away from home. It is especially hard when you have young kids, and this is one reason Tom didn't jump at the opportunity when he was first asked to become involved.

As Tom stated, "There is no doubt the organizations have great staff who work hard at their jobs and that makes it easy for board members." Tom has served on a lot of boards and a lot of organizations, and he truly believes Illinois Corn has the most professionally run board than other organizations he has dealt with. He further stated, "Not only corn growers but the entire state is indebted to staff for that."



Pictured on Tom Martin's farm are Tom, Ken Greene, Martin Barbre, Ken Hartman, Wendell Shauman

Through serving on the ICMB, Tom made a lot of good friends and relationships that he still has to this day. He noted, “You find out that the agricultural business in the State of Illinois is all interconnected. All of us have to fight for one another to help move the ball forward for the whole industry and you are just a small cog in that, but that involvement makes a big difference.”

## **2004-2005**

New board policy adopted was a stipend to cover communication costs for directors.

Board members experienced a couple of unique programs at meetings during this year. At the March meeting a livestock program was featured with presentations given by: Peter Goldsmith who noted that by solving the odor problem, everything else went away; Meadowbrook Farm where a unique part of the discussion was about the cooperative structure and how it was so rigid; Dan Voorhis who talked about business plans. At the June meeting, the board participated with ICGA in a China Symposium and had the following speakers: Todd Meyer, Sr. Director in China for USGC; James Simpson, Prof. of International Agriculture, Faculty of Intercultural Communication, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan; an Industry Panel which included Alan Willits, V.P. and Commercial Lender for Cargill, Inc, Curt Clausen, Regional Business Director for Asia for Pioneer; Doug Schemmer, Global Director of Industry Affairs for Monsanto; and Bill Hudson, President of ProExporter Network. Board members learned they needed to become better educated on the valuation of Chinese currency, the ethanol issue from their standpoint, and the need to understand the grain flows and shipping. Everyone enjoyed a menu of Chinese food to complete their Chinese experience.

A new form of transportation, containers, was becoming a bigger and bigger option for shipping grain overseas. Funding was appropriated toward development of the rail loading program and what it meant to Illinois farmers. This was covered in the ICGA section in 2005, although it should be noted that most of the funding for the program came from ICMB. Some of the programs funded later by ICMB in 2007 included an American Inland Ports LLC project and a

grant to Access Ag's container loading in cooperation with IDA. Donna Jeschke attended the IFB Transportation Seminar and noted that 1.8 million containers come into California, with 25 percent of those coming to Chicago. The Burlington Northern loaded 60 percent of those.

*Research* - The board approved moving forward with the USDA Eastern Research Lab CRADA. Another project the board funded was from a company called AgVantage, Inc. which was for converting DDG's into composite materials to be used for signs along the highways. In 2006, these signs were being used in northern Illinois, and it was reported in 2007 that this was a successful project.

## 2005-2006



ICMB officers Donna Jeschke, Ron Gray, Bryan Fogerson and Wendell Shauman

With the new board structure, the committee agendas were changed and included budget figures. This new structure did not allow for the Executive Programs and Communications and Educations Programs which funded certain programs each year. Therefore, it was decided to develop a budget for these areas.

Under the Grain Insurance Fund, it was noted that fund had reached \$6 million and therefore producer contributions would end unless there were elevator failures in the next few months.

The board had a discussion regarding the FSA taking checkoff on corn going under loan, and it was voted to continue to support that.

*Farm Bill* – The board appropriated funding to investigate farm bill options relative to WTO compliance and profitability to Illinois farmers. This authorized a task force to go ahead and study the different scenarios.

A new project approved for funding was an agricultural exhibit at the Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington/Normal.

Funding of this project did set a precedent, and the board later funded similar projects in Rockford (2009), Springfield (2012) and Peoria (2013).



Exhibits at Bloomington-Normal  
Children's Discovery Museum

*Livestock* - The beef market in Japan officially opened this year. The board appropriated funding to USAPEEC for providing education on Avian influenza. It was noted that ILDG was now in good hands with the hiring of Nic Anderson as their coordinator. Funding was approved to work to bring dairy farms to Illinois, contingent on matching funds from Soybeans and possibly the dairy industry.

*Research* - A chromatography project with Dr. Cheryan was funded, noting that commercializing the chromatography technology would probably take up to four years. It was recommended that the board license the technology in order to protect it once it was developed. A Corn Zone Measurement Study was approved for funding to be done by Pro Exporter.

The board voted to actively participate in negotiations to develop and secure a more trade friendly sugar program.

With the new NCGA structure and the election of people to serve on the NCGA Corn Board, it was decided to try to get to know the candidates better. Therefore, the board began the practice of having the candidates complete one of Illinois' policy surveys which were sent out to the membership prior to the state policy session. This would give them some idea on where these candidates stood in regard to issues Illinois producers were concerned with. In addition, it became the practice to schedule a breakfast caucus at the July NCGA Corn Congress meeting to have a discussion prior to voting on candidates for the NCGA Corn Board.

### *Highlights from Leon Corzine*

Len first got involved with the ICGA because of his kids' involvement in 4-H. His wife Suzie and he had farmed with his dad, and they got involved in 4-H when his son was ten years old. At the local county fair, Len met Joe Hampton who encouraged him to get involved with the corn organization. At the time Len was serving on the local school board which had just passed a consolidation of schools, which was a huge effort to provide better education for their kids. This experience gave him a good background to get involved with the corn board. ICGA and ICMB were discussed, and Len was pretty much unaware of what these boards did. Joe invited him to attend a meeting, and Len attended an ICGA meeting when Scott Durbin was president. Scott was a neighbor of Len's and was going off the ICGA Board. While attending the meeting, he was really struck by the work getting done, the insight and knowledge base of the folks on the board of directors and wondered just how those guys knew all of this. At the first dinner he attended, Governor Edgar was there sitting at the head table. Len thought these people really knew how to get things done. Because of Joe's encouragement, Len decided to get on the ICGA Board. His biggest concern was being able to get up to speed on the issues. He felt that everyone knew what they were talking about and had a good background. He was in awe of what the farmers like him knew about all of these issues and that they were working on all of them. His statement was, "How do they do that and how do they make things happen?"



Leon Corzine

Len learned that the board of directors, who were farmers, had a commitment because of the foundation laid by the founders of ICMB and their insight to bring everything along and do it themselves. The original board made a huge commitment, both in time and financially. That was really something special. As Len stated, "When it came to the point where there was a question about whether it was going to be a voluntary, state by state checkoff or a national mandatory checkoff, folks like Joe Hampton were really part of that to keep it a state checkoff. This led to the strength of ICMB and ICGA and their ability to do what needs to be done for farmers in Illinois and around the country, because in the beginning ICMB kept us grassroots, local voluntary checkoff. We have a system that you can't say enough about in regard to empowering growers. We have been blessed with great staff, who I like to call partners, to be empowered with the knowledge base so that we would have confidence whether going to DC, Moscow, Tokyo, or Brussels to talk about us and what's important to us and correct a lot of misconceptions promoted by extremist groups that do not like agriculture very well. Being an organization that deals specifically with corn issues was important too, because the organization was structured to be nimble with a commitment of growers and empowerment of farmers. The corn organization doesn't have to deal with all the issues in agriculture but can be corn specific. With this type of structure, when there is a need, you can move rather quickly and don't have to deal with all other issues like insurance, etc. that farm bureau and others have to do. Being a strong state organization allows you to be nimbler than a national organization. In today's world, it has been shown that you have to be nimble to make things happen when they need to happen."

Both organizations have literally changed Len's life and his family's life. Prior to his involvement with Illinois Corn, he was involved locally in church and school board issues but other than going to the U of I and being involved in FFA, Len was not involved much outside his own region. He lost his dad in 1987 and had to really focus on the farm and had not looked beyond his borders. The Illinois Corn organizations helped him to do that, as well as helping him to see how diverse an issue corn is. As noted by Len, "For example, growing conditions are different in central Illinois, southern Illinois and northern Illinois. Going beyond the state boundaries, you see what needs to happen to help the people we represent on a national level to promote our products." That really helped Len as far as a vision and seeing a bigger picture as far as the world is concerned. Being involved helped him to get up to speed with those issues and made him more committed. The background and information provided from the team, folks employed by ICMB and ICGA, enabled him to go wherever he needed to go – Springfield, DC, Brussels, Belgium, or other places around the world to tell our message. This helped him to gain confidence and to see the impact we were having, which in turn helped him know that we really could make a difference. As Len reiterated, "All board members are involved for a common goal, even though they don't always agree as a board. However, that is healthy and important, as it is good to have lively discussions. If you always want a unanimous vote on things, you only need a board of one. In order to represent all parts of Illinois, a key element is getting diverse ideas."

Len further stated, "When I was involved on a national level, my children were in the right spot, especially my son Craig who was back on the farm. This showed Craig he could go ahead and do things on the farm. My son was empowered to make decisions on all the farming operations, and the family learned that they could do it. If something happened to me or if I was called away, the operation could go on. That would never have happened if not for my involvement with corn growers."

Learning to deal with things on a national basis helped Len gain respect and helped him to speak from his perspective. As he noted, "On the delegate floor of the national organizations, whether NCGA, USGC, USMEF, or Illinois, Illinois folks have always been strong in the discussions for setting direction for national organizations as well. What helped the Illinois guys in the debates during the sessions at national, was the fact that we had already engaged in a strong debate on these same issues when Illinois was developing their policies. Illinois' structure really helped us prepare our farm leaders to do things on a national level—recognition of what is important and what is correct to do. The experiences on the state level gave me a great ability to become a national officer. It was certainly a huge time and financial commitment, but it was very rewarding to see the impact of what a grassroots organization and founders of ICMB were able to do. When I look back on my accomplishments, I hope the guys who have gone before me will be looking down to see what has been done to help Illinois agriculture."

The entire time Len served on the Illinois boards were spent in dealing with transportation issues and river issues - locks and dams. As Len noted, "This has been very frustrating, but the board has been resolute in continuing to push the issue."



Visit with Cong John Shimkus with Len on the left and Martin Barbre on the right



Len participating in an event

Len felt he was in the right spot in the leadership of ICGA when biotechnology came along. As he said, “This is part of the empowerment of being in grassroots, as I was involved at a key time. Biotechnology was important from the state level all the way to the national level. The State of Illinois is unique because of the processing industry we have, specifically with ADM and Staley. More of our crop and products from our crops go overseas than most of the other states, making it necessary for us to look at the world market and what was going to happen with exports in the early years of biotechnology. We had to get involved in the regulatory process to try and help address consumer concerns as well as help the industry (biotech providers) to understand they not only had a great product but had to make sure they were going through the regulatory work and protecting worldwide markets. We were effective in walking a fine line along the way to bring new products forward and lower the environmental footprint to make it work. Not only did we have to do that, but we had to get regulatory things in place in DC, help them get in place around the world, and work on consumer acceptance so that we could look the customer in the eye and say we were doing a better job on the farm with these new tools and giving a higher quality product that was safe and wholesome for the consumer. With increased production, we had to decide what we were going to do with all the corn. There was a need for a lot of government help growing for the farm instead of the marketplace, and we needed new production.”

In the early years, ICMB and ICGA participated in ethanol discussions. Len was National president when the first energy bill with the RFS was passed, and in Len’s words, “That was the key game changer for agriculture around the world and for all of society. Ethanol was an issue that has made a difference. A huge key to getting this passed was that we had people in the right place in DC with Speaker Hastert and Congressman Shimkus, who happened to be my congressperson and on the right committee and they both did a huge amount of work. Also, we had Senator Durbin on the leadership side in the Democratic isle to help with ethanol. Ethanol was an issue we could look to and say ‘Wow, we have won’.”

In an environmental way, biotechnology and new technology helped bring along a new investment in agriculture, because we grow for the marketplace. Private industry developed

equipment to farm with less tillage and made an investment in technology to help the environment with site specific agriculture, such as site-specific seed placement. We would never have gotten that investment if we hadn't had a need, and dollars created for agriculture and potential dollars by ethanol for agriculture.

The year Len served as National president was the passage of CAFTA, and he noted that we got true credit for this legislation. This trade deal was important in lot of ways. Those in exports thought ethanol was the only focus, but corn was also given credit by everyone from the Administration to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to Ford Motor Co, to pharmaceuticals, to Caterpillar. Passage of CAFTA took a lot of time and a lot of work. In summary, the issues which took a lot of time while Len served as NCGA President were ethanol, biotechnology, trade issues and the passage of CAFTA.

One of the more recent issues of ICMB involvement was being in the driver seat in the area of crop insurance and the development of the yield trend adjustment product. Len made the transition from ICGA to ICMB when he was a national officer. He became a national officer when he was going off the grower board but thought he needed to maintain a connection with his roots with the state. So in order to be available for the Illinois guys to have access to him, Len became a member of ICMB. One of the differences Len noted with being on the ICMB Board was the need to think more about how to spend the dollars most effectively and the need to send the message to the people supporting you. It is a huge credit to ICMB that they have a very low refund rate. This stays low because ICMB stays in touch with the grassroots, and that's very important. The yield trend adjustment was specifically an investment of the individual farmer's contribution. It had to be something like 100-1 just to lower the crop insurance cost and/or at the same time increase crop insurance coverage. So, this recent issue was important for anyone that grows corn in the State of Illinois. For that tiny contribution they make to the checkoff, they have saved thousands just in this one issue that we don't think of as one of our top priorities. That shows the impact ICMB has had.

As chairperson of the NCGA Biotech Working Group and while NCGA president, Len had the opportunity to make annual tours through Europe talking with government officials, consumer groups, farmer groups, and the press about biotechnology. There were a group of six to eight people involved in these tours, and they did that for seven years in a row. They would visit several sections of a country and were in very high-level meetings, working in conjunction with NCGA and USGC. They did receive matching funds from the federal government for these tours, but Illinois checkoff dollars and ICMB supported NCGA and USGC in those efforts. Len felt the dollars were really well spent. As he stated, "Our group was the only one to be allowed to go into Parliament while in France. The effort was made to talk to some of their folks to try to help open some technology barriers there around biotechnology."

On the ICMB side, one of the state issues was a China mission with Trader's Group working on dried distillers grains (DDGS) and getting into new areas of the interior of China. This was done primarily in the pork growing areas of China, but also beef, and actually got studies started to introduce DDGS for their swine and beef industries.

Len noted he thought it was great that we are working on a historical document for the Illinois Corn organizations, because we need this historical perspective. A lot of the founders are getting on in years, and unfortunately, we have already lost a number of those folks. Len stated, "What ICMB has done is a shining example of how a group of people, in this case farmers that really cared about something, had a vision and made a commitment to do something about issues important to them and to their future and the next generation's future. They did it right and have set the foundation to keep the grassroots involvement and keep the checkoff on the local level. Sometimes, it drives the national organizations crazy, to maintain grassroots involvement. We are a cut above other organizations because of that, because we have the empowerment of the growers and it all started with ICMB because they were the primary driver in keeping it a state voluntary checkoff in the day when there were challenges to try to change it."

Len is very thankful for the opportunity he had to serve. To quote him, "It has definitely changed my life in many ways, and it was from the support of the team. As a national officer I had the opportunity to work with teams (staff) of all of the state corn organizations, and they are all great people. But the Illinois folks empowered growers better, have had a vision, and really helped the knowledge base with their encouragement in allowing folks to make mistakes by sometimes putting them outside of their comfort zone. All of that made a difference and made the organizations successful. All successes really need to be recorded and remembered."

## 2006-2007



Officers Donna Jeschke,  
Wendell Shauman,  
Jim Rapp

In August of 2007, new board policy was adopted to cover the premium for directors for Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance for \$100,000 of coverage. This was a group plan offered through Illinois Farm Bureau. In addition, the board voted to cover the cost of health insurance abroad for members going on a mission.

Beginning with this year, the Commodity Classic included wheat, corn and soybeans.

With the passage of the checkoff increase, the board voted to request the FSA stop taking checkoff on corn going under loan.

*Farm Bill* – A proposal was presented to the Farm Bill Task Force by Bruce Sherrick and Gary Schnitkey from the U of I. Part of the project that was put in place was the piece at the Risk Management Agency to fix the problem with the current safety net. The board voted to explore crop insurance options.

Funding was granted for a three-year project called “Truth About Trade Program” to educate the public on the importance of trade. The board continued to fund this project up to the present time.

*DDGS* – Funding was approved for the NCGA portfolio project “Standardization of DDGS Test Methods”. ICMB also created a subgroup to collaborate with Illinois Pork Producers to assess needed DDGS projects. Funding was approved to work with pork producers on co-products and research including sitting at the table with the National Pork Consortium. Funding was also approved to work with the Illinois Beef Association on DDGS.

*Research* – A three-year project called “Facilitating Rapid-Response Research” was funded through the Department of ACES at the U of I. This project was to put in place a tool to be used to determine the economic impact on different issues which might come up during the year, such as the governor’s proposed Gross Receipts Tax.

## 2007-2008

It was decided that committee goals should be reviewed each year.

In regard to the checkoff, some problems were experienced with Illinois corn being sold in Indiana and being doubly checked off. By consensus, the board approved sending a letter to the first purchaser, Cargill, authorizing them to take the Indiana checkoff.

A Corn Summit meeting was held in St. Louis with fourteen states participating plus representatives from USMEF, USGC and NCGA. Discussion centered on the next steps the industry should take toward the visioning process. A second meeting was held at the Commodity Classic in Nashville with twenty-two of the possible twenty-eight states in attendance. States identified issues they saw down the road and the challenges the industry was facing. The board approved funding to NCGA for the Corn Industry Strategic Plan.

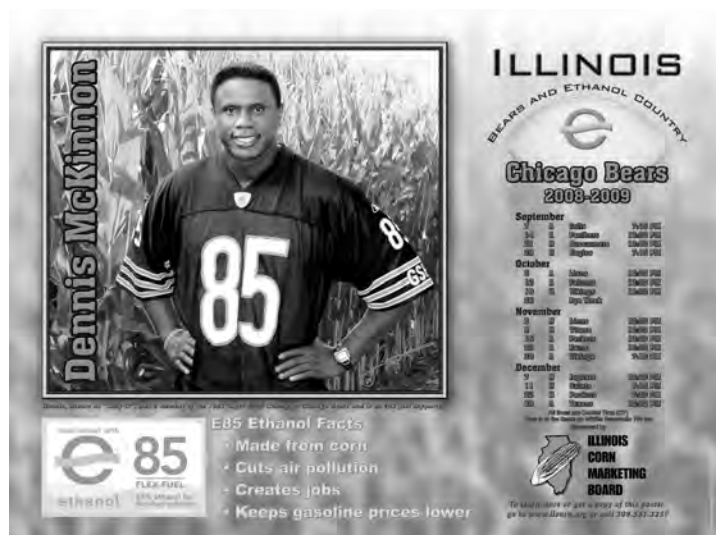
A group for “Vision for Illinois Agriculture” was organized with participants being ICGA, IDA, U of I, ISA and ICMB. This was a strategic planning session to develop a long-term plan to improve the business climate in Illinois. This was also noted in the ICGA section. In 2009, Rod Weinzierl summarized that four different opinions on the condition of the state budget had been identified. One fact he noted was that to balance the current budget a little more than an 18 percent across the board cut would be needed. A working group composed of IFB, ICGA, ISA, IBA, and IPPA was formed to try to come up with a proposal from the Ag sector on what they would like to see as a fair and equitable fix across the board. The board continued to fund this group through 2010.

An educational and sellback program called “Educational Program on Profitability of Corn Production” was developed. This project related to what was going on in the countryside with the high cost of corn and soybean inputs, pointing out profitability and encouraging production of more corn.

*Communication* – A new avenue for educating consumers was identified this year, and that was the use of “YouTube” on the Internet. Because this method of communication was popular with the younger generation, it was decided to hire summer interns to create videos. Interns continued to be hired each year up through 2013. Many of the videos they created were used in a later project that came about in 2009, with ICMB becoming involved with a minor league baseball team. A couple of other unique forms of communicating with consumers was done this year including a poster promotion at the Rose Bowl and a sponsorship of Bears Radio 780.



Example of poster used at the Rose Bowl



Example of poster for the Bears Sponsorship

It was during this year that the CBOT developed a new fertilizer contract entitled, “Margin Credit Swap”. ICMB was proactive in educating the farmers about these new and redesigned contracts and committed funding toward regional meetings, webinars and educational materials. How to change the contracts so that the delivery mechanism worked with interior delivery points was also investigated.

*Livestock* – A hearing was held in JoDaviess County in regard to a family from California trying to bring in a livestock operation. The name of this group was BOS Dairy, and they worked for several years trying the meet the rules and getting the proper permits for locating their industry in Illinois. Finally, in 2012, BOS Diary decided to leave the state. The board granted funding for a couple of pork programs: 1)IPPA’s Food Bank Program in which hog producers donated hogs, the processing plants donated their slaughter costs, IPPA covered processing costs, and hundreds of pounds of ground pork were given to food banks in Illinois to supplement their protein supplies; 2) Illinois Pork Food Pantry program, specifically targeting the Chicago area. In addition, the board approved funding for the USAPEEC Webinar program in an effort to resolve barriers to the export trade in poultry and egg products.

Several research projects were funded in 2008 in relation to the livestock industry and DDGS, and those included: 1) a project with the Maschoffs Farm to establish the maximum possible inclusion level in commercial swine diets of a fractionated corn product; 2) a project through the U of I to evaluate procedures to feed co-products from the fuel ethanol industry to pigs without reducing the fat quality of the pigs; 3) a project through the U of I to test if the concentration of furosine in DDGS could be used to predict the digestibility of lysine in DDGS; 4) a large cooperative project between United Egg Producers, NCGA and USDA to look at the impact of DDGS used in the layers diet on reduced emissions of ammonia; 5) a grant through ICO for a Feasibility Assessment of locating a commercial dairy in Champaign County to help support the Dairy Department at the U of I; 6) another project through Maschoffs on “Evaluation of the Effect of a Major Fractionated Corn Co-product on the Growth Performance of Wean-to-Finish Pigs and on Carcass and Pork Quality Characteristics” ; 7) a project on “Sulfur Concentration in DDGS for Pig Performance” which was co-funded with the National Pork Board.

*Crop insurance* - The board approved funding for Gary Schnitkey and Bruce Sherrick to continue working on ways to improve crop insurance.

*USGC* - With a change in CEO's, the Council developed a transition plan. The board approved funding toward that plan.

### *Highlights from Donna Jeschke*

Donna got involved with ICMB when the previous district director, Doug Foss, was ready to retire from the board. He asked Donna to consider submitting her application for his unexpired term and following a board telephone interview, Donna was selected to fill out Doug's term. After that, she was elected for three full terms and served a total of ten years.

By serving on the ICMB, Donna felt she had the opportunity to collaborate with farmers around the state on issues confronting corn farmers. The greatest joy in this, as Donna learned, was that they were all as passionate about agriculture as she and her husband were. Serving on the ICMB helped Donna see and understand some of the bigger and more complex issues affecting farmers, not only on a state level but on a national and international level as well.



Donna Jeschke

As Donna reiterated, “It was hard to choose the biggest issue experienced during my years of service, because there were many varied issues.” When Donna started her term on the ICMB, she noted she was fairly confident that she understood the how and why that the three focus areas for the board were research, market development and communications. What she didn't expect was that funding “research” would change from funding “corn usage research” (such as ethanol development projects) to funding more “economic research” (such as the land usage/economic impact research projects). Also Donna noted that she didn't realize that communications funding would involve spending as much or more on “communicating and educating” the non-farm consumer. She especially never expected to be in a social media class sponsored by ICMB.



Donna Jeschke, Art Bunting, Scott Stirling in front of the Capitol on a DC visit



Donna Jeschke is pictured at the Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington, IL



Donna giving ICMB report at the ICGA Annual Meeting

One of the many experiences Donna had while serving on the ICMB Board was the opportunity to go on a USMEF overseas mission. She noted, “This was an excellent opportunity to meet our customers in Taiwan and Japan.” The other official mission Donna participated in was to Panama with farmers from Illinois and Iowa. In Donna’s words, “It was most impressive to see what was happening with the Panama Canal and realize the opportunities such a project means to the demand for our Ag products.” In addition to these missions, Donna and her husband were invited to travel to Sweden, China and Argentina to meet with farmers and Ag groups and potential customers.

In summary, Donna noted, “Just being on the ICMB opened up awesome opportunities! We have had the opportunity to host numerous national Ag groups and international trade teams on our farm. My husband and I hosted one team from China for five days! They were part of a USDA agricultural scientific program. We had potential buyers of corn and corn products sit at our kitchen table asking to purchase product. We have spoken to many international groups visiting the Chicago Board of Trade. The past two years we have been involved in the Illinois Farm Families program and served as a host farm to twenty-five Chicago-area Moms. This program presents an opportunity for farmers and non-farmers to have conversation about what is happening on the farm today.”

In regard to national groups, Donna noted she did have the opportunity to serve on the NCGA’s Ethanol Committee and Biotech/Trade Policy Team.

2008-09



Officers Jim Rapp, Donna Jeschke, Scott Stirling, Jim Robbins

An opportunity for a new communication program surfaced when the town of Normal proposed the idea for a new minor league baseball team with the stadium location to be at Heartland Junior College. With the name of the team, being the CornBelters, it was felt there were some synergies with Illinois Corn, since their state office was in the local area. By signing a two-year contract, the board would get naming rights for the stadium. After much discussion, the major reason the board decided to get involved was to gain another avenue for communicating their message to consumers attending the games as well as the opportunity for eight hours of advertising on a digital billboard to be located along Interstate 55, near the intersection of Interstate 39. It took a couple of years before the billboard was actually installed because of some state regulations, but the picture below shows the finished product.



Donna Jeschke speaking at announcement of the Corn Crib for the Normal baseball team



Billboard visible from Interstate 55 and 39

In addition, the plan for the stadium was to have other events scheduled in addition to baseball. The board approved signing a two- year contract with the Normal CornBelters Baseball Team, and the stadium was named the Corn Crib. Other sponsors that came on board and helped to lower ICMB's financial commitment were Pioneer, Syngenta, Prairie Farms, IBA and IPPA. Our



Donna Jeschke and Jim Rapp pictured with "Corny" (mascot for the Normal CornBelters)



Pictured are staff Phil Thornton, Jim Tarmann and Tricia Braid at the Corn Crib announcement

sponsorship also included a suite, and board members were allowed to use this space. The first year that the stadium opened, the board retirement event was held at the Corn Crib. Jim Rapp, who was serving as chairman on opening night of the stadium, got to throw out the first pitch. This has proved to be a successful way of communicating corn's message to non-farm families, and the board continues to be a sponsor.

Following the food and fuel debate in 2008, a new group called "Project Restore" worked to upgrade our image in the DC area, and Mark Lambert became the coordinator. This group was formed by ten state corn checkoff boards and NCGA with the purpose to provide the truth to influencers in the Washington, DC area. After the program got fully organized, the name was changed to the Corn Farmer's Coalition. In addition to granting funding to NCGA for this program each year, in 2011 the board funded a statewide media buy in print and radio to place the new CFC ads during the August congressional recess. To do this, the CFC continues to work in the DC area with more ads featuring farmer faces, more station domination tactics in the DC metro stations near the Hill, and Corn Fact Books were printed for ICGA to use here in Illinois.

DDGS - Research trials were conducted on DDGS for ruminants and monogastrics, and funding was approved through the Traders Group for getting two containers of DDGS to China for a feeding trial.



Fact Book cover



Print material stating corn export fact

In addition, the board funded several research projects on the digestibility in DDGS fed to pigs, one through NCERC in collaboration with Mashoffs, a couple through NCERC, one at the U of I, one through ISU, another one through Maschoff, LLC, and one on fiber feeding trials with collaboration of Iowa State and Hans Stein at the U of I. To help with promoting DDGS with Illinois beef producers, funding was approved to help with a major beef conference.

*Livestock* – Cooperative projects with the IPPA approved for funding included the Food and Pantry Program which was expanded from Chicago to other areas of the state, the Pork Power program and a coupon program in Chicago. The Pork Power program continued to be funded up through 2013. Also funded through the National Science Academy in cooperation with Nebraska and the National Pork Board was a project on “Updating the National Resource Council’s Nutrient Requirements for Swine”. On the beef side, a research project was funded to be coordinated through WIU and NCERC. Funding was also approved to work with ILDG on a grant program which would provide a grant per producer towards the cost of a professional engineering plan for a new or expanding livestock facility. (insert pictures – Chapter Five Pictures/Chicago Food Bank event2: Pork Power donation)



Picture of group involved with the Pork Power donation with Leon Corzine in the blue shirt, second from left in second row and fourth person in that row with green shirt is Lyle Roberts from IL Soybeans



Picture taken at the Chicago Food Bank event

In order to stimulate interest in academic programs that would produce more corn breeders and geneticists with a focus on corn traits which add value, the U of I developed a fellowship directed at corn research and the board approved funding for two years. In 2011, another three-year project was funded for two scholarships per year for valued added corn plant breeding research. This program was run under Rita Mum at the U of I, and scholarship receivers did give reports to the Industrial Committee. The program proved to be successful but because of the shortage of funds with the drought in 2012, funding for future grants was suspended but started again in 2013.

During this year, Ohio was gearing up for the issue of the Humane Society of the U.S. who was going after livestock. It was believed this would be a big battle over the next twelve months in Ohio. The board had discussion about this issue, as it could move to Illinois in the future.

*USGC* - To help with educating elevator managers about their individual end uses, the board decided to invite some of them to participate in the USGC meeting. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the USGC, and the board granted funding toward a celebration of this momentous occasion.

## 2009-2010

A new change in board policy was adopted to offer an additional allowance for communication reimbursement for directors having the ability to send and receive emails on their cell phone. With changes in IRS rules in regard to the 990 Income Tax Form, the board adopted policy for the Audit Committee to review the organization's Federal 990 Income Tax Exempt Form each year while providing copies to all board members. This change also brought about the need to adopt the "whistleblower policy" and a "conflict of interest policy" which are signed by board members.

A project to improve perceptions of influencers in Illinois was identified through IFB. This effort was to try to determine the correct words to use in promoting our business as well as the words to avoid. Along with IFB, other commodity organizations working with this program were ISA, IBA, ICGA, ICMB and IPPA. As the program was further developed, it became the "Farmer Image Program". To help with the program, the board approved funding to support new Ag programming on WTVF in Peoria and for Pam Fretwell in syndicated radio programs which were designed to reach farm audiences while allowing messaging in other programs. In 2011, the name for the Farmer Image Program became "Illinois Farm Families". ICMB approved funding for developing brochures as a recruitment tool to get those interested involved in being a spokesperson for agriculture. Morgan and Meyer were an outside source working out the details of the program. Donna Jeschke participated in this program, and the field moms visited her farm.



ICMB officers Larry Hasheider, Kent Kleinschmidt, Scott Stirling, Bill Christ in front of the sign at the Corn Crib



Picture of the Field Moms visiting Donna and Paul Jeschke's farm. Paul and Donna are pictured in the back row, second and third from the right.

Another program funded in 2011 was called “Bridging the Gap between Consumers & the Farm” which was a six-month sponsorship with Farm Journal Media. The Corn Ag Mag was completed, for the first time being functional on Smart Board technology. In 2011, Illinois Farm Families began taking applications from moms interested in taking farm tours with the intent for them to go back and write about their experience on their blog. By educating these non-farm moms, they could be talking about what they had learned through this program. Another program initiated was called “Farmers Feed Us” in which consumers could sign up on the web site for free groceries by answering some trivia questions. Results of this program indicated about 15,000 consumers had subscribed to get more information and about 75,000 signed up for free groceries.

As noted in the ICGA section of this document, a new form of communication, called social media, came on the scene at this point in time. ICMB approved funding for social media customized training with Michelle Payn-Knoper. This training was for Illinois Corn staff to identify and build social media tools to expand the awareness of Illinois Corn contributions among key influencers. In subsequent years, social media interns were hired each semester, with one being a video intern who worked in the office and others working in the field. In 2011, the results revealed that the social media interns working in the field had quite a following with one person having 17,021 fans and another 12,009 followers and 4,000 fans. This was a good indication that consumers were now getting their information from Facebook instead of reading their newspapers. Results in 2013 showed a total of 62+ interns had been hired over the life of the program. This program continued to be funded up through the present time with the same type of results.

Another project to which the board committed funding was in regard to what was called the food deserts of Chicago – a community identified that consumed only ½ pound of vegetables per year. This project was called the “Urban Fresh Produce” project which was to produce and supply fresh vegetables from spring 2010 through fall 2010. Monsanto provided funding to cover critical expenses for production of fresh produce, and ICMB funded the cost for four interns to manage the vegetable plots day to day. Kineo, a public relations firm who had done a lot of work for Monsanto, was currently developing a communication program to target key stakeholders. The program had to be put on hold in 2011 but continued again in 2012 with two new partners which were faith related organizations that could help with distribution of the food.



Picture of the food deserts project

The number one hot topic noted at this time was cap and trade. The Supreme Court decision giving EPA the right to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> was driving this issue, and it was indicated it was not likely we would see any cap-and-trade legislation in 2010. Staff put together a one-page information sheet, as there was a need to make producers understand why it was important we were at the table to negotiate a Climate Change Bill.

*Farm Bill* - The board approved funding for a group from the U of I called iFAR for Phase One, Two and Three on their project “Farm Bill 2012: Preparing Illinois Corn Growers for Evaluating Alternatives”.

*Livestock* - Funding was approved to produce an “Illinois Competitive Advantage Beef” brochure, a Classroom Livestock Care Ag Mag, and for creating a Corn Ag Mag with a similar digital format. It was also approved to upgrade the Nutritional Manual for Beef Cattle through the National Academy of Science. Some projects funded in the DDGS area included coordination of a DDGS Workshop for Illinois agriculture and the Illinois ethanol industry, a project to focus on higher value DDGS from fractionation technologies through the U of I in cooperation with the National Pork Board, and a project to screen for mycotoxins in DDGS through NCERC.

The Past Director event this year was held for the first time at the Corn Crib.

USGC - A new CEO was hired following the retirement of Ken Hobbie.



Pictured are Tim Lenz and Stephanie and Rob Elliott with the baseball field in the background

A tent was set up near the entrance for hosting the Past Director event

### *Highlights from Jim Rapp*

Jim received a letter from the state office announcing an opening in the ICGA District 4 and happened to be outside and saw his neighbor Denny Denton putting up a Pioneer sign. Denny encouraged him to get involved. He had to complete petitions because he couldn't make it to the meeting but is so glad, he took the chance. In Jim's words, "It has been a tremendous opportunity for me to serve on both boards."

After completing two terms on the ICGA, an opportunity became available for him to get involved in the ICMB when the director from his district stepped down in the middle of his term. Jim felt the ICMB suited his nature better and applied and was appointed to the opening. As far as personal growth, being involved in the Illinois Corn organizations has opened his eyes and his



Jim Rapp



Jim at an event in DC in 2013

world up immensely. He stated, “You learn about what is going on in agriculture, many of those things that the average farmer doesn’t have a clue as to what is going on in the world.” Jim likes to think he has a better handle on it now.

Ethanol came into the forefront and Jim believes this was the greatest rural development thing in the Midwest in fifty years. As Jim stated, “It has certainly made a difference in the income position of farmers and the amount of corn used. The production and use of ethanol has opened up corn farming and agriculture by leaps and bounds. When Jim was a young farmer and first heard about ICGA, a neighbor of his by the name of Bill Fordham got him to sell memberships. Then for quite a while he was not involved. He went to the Ethanol Rally in Peoria in 1992.

Jim has participated in three or four overseas missions which have been very educational. During one mission, Illinois and Iowa Corn did a joint venture and put together a company called NOVECTA to do work for identity preserved crops. They thought this would be a good way to keep GMO and non-GMO corn separated. So, they made a trip to Japan and that was a long flight. Besides himself, there were two people from Iowa and another from Illinois, with a total of six going. Then from involvement with USGC, Jim got to go to Morocco and Egypt. As Jim noted, “Dr. Solomon was developing markets for corn in feeding water buffalo, and that was a real eye opener to see what the world is like, especially in Egypt. It is a shame Egypt is in such chaos now.”

Another special project that came along during Jim’s term in office came about because a group in Bloomington-Normal wanted to get a minor league baseball team in the community. The name selected for the team was the CornBelts because the area is in the middle of the Corn Belt. They came to Corn Growers to see if they would be interested in participating. As Jim stated, “This sounds like a long shot, but ICMB had done some work on farmer imaging and realized there were a lot of people right in this area that didn’t have a good understanding about agriculture. So the board thought it would be a good opportunity to educate the community as to what farmers are like. Signage was put up to get the message out both during the games and on a billboard out by the highway.” This all began while Jim was chairman of ICMB, and he had the opportunity

to throw out the first pitch at the first game. Even though the moment was a little embarrassing because the ball bounced before it hit home plate, this is something that he will never forget.

Because of his involvement with the Illinois Corn organizations,, Jim has met so many great people across Illinois and made so many good friends on a national level. He feels very fortunate in having a lot of people that he can call his friend. As he noted, "All the way around, this has been a great experience." Jim was fortunate to have many trade teams visit his farm and that has always been fun, even though his boys might not have been happy that they had to clean up things to get ready. Jim stated that he thinks the Illinois Corn staff is the best there is, all the way around.



Jim speaking at announcement of the Corn Crib for the Normal baseball team



Jim throwing out the first pitch at opening night for the Normal CornBelters

## 2010-11



Board members with a couple of staff: back row: Tom Mueller, Jim Raben, Jim Robbins, Jim Rapp, Leon Corzine, Kent Kleinschmidt, Ron Gray, Larry Hasheider; front row: Rodney Weinzierl, John Shore, Donna Jeschke, Bill Christ, Scott Stirling, Gary Schmalshof, Lou Lamoreux, Ann Hodgson

Both the ICMB and ICGA boards voted to adopt one logo for the organizations, using the new ICMB logo.

During this year, it was noted that carryout stocks were tight so there would more than likely be a lot of talk about food prices and whether there was enough corn. A cooperative program funded with ISA and other commodity organizations was a program called Farmers Feed Us Campaign.

In addition, a project to evaluate the proposed regulations on agriculture, as well as the cost should the regulations move forward, was funded. This proposal would look at a broad spectrum to determine what the cost would be to Illinois corn farmers.

*Communication* - A media outreach program was funded with Jim Pendergast to improve our knowledge about talking with the correct people to better position a story. In addition, funding was committed for a profile series on the Discovery Channel and Bravo. This was a one-time shot, but the board was able to create their own footage to get their message out. Another project approved was a one-time commitment to the Communications Endowed Chair at the U of I. A new kind of innovative exhibit, designed as an attention grabber to bring people into your display, was developed. This exhibit was a free standing 54" x 47" plexiglass display that included a projector to show a video. This new exhibit was first used at the Farm Progress Show.

*Crop Insurance* - Finally, by 2011 our yield trend endorsement product had been accepted and was available for the 2012 crop year. Also, RMA finished their actuarial table and started making some adjustments on their base rates. In 2012 the RMA came out with a change in the rating methodology and the base rates for corn and soybeans were to go down in Illinois. It was pointed out that the Yield Trend Endorsement was based on a county yield, not an individual farm yield. Funding was committed to educate Illinois and U.S. farmers about the new crop insurance options (yield trend endorsement product). A post card was sent out as well as placing a number of ads in *FarmWeek*, *IL Agri-News*, and *Iowa Farm and World* on the yield trend endorsement product. The foresight of the ICGA and ICMB boards in developing this product marked a huge success for Illinois Corn.

*DDGS* - Marquis Energy signed a memorandum of understanding on DDG's and is shipping them by water, noting that with low ethanol prices, shipping DDGS would help keep the plant afloat.

*Research* - Funding was approved for a proposal to co-locate the U of I Processing Facility into the Agricultural Bioprocess Laboratory Pilot-Plant with the stipulation that the funding be used on research for corn. This was to enable re-equipment for the bioprocess lab to move corn to an advanced biofuel. Another project funded through NCERC was called "Quality of Eggs Impacted by Feeding DDGS to Layers" and it was noted that if the hypotheses could actually be documented, then we would have a real argument on the food versus feed issue. Other states committing funding were Georgia, Iowa and Indiana.

*National Cooperators* - NCGA and USGC began to share an office building in DC during this year. Associated with that move were some extra costs, and the board approved additional funding to both USGC and NCGA to help with those costs for co-locating.

Funding was committed for a leadership training program designed especially for officers but available to the entire board with the intent to also offer it to ICGA. Donna Jeschke and Marla Hasheider participated in the leadership training program and felt it was worthwhile.

## 2011-12

Changes for the election process to the board relative to the date petitions are made available and the number of signatures which are required to get a name on the ballot again came up for discussion. It was noted that these changes would have to be done by a referendum following the same procedures that we had just gone through with increasing the rate. The board had previously voted to change the petition availability date from March 1 to November 15-April 1, but in 2012 it was decided not to press the issue. In the past few years, the IDA had worked with us and began getting the petitions to incumbents in time for using at winter meetings. In regard to signatures on the petition, the board voted against changing the requirement from 200 or 2 percent of the eligible producers in the district to 50 or 2 percent, whichever was less. It was the feeling of the board that keeping the number of signatures at the present level yielded better qualified board members.

In June of 2012, the board had voted to increase their reserve to \$1 million. However, because of the drought experienced that year, it was later decided to move the board reserve back to \$500,000. Because of the drought experienced during 2012, the board had some budget dilemmas to solve with less income, especially since they had allowed for additional funding to be created by the increased checkoff rate. Therefore, to be fiscally responsible, the board decided they needed to cut their funding to national cooperators and ICGA.

A bridge infrastructure study was done by the state and in reviewing that study, Phil Thornton and Jim Tarmann identified thirteen bridges they wanted to look at for determining further action steps. They indicated they would try to narrow this down to five or six to start working with legislators for a fix.

*Livestock* – Additional funding was committed toward cooperator groups for programs as follows: USMEF for an additional program promoting new cuts of US meat in Japan, USAPEEC for an additional program in the South Pacific region promoting U.S. poultry, and production of turkey and pork brochures to promote investment and expansion in those industries in Illinois, similar to the beef brochure. Because DDG's were changing, a project on monitoring DDGS for fat, protein, moisture and fiber was funded to assist livestock farmers to continue to feed DDGS in the most economical manner. A new program in which the board partnered with IPPA was a "Da Burger" pork promotion, which was done at the Corn Crib Stadium in Normal. Now "Da Burger" is a regular staple at the stadium and has proved to be a good promotion. For the 2014 year, a special fall retail promotion was funded to be done in the Chicagoland area.

*Farm Bill* - There was a 50-50 chance of having a farm bill in 2012 but should one pass, it was likely it would be a farm bill without direct payments. It was noted that an effort would be made to try to build on the ARC or the ARRM proposals in moving forward toward negotiating a bill. As of the end of 2013, there was still no farm bill to come out of Congress.

*Crop insurance* - It was noted that we were working with Congressman Schilling to insert an amendment to give RMA the authority to approve a farmer savings account if it's justified within their system. Because of the drought in 2012, a lot of problems surfaced with aflatoxin in some areas. A great deal of time was spent on crop insurance. In Illinois, about 20 percent of the acres were not insured, 20 percent were under insured, and the remaining 60 percent were equally insured. With a

drought comes the obvious issues with food and fuel, and we saw a push on the RFS II which really heated up in the beginning of 2014. This brought up the question whether RMA would institute the balance of the re-ratings that we were promised.

## 2012-2013



Board members - front row: Tom Mueller, Jim Raben, Kent Kleinschmidt, Bill Long, Jim Rapp, Scott Stirling; back row: Don Murphy, Paul Jeschke, John Shore, Lou Lamoreux, Don Duvall, Glenn Ginder, Gary Schmalshof, Bill Christ

Yet another new communication tool for which the board approved funding was running ads at movie theaters which helped to promote trust between farmers and the consumers of Illinois. This program had a 14-week run in the Chicago area and a 14-day run in some downstate theaters. Instead of being a television spot, these ads were more like digital photos with a voice over. We got 1.3 million impressions from the ads. A new set of ads started on July 26, which included some additional movie theaters for the same cost.

To fulfill the commitment made during the referendum campaign in 2012 to improve the farmer image, ICMB approved funding for a Chicago and Springfield-based advertising campaign. This program was to improve the relationship between farmers, both corn and livestock, and influential customers.

*IL Farm Families* – An update on this program, which ICMB continued to fund, noted in 2013 the program included a group of thirty Chicago moms. In addition, an invitation for the farm tours was issued to some high-profile moms who work in TV or radio. Paul Taylor and Donna Jeschke were to be involved in the farm tours to be moderators and help answer questions. However, the tour to Paul Taylor's farm in June got shut down by Del Monte Corporation. Therefore, Paul worked on some other avenues through Del Monte. The next tour was held on July 27 at the Drindle Dairy Farm. In addition, funding was approved to support a food bank donation by Chicago-area moms in recognition of the value of an acre of corn raised in the Illinois Farm Families Mom's Acre program.

*Trade Agreements* – It was noted that the new term for trade agreements was Transpacific Partnership. It was expected that negotiations would take place throughout 2013 with final approval into 2014. This probably won't happen until after mid-term elections in November of 2014.

*Farm Bill* - The Task Force, being chaired by Bill Christ began meeting again with other members from ICMB being Lou Lamoreux, Tom Mueller and Bill Long. A senator from Arizona and one from Tennessee suggested going back to the 2002 farm bill levels on crop insurance. It was noted that crop insurance participation was not very good until 2002, but right now there seemed to be more targeting of crop insurance. FARMDOC, as well as FarmWeek, showed crop payments for a lot of counties that got above \$1,000. It was noted the loss ratio in Illinois for corn would probably end up at over 3.0, making crop insurance a bigger and bigger target. It was further noted that crop insurance is permanent law so unless a change happened in 2013, direct payments would most likely come in October.

Work with existing cooperators and customers - Following a meeting with the Port of Charleston in South Carolina, Phil Thornton shared their goals of building an inland port and servicing several new states that hadn't typically used the Port of Charleston. This represents a new market opportunity for Illinois.

*Livestock* - Nic Anderson from ILDG reported that ILDG was very upbeat about the cattle industry in the state of Illinois with a lot of profit potential coming from new barns being constructed. A lot of the expansion in the cattle industry was under the 300 head limit, meaning they didn't qualify under CAFO. The cattle feeding industry seemed to be moving back to where corn and DDG's were being produced, and the Illinois climate seemed to be more conducive for people from California to get back into Illinois. It also seemed to be apparent that Illinois had the best milk prices in the nation. A couple of projects that were approved for funding included a 2014 ILDG grant to help smaller livestock farmers with engineering plans and an IBA Nutrient Requirements project for beef cattle and youth programming. A new livestock program funded was for the Illinois Milk Producers Association (IMPA) Dairy Days-2014.

*Safety on the Farm* - Phil Thornton identified the need for developing a web-based resource to identify where the grain tube rescue tubes were located. This would be a GPS based system so that local safety professionals could easily find the closest tube. In addition, it was hoped to do more safety training with local fire departments and other emergency personnel. To help with this effort, funding was approved for grain tube location resources and other training to improve grain bin safety on the farm.

*DDGS* - The WIU Website hosted information about the nutritional content of DDGS from various ethanol plants around the state. NCERC does the testing, and WIU hosts the website. NCERC proposed changing the program so that they would host the site in the future, reincorporating it into their newly designed site. ICMB's investment would help to cover the cost of the testing of DDGS.

*Costs of Regulations* - ICMB committed funding to verify work done by RCF Consulting on the costs of regulations to growers. To make farmers aware of the information learned in regard to these costs, a full-page ad was run in FarmWeek, as well as sending out a postcard to farmers.

*NCGA* - Genome Mapping was a project through NCGA using the Los Alamos method for genotyping, which was much faster than the Monsanto and Pioneer methods. It was noted this method would be a public program that smaller companies could utilize as well. NCGA would have the exclusive license for the technology. The program was going to be non-profit, except for the arm of the company that was making and selling kits.



Board members - front row: Jim Raben, Tom Mueller, Larry Hasheider, Kent Kleinschmidt, Jim Rapp, Lou Lamoreux;  
back row: Don Duvall, Glenn Ginder, Paul Jeschke, Don Murphy, Bill Long, Bill Christ, Roger Sy, Dan Cole

TRADE MISSIONS - The ICMB Board funded a number of trade missions during this decade. Following is a list of some of the missions and those who participated in them.

2004	Paid for Richard Guebert (V.P. of IFB) John Sharp (IA GIPSA Administrator) Ken Kindler Jim Rapp and Larry Keene (Growmark) Jim Robbins	USMEF Asian Market Expo - Tokyo, Beijing and Japan Japanese Value Enhanced Conference  IFB Market Study Mission to Japan Japan  USGC GEM mission
2005	Rod Weinzierl  Ron Gray, Tim Seifert, Steve Ruh, Bryan Fogerson, Jim Rapp, Phil Thornton & Charlyn Fargo (media)	USGC, USMEF & USAEPEEC - State Exec Director Mission to Europe (Amsterdam, Brussels, Poland and Switzerland) West Texas

Pictured are Ron Gray, Steve Ruh, Jim Rapp,  
and Bryan Fogerson who participated in the  
Texas mission



2006	Scott Stirling Tim Seifert & Phil Thornton 10 elevator representatives Ron Gray & Phil Thornton	Mission to Morocco and Egypt Guadalajara, Mexico
2007	Donna Jeschke & Kent Kleinschmidt Donna Jeschke	Tokyo Trader's Group to China
2008	Larry Hasheider, & Scott Stirling	Brazil



Pictured in Brazil are Larry Hasheider, Jim Tarmann, person from Brazil, Ken Greene and Scott Stirling

	Jim Tarmann, & Ken Greene Gary Schmalshof, Jim Rapp & Phil Thornton	Trader's Group to Vietnam
2009	Donna and Paul Jeschke Scott Stirling, Dan Cole (ICGA) Phil Thornton Bill Christ, Phil Thornton, Paul Taylor & Mark Degler Larry Hasheider & Len Corzine	Sweden Mission on biofuels Texas - (with IL, IA, NE) Virginia (with IL, OH, IN) Panama (with IL and IA) Trader's Group to China
2010	Jim Rapp & Kent Kleinschmidt Rod Weinzierl	Mexico (with NE and IA) State Exec Director Mission to Ukraine
2011	Larry Hasheider	Japan and Taiwan
2012	Jim Raben, Lou Lamoreux, Don Duvall, & Paul Taylor Phil Thornton, Bill Long, Kent Kleinschmidt, Glenn Ginder & Richard Gates Jim Rapp & Eric Kunzeman Lou Lamoreux	Panama  Texas
2013	Paul Jeschke & Glenn Ginder	EU - Netherlands, Germany, and Hungary USMEF Mission to Seoul, Korea USGC Mission to Japan and Korea



Overseas mission with Gary Schmalshof in center of front row



Gary Schmalshof pictured second from left on an overseas mission



Ron Gray on a mission in China



Pictured are Glenn Ginder, Richard Gates, Kent Kleinschmidt, Lindsay Mitchell



Behind the sign are Glenn Ginder, Richard Gates, two unidentified people, Kent Kleinschmidt



## *Chapter Six*

### **2012-2022**

#### *Highlights from Randy DeSutter*

Randy DeSutter of Woodhull, IL initially began serving on the ICGA board in November of 2012. He has very distinct memories of wanting to do more to help improve the lot of corn farmers and increase the stability of the industry in the wake of a major drought that year.

He was amongst those hit by the historic drought of 1988 too. It became abundantly clear how important strong programming and strategic legislation - like that pursued by Illinois Corn Growers Association - was to position farmers to make the best of the good years and survive the tough ones.

The critical connection between the checkoff program and the fortunes of ICGA and National Corn Growers Association was also driven home by a reduced crop size and cuts in farmers income. But DeSutter feels the organization has done a good job of developing quality programs and keeping them growing through good fiscal management and developing strong partnerships.



During the drought of 2012, corn yields in Illinois were decreased by about 50 percent, which in turn decreased checkoff income by about 50 percent. The IL Corn Marketing Board was forced to significantly lower funding to partners and projects to compensate.

He points out the Precision Conservation Management (PCM) program as a good example he saw developed during his early years on the ICGA board. Building PCM became a defining moment for the organization, DeSutter says, because it put a spotlight on an issue of concern to both the Ag community and the public alike.

“During this time there was real concern about the effects of nutrient losses. By taking the initiative ICGA helped set the tone and direction on this important issue. We began to collect significant data to show nutrient management can make Illinois farms more profitable,” DeSutter said. “At the same time, we positioned ourselves as being proactive in meeting growing public concern related to conservation and nutrient management.”

“We’ve doubled the number of acres in the program and the number of counties involved, and we were glad to welcome Illinois Soybean Association to the program. The goal is really simple; do more with less and maintain a strong viable farm businesses doing it,” DeSutter said.



Members of the Precision Conservation Management team pose at the 2019 Farm Progress Show. Pictured L-R: Shane Sinclair, Dave Fulton, Collin Roemer, and Travis Deppe.



Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Cheri Bustos held a news conference to celebrate Lock 25 on the Mississippi River receiving full funding in January 2022. L-R: Colonel Jesse T. Curry, District Commander; Marty Marr, ICGA President; Senator Durbin; Rep. Bustos; Gary Perniar, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council.

DeSutter chuckles when asked about working to modernize the locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River. Like everyone who has been involved with ICGA for the last 20 years, river infrastructure has been a priority issue.

“Modern locks and dams are critical to our competitiveness and economic future. Thankfully, we have had successes along the way which has kept the membership engaged. I’m proud that we have had such a clear vision on what farmers need and the tenacity to reach our goals,” he said. “We stuck with our principles even though the public doesn’t appreciate the importance of transportation infrastructure. And as a result, we had a major funding victory in 2022.”

Sometimes ICGA goes to Washington DC to reconnect and keep lines of communications open with elected officials, agencies, think tanks, embassies and industry partners. DeSutter notes, other times you go on a mission with a serious ask on issues like ethanol, locks and dams or a farm bill, that can change the short or long-term direction and success of the industry.



A farm bill that works is important for all Illinois farmers, so farm bill program advocacy is a consistent priority for IL Corn. In 2017 at the Farm Progress Show, farmers were able to hold up their choice of many signs advocating for different aspects of the new farm bill and sign their name to the bottom. The photos were posted on social accounts with relevant elected officials tagged.

“Every farm bill has that potential critical nature and sometimes trade legislation does too. During my tenure as president a small team that included myself, Jim Tarmann and Mark Bunselmeyer made the trip to DC to work on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This bill opened doors to increased corn and soybean sales to Mexico and Canada at a time when we really needed the markets,” DeSutter remembers.



In the fall of 2019, ICGA was working hard to push the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement for trade over the finish line. A small delegation went to work in Washington, DC making one last plea for final passage of the bill. L-R: Jim Tarmann, Congressman Bill Foster, Mark Bunselmeyer, Randy DeSutter

“We were all over Capitol Hill and met with the entire Illinois delegation. When the smoke cleared, all but one person voted for the bill, including Rep. Jan Schakowsky, who had never voted for a pro-trade bill. The victory super-charged our markets,” he said. “One thing I know is that the world changes, but one constant is farmers wake up every morning needing strong markets here and overseas. ICGA never loses sight of that.”

### *Highlights from Roger Sy*

Roger Sy’s introduction to Illinois Corn was much like a running leap off a cliff, with his first meeting being the Commodity Classic in Long Beach, CA. He joined ICGA to support his friend and neighbor Susie Harbaugh in her run for the board. Little did he know that his commitment to a friend would translate into 26 years of commitment to Illinois Corn Growers Association and Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

“In my early years corn supplies were outstripping markets and killing prices,” Sy said. “I ended up in a photo on the front of the 2004 ICGA annual report standing in a pile of corn that had been dumped on the football field at my old high school. The pile was taller than the goal posts.” Sy said.

Fast forward to today and Illinois is the nation’s top corn exporting state and shipped over a billion bushels of corn out of state in 2021 – most of it destined for overseas markets.

“Supply issues aren’t going to go away but they just aren’t as persistent as they were even a decade ago,” he said. “Yields have grown substantially but so have our market development efforts.”

Closer to home, Sy says, consumer education is one of his favorite activities. ICMB efforts, big and small, make a difference in the future economic health of farms and how farmers go about their business.

“We’ve made huge gains in bringing the public up to speed on how we farm today. Our farming practices are greener and the varied products we provide have never been so essential,” he said. “Captain Cornelius education efforts, DC initiatives like Corn Farmers Coalition, ethanol education via NASCAR and Crappie Masters, and Illinois Runs on Home Grown Corn keep our message in front of the public.”

Sy said he also finds it satisfying that Illinois Corn has had commercials during football’s big game the last two years. “These projects totally changed the way we message consumers and we’ve made huge gains in public awareness as a result.”



Donna Jeschke, ICMB Chairwoman in 2008, waves the green flag during a July 2012 NASCAR race in Joliet, Illinois. The Illinois Corn Marketing Board sponsored NASCAR in partnership with many other state checkoff associates and the National Corn Growers Association from 2010-2014.



The first regional Superbowl ad from IL Corn featured Brett and Krista Swanson and their family from Oneida, IL, a shorter clip of the brand anthem video produced by IL Corn in 2019. The ad aired in February 2020.

One of Sy's fondest memories is working with Congressman John Shimkus to make the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center (NCERC) a reality and getting it located at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Illinois.

"NCERC was completed in 2003, the year I was ICGA president. I still have a photo from the opening with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and John Shimkus touring the building," he said. "It was a good chance to let them see the facility, see the potential of specific projects, and reinforce why growing the ethanol market is important."

Sy notes that COVID19 also proved to be an important issue during his ICMB leadership. Illinois Corn filled an important role on several fronts including: being a conduit of information to farmers on staying safe while getting the job done during a pandemic; assuring consumers farmers were still in the trenches providing food; and providing ethanol-based hand sanitizer to Ag retailers, implement dealers, grain elevators and other frontline ag workers to help get the 2020 crop in the ground.

"Throughout the pandemic, we provided information about food safety and the expectation of food delivery remaining constant," he said. "We've also capitalized on people spending more time at home and online by sharing virtual farm tours."

*"The thing I wasn't prepared for was the pull Corn Growers had politically at the county, state and national level," Roger Sy said. "I was a total rookie involved in very little political activity, but once I saw how public officials and elected leaders listened to us, I was sold. This ability to be heard and carry my neighbor's message is an honor and a serious responsibility. I immediately began working to get to know my elected officials better. It's usually a positive experience but political and industry leaders are not beyond reproach. ICGA is not afraid to take people to the mat."*



During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21, the stay-at-home orders caused transportation to halt. The ethanol industry felt the overnight drop in demand for fuel. IL Corn helped some Illinois ethanol plants transition their ethanol production to hand sanitizer production by purchasing several pallets and distributing them to ag retailers and other front line workers during planting season 2020. Pictured: Marty Marr and Joe Ratliff, Bartlett Grain in Jacksonville, IL.



In the early 2010s, IL Corn was just beginning to understand what would be required from farmers as the conservation and climate movement progressed. Mike Plumer spent most of his career as a University of Illinois Extension educator, serving on the ICGA board as an ex-officio member for many years in that capacity. He was an early no-till adopter and researcher, so after his retirement, he lent his expertise to IL Corn as they began to build new programming in the conservation area.

News articles, member letters, postcards, social media and educational sessions were a part of spreading the word, but water testing was key to getting the job done. Hartman notes ICGA partnered with the Council on Best Management Practices conducting hundreds of water tests across the state, including doing water testing at the Farm Progress Show for members.

### *Highlights from Kenny Hartman*

Farmers' affinity for healthy soil and clean water has been well documented over the years but with time, knowledge, and technology, the definition of "success" evolves according to Kenny Hartman. That's why growing awareness of a need for better nutrient management was a hot issue in 2015 during Hartman's presidency.

ICGA moved assertively to make water quality a marquis initiative with the hiring of Dr. Laura Gentry and the formal launch of the Precision Conservation Management program. PCM rapidly became a high-profile success that was recognized by USDA NRCS as being one of the best programs of its kind in the country. Hartman notes. He is particularly proud of the strong support from farmers and companies who share ICGA's goals like PepsiCo.

"Emerging science showed we could do more to improve water quality and we had the best management practices like no-till and cover crops to get the job done in a way that made economic sense," Hartman said. "Doing less tillage and maintaining or growing farmer income is easy for us to support. And we have the data to show conservation gains, so the public supports it too."

“Not only did we spread the gospel of nutrient loss reduction, but we also provided local and regional water-quality data, so farmers knew what needed to be done,” Hartman said. “Research supported by Illinois Corn Marketing Board studied watersheds and resulted in tons of water flow monitoring.”

The other big grassroots victory during Hartman’s presidency was a broad membership effort to fight off proposed cuts to crop insurance in the farm bill negotiations.

“There was an effort to cut \$3 billion dollars from crop insurance and ICGA launched heavy lobbying to head this effort off,” he recalls. “Our message was pretty simple; crop insurance is too important to farmer’s financial success and Ag had taken more than its share of cuts already.”



*“The best part of being a leader is the great friendships and relationships you build, and then being able to use them to make a difference for growers now and in the next generation,”*

*Hartman said.*

*“We don’t talk about it a lot, but giving our kids an opportunity to farm is a driver in a lot of things we do.”*

Since 2015 and the implementation of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, IL Corn has mailed thousands of postcards to farmer members, encouraging them to rethink their nitrogen application strategy, test the water running on or around their farms, plant cover crops, participate in educational sessions, and complete other actions to mitigate nutrient loss and decrease their environmental footprint.

Kenny Hartman served as chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board from 2003-2004 as President of the Illinois Corn Growers Association in 2015, and is currently on the National Corn Growers Association Board of Directors. His dedication to the work of these associations and the drive to build an ag economy for the next generation is evident. Pictured L-R: Mike Homerding, Congressman Bill Foster, Kenny Hartman, Jim Reed in Washington, DC in 2015.



Hartman says he is also proud of the work ICGA did to develop a new funding mechanism to deal with the backlog of key Army Corps Projects for locks and dams. The effort created a 45% increase (9 cents a gallon, to the existing fuel tax of 20 cents/gallon).

“We worked for four years to get this Capitol Development plan in place so the Army Corp of Engineers could prioritize and tackle work that needed to be done to head off any failures in the system. It led to the completion of the Olmstead Lock in 2018,” he said. “It says a lot that this was needed badly enough that the barge industry supported taxing themselves.”

Hartman dealt with ethanol on several fronts including working to pass an E15 sales tax credit at the state level. The goal was to transfer a portion of the E10 tax credit to build demand for E15. ICGA also lobbied U.S. EPA and the administration regarding proposed restrictions in RFS II ethanol volumes.

“We had a high-profile rally in Washington, DC on RFS II, and another in Kansas City. We weren’t successful, but we set the stage for the leaders coming behind us. It’s amazing how far we have come but you need to stand back to see it. There have been many clear victories. It’s like climbing a ladder. Ethanol and river transportation are great examples. You pull yourself up one rung at a time, but always getting closer to your goal.”



Illinois corn farmers have a long history of promoting renewable fuel sources over petroleum fuel – especially imported petroleum fuel. This rally in July 2015 near the nation’s capital featured an address from Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth and comments from National Corn Growers Association President Martin Barbre from Carmi, IL while farmers held signs and called “American Bushels not Foreign Barrels.”



Leadership from the Illinois Corn Growers Association met with the members of the Illinois delegation in March and July of each year during their regularly scheduled Washington, DC Fly-Ins during this decade. Other meetings happened in district throughout the year as well. Each time, the corn farmers advocated for lock funding and farm bill programs, which changed throughout the decade but almost always included crop insurance, revenue based safety nets, and trade program funding. Pictured L-R: Randy DeSutter, Tom Mueller, Cong. Bustos, Kate Danner, Aron Carlson.

### *Highlights from Aron Carlson*

Policy development and management were front and center for Winnebago farmer Aron Carlson during his term as president because it coincided with the final months of writing a new farm bill. He made many lobbying trips to Washington, DC, one of which was out and back in 24 hours.

“When you have meetings with the House and Senate Ag Committees and a large chunk of the Illinois Congressional delegation, it makes for a very long day,” he said, “but it’s time well spent when you are working on issues like WOTUS, risk management and ethanol, that can have such an impact on our farms.”

Waters of the US or WOTUS proved to be a big topic as efforts were afoot the change the Clean Water Act. The environmentally responsible regulations that brought clarity to clean water efforts and provided the consistency, timeliness, and transparency critical to running a farm business were at risk, Carlson said.

“The proposed rule change gave the federal government the ability to regulate ditches, ephemeral drainages or low spots on farmlands and pastures. It could literally turn a ditch into a waterway with a big rain event,” he said. “Simple activities would have been more regulated, permitting times longer and costs greater for farmers. This was a big win.”

On the ethanol front the growing number of small refinery waivers were hurting ethanol sales and corn demand. Illinois worked with NCGA and a few other states to re-score the carbon footprint of ethanol, Carlson recalls. The information used to assess ethanol’s environmental benefits was outdated and inaccurate.

“The waivers were handcuffing market growth in the industry and corn prices were taking a hit,” he said. “Our job was to encourage scientists to provide relevant data from state-of-the-art research, document ethanol’s true environmental benefits and change the discussion.”

Carlson also has strong feelings about making sure that state policy development and Corn Congress get their due in the history of the organization. The policy effort can be tedious, but it is critical to capture input from the grassroots members. Policy ideas come from the county level, are debated and refined at the state level, and finally gets broader perspective and goes through vetting at the national level at NCGA Corn Congress.



During corn congress 2020, Terry Smith of Clayton, IL stood up to speak in favor of a policy that supported the enactment of a low carbon, high octane fuel standard that removed regulatory and legislative barriers for higher blends of ethanol. This policy was one of several that set the stage for NCGA and IL Corn to support the Next Generation Fuels Act in the early 2020s.

“Policy can be tedious work. But the process works and means we are well prepared for the issues we lobby in DC,” Carlson said. “It becomes difficult for an elected official to ignore a well thought out position that represents the best interests of the Congressional District or state when they know the farmer in front of them has the power of thousands of farmers behind him. It changes the game, and that’s especially true when the message is carried by a constituent who took time to travel to Washington, DC.”

Carlson said it was the crucial need for farmers to stay on top of policy and build future leaders that led to ICGA launching its FFA leaders to Washington, DC program that began in 2017.



IL Corn began sponsoring an FFA student leader to Washington, DC program in 2016. The program gives these future agricultural leaders an opportunity to expand their ag literacy training and begin to understand the ag advocacy world. Pictured here, the FFA team in 2017 met and took photos with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in the USDA cafeteria.

“When we began inviting FFA leaders to join us in Washington DC, we thought it was important for them to see how policy works, to see they have direct access to elected officials and that their voice matters.” Carlson said. “We need to assure future generations understand the importance of farmers carrying the message and taking the time to engage. It’s refreshing to hear their point of view and to see them get motivated. Its also not bad see them impress legislators and let them know the industry has a future.”

During Carlson’s presidency another historic development was the ending of the longstanding management services contract between ICGA and Illinois Farm Bureau and a shift to an independent management services agreement.

“The agreement was in place since 1982 so it is a significant change. There is less integration and structure in communications between IFB and ICGA, as well as other Illinois commodity groups effected by the change,” Carlson said. “It’s part of the evolution of the organization, and it requires us to be more purposeful in our interactions.”

*“Getting involved in ICGA was an awakening really. I was familiar with some of the issues corn growers face of course but the depth of ICGA’s involvement, the scope of what they were doing, made my head spin. It became obvious right away we were facing a lot of challenges. ICGA tackled those issues but at the same time was proactively looking for opportunities to improve our family businesses.” – Aron Carlson*

### *Highlights from Paul Jeschke*

Ethanol continued to be a tremendous success story in the last decade as its track record of grinding corn and boosting corn prices remained unbroken. However, repositioning the fuel for future growth may be the big story of Paul Jeschke's long involvement with Illinois Corn.

The Mazon, IL farmer and recent chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB) cites efforts to make fuel pumps more compatible with higher blends of ethanol, ethanol exports, and the growing attention on ethanol as an aviation fuel as key steps in an anticipated new wave of ethanol use.

"ICMB has been working on testing and research of fuel dispensers to prove existing pumps can handle higher blends of ethanol," he said, "And if necessary, find or develop parts that are compatible. ICMB has invested a lot of time and checkoff dollars to get certification for fuel pumps and other infrastructure that can handle higher blends because it's critical to the future ethanol growth. Without corn farmers dedication to this it wouldn't have happened."

Jeschke credits Dave Loos, ICMB's Director of Biofuels and Research, for spearheading this initiative. He notes Loos played a key role in getting Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certification for Wayne pumps which made it possible to market fuel pumps capable of dispensing 25% ethanol (E25) and a recent upgrade with no changes to handle up to E40 blends.

"We believe car manufacturers want higher blends of ethanol to meet their octane goals and the infrastructure is now available to do that. Our work will affect the design and efficiency of cars for a long time to come. And that in turn will have major implications for the economy and environment, especially for farmers as it opens the door wider for ethanol. We've come a long way and the end is in sight for this hurdle of infrastructure being a limiting factor."



Paul Jeschke from Mazon, IL testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee in 2018. He was speaking about the 21st Century Transportation Fuels Act which would be introduced by Congressman John Shimkus in December 2018 that would have established a new high-octane fuel standard and allowed for consumers to fill up with higher blends of ethanol. Paul was joined by others representing the auto industry, the oil industry, and by Growth Energy.



In October 2015, the corn association members of the U.S. Grains Council asked them to add an ethanol export focus to their mission and the USGC agreed. In this photo, the 2019 Global Ethanol Summit brought fuel and energy experts from many different countries to the U.S. to better understand our industry and enjoy hands-on tours of U.S. farms and ethanol plants.

Work to open overseas markets to U.S. ethanol is another noteworthy accomplishment, Jeschke said. Checkoff investment in U.S. Grains Council created a significant market that didn't exist a decade ago.

"It took gentle and persistent engagement here and overseas to make it happen. There have been ups-and-downs, but the market is real. In the 2020/2021 marketing year, the United States exported 1.22 billion gallons (434 million bushels in corn equivalent)," Jeschke said. The long-term potential is important and to corn grower's future."

The growing interest in ethanol as a sustainable aviation fuel is another example of how opportunistic market development needs to be. Even five years ago nobody dreamed turning ethanol into jet fuel was a viable option. Now, Jeschke said, aviation fuel looks like a good avenue to boost ethanol use and expand corn grind in the future.

In December of 2021 a Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet operated by United Airlines made a historic flight from Chicago's O'Hare to Washington's Reagan National Airport with 115 people on board and a jet fuel made from ethanol in the tank. It was the first commercial flight with passengers on board to use 100% drop-in sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for one of the aircraft's two engines.

"ICMB was formed to explore new markets for corn, so exports are a fundamental part of Illinois Corn's story," Jeschke said. "Whether its corn, beef, pork, chicken, or eggs. That's why we have worked with groups like U.S. Grain Council, U.S. Meat Export Federation and U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council for decades."

### *U.S. Feed Grains Council Highlights*

- Successfully encouraging China to honor their phase-one agreement to purchase corn.
- Continued expansion of exports to Mexico which already ranks as one of our biggest customers.
- Opening new markets in Latin America such as Peru and Colombia for corn and DDGs.
- Getting a foothold in pioneer markets like India, Tanzania, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

“Our market development partners protect and grow established markets, seek better ways to service them, and are always looking for new customers” Jeschke noted. “When you talk about value added you must tip your hat to the livestock industry. Running corn through livestock first and sending the final product overseas, is a major contributor to the success of corn farmers. Our exports of meat and meat product, poultry and eggs, continue to increase dramatically.”



This 2019 postcard from the Illinois Corn Marketing Board helped farmers across Illinois understand the link between their check off dollars, the projects they were funding, and the impact to red meat exports and corn farmers' bottom line.

### *U.S. Meat Export Federation Highlights*

- U.S. beef exports slammed previous volume and value records in 2021, surpassing \$10 billion for the first time. Pork exports remain near record volumes and set a new value record, topping \$8 billion for the first time.
- South Africa opened to U.S. beef and pork in 2016. Networking and educational activities began immediately and in 2019 the red meat industry started serving the region with in-country representation. The region is now a major buyer of U.S. beef variety meats.
- In-country staff enables participation and support at the local level. In 2011 the red meat

industry worked with Japanese retail and foodservice partners to serve meals to those who were left homeless by an earthquake and tsunami. In 2020-2021, the industry worked closely with partners in key export markets to provide support to local communities impacted by COVID-19.

- In 2008, 100,000 South Koreans lined the streets in protest of the market re-opening to U.S. beef as consumer confidence in U.S. beef safety and quality was at 5% in 2010. Confidence has risen to 64% and in 2021, Korea became the top value market for U.S. beef at \$2.38 billion.
- Beef was added to the list of products eligible for export to China in 2017 allowing shipments for the first time in 13 years. Within days of the announcement, the industry began market development activities, and the U.S. has become China's largest supplier, providing approximately 68% of China's grain-fed beef imports.

### *USA Poultry and Egg Export Council Highlights*

- In 2021, total U.S. poultry and egg export value reached \$5.5 billion which was just shy of reaching the record level of \$5.8 billion in 2013 prior to the devastating Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak in 2014.
- Avian Influenza (AI) seminars that began in the Middle East in 2015 continued in early 2022 with the aim of facilitating a better understanding of how the U.S. prevents and manages AI outbreaks potentially limiting disruptions in trade during current and future AI outbreaks.
- In 2018, India officially opened to U.S. poultry and eggs after a decade of negotiations between the U.S. and the Indian governments. Increasing demand for poultry as a protein source is forefront in the development of the Indian market.
- Poultry became the leader in World Meat Production in 2016 showing firsthand the growing demand for poultry worldwide.
- China re-opened its borders to U.S. poultry in 2020 after five years of being banned from the market. Broiler exports to China in 2021 reached an all-time high in value of \$864 million. Of which, 80% or \$697 million were chicken paws.

“Checkoff investment doesn’t mean  
markets won’t change or not go up and down.  
But it is a shock absorber that allows us to take advantage  
of opportunities to the best of our ability,” Jeschke said.  
“It’s been a major part of our life, what we have done with corn.  
It’s been a life changing experience to be a part of the organization  
and play a small part in its success story.”

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trade matters.



Illinois Corn  
Marketing Board

ICGA ran this advertisement in several publications in 2019, advocating for a positive vote on the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement for trade.



**ICGA/ICMB Board Member History**

Last Name	First Name	City/Time Service	ICGA Years Served	ICMB Years Served	Special Note
Adams	John	Atlanta		1994-2000	ICMB Chairman-1999
Adkins	Randy	Durand	1990-Jan. 1996		ICGA President-1995
Adkins	Linda	Durand	1999-Feb. 2000	1997-1999	
Anderson	Wayne	Geneseo	2008-2015		
Anselm	George	Taylorville	1975-1985		ICGA President-1984
Asher	Lewis	Warsaw	1974-1983	1983-1989	
Barbre	Martin	Carmi	Jan. 1996-Apr. 2006		ICGA President-2004
Barnard	Morris	Wayne City	1974-1977		
Bartlow	Andy	Macomb	2013-2016		
Beatty	John	Waverly	1982-1986		
Bechtel	Wayne	Eureka		1983-1987	
Beck	Ken	Mendota	2008-2011		
Becker	Jeff	Baileyville	Mar.-Nov. 2008		
Behnken	Leland	Galesburg	1986-1994		ICGA President-1991
Block	John	Gilson	1972-1974		Incorporator & First Board
Blunier	Stan	Forrest	1993-2000		
Boehne	Stan	Shabbona		1983-1986	
Bogner	Dennis	Sparland	1989-1998		
Bohn	Gary	Madison County	1982-1985		
Boyer	Ray	Biggsville		1983-1986	
Bradley	Bill	Ridgway	July 1995-De. 2004	1989-1995	ICMB Chairman-1993
Bradley	Curtis	Ridgway		1983-1989	
Buhrow	Craig	West Brooklyn	2004-2013		
Bunselmeyer	Mark	Maroa		2019-present	
Bunting	Art	Dwight	1999-2008	2021-present	ICGA President-2008
Bunting	Jason	Emington		2020-present	
Campbell	Marvin	Coulterville	1974-Feb. 1978; Aug. 1978-Feb. 1980		
Carlson	Aron	Winnebago	Mar. 2011-2020		ICGA President-2018
Carmichael	Jim	Rochelle	1974-1978		
Carney	Gerald	Virden	1976-1986	1983-1990	ICMB Chairman-1984, 1985 NCDF Chairman - 1986-87
Carter	James	Princeton		2002-2004	
Chamness	Larry	Wayne City	1984-1990	1990-1995	
Chase	Dennis		1976-1977		
Chidley	Kent	Rochelle	1983-1990		ICGA President-1989
Christ	Bill	Metamora	2016-2019	2005-2015	ICMB Chairman-2011
Clark	Mike	Homer	1994-2000		
Cole	Dan	Plainville	Dec. 2007-2013	2013-present	
Compton	Paul	Homer	1991-1994		
Corzine	Leon	Assumption	1994-2002	2002-2012	ICGA President-19-2000 NCGA President - 2004-05

Last Name	First Name	City/Time Service	ICGA Years Served	ICMB Years Served	Special Note
Corzine	Paul	Assumption		2002-2002	
Curry	John	Victoria	1972-1974		Incorporator & First Board NCGA President - 1977-79
Dalenberg	Kenneth	Mansfield	1976-1981		
Danner	Kate	Aledo		2017-present	
Degler	Mark	Mattoon	2006-2012		
Denton	Dennis	Princeton		1996-2002	
DeSutter	Randy	Woodhull	2012-2021		
Diedrich	John	Sycamore	1995-1998		
Doehring	Don	Windsor		1991-1997	
Dumoulin	Pat	Hampshire	1998-2006	2014-present	
Durbin	Scott	Assumption	1985-1994		ICGA President-1992
Durdan	Justin	Utica	2011-2020		ICGA President - 2017
Duvall	Don	Carmi		2011-2020	ICMB Chairman - 2018-19
Edwards	Gary	Girard		1990-1993	
Elliott	Robert	Cameron	Mar. 2002-2012	2019-present	ICGA President-2009
Engelhardt	Charles		1982-1983		Extension Ex-Officio
Faivre	Joe	DeKalb	April-Dec. 1974		
Faivre	Richard	Polo	1978-1983		
Faivre, Jr.	Lou	Malta	July 1979-1984		ICGA President-1983
Ferguson	Terry	Clinton		1987-1993	
Fitchhorn	Ron	McLean	1995-2002		ICGA President-2001
Fitzpatrick	Robert	Custer Park	1986-1995		ICGA President-1994
Flageole	George	Kankakee	1996-1999		
Fogerson	Bryan	Tuscola		1999-2007	ICMB Chairman-2005
Ford	John	Alma	1974-1976		
Fordham	William	Ohio	1974-1976		
Foss	Doug	Morris		1994-2002	
Frazee	Bob	Henry	Sept. 1983-1986		Extension Ex-Officio
Friend	Dain	Warrensburg	1974-1984		ICGA President-1982 NCGA President-1985-86
Froelich	Ralph	Abingdon	1972-1974		First Board
Fulton	Mark	Hidalgo	1988-Jan. 1995		
Furry	Bill	Charleston	1974-1988		
Gaines	David	Salem	1977-1984		
Gates	Richard	Carmi	June 2006-2016		
Gilworth	Richard	Jerseyville	2004-July 2006		
Ginder	Glenn	Peotone		2011-2014	
Goleman	Andrew	Divernon	2004-2013		
Gordon	Kenneth	Blue Mound	1974-1975; 1979-1982		
Gordon	Maurice	Rantoul	1977-1983	1983-1989	First ICMB Chairman-1983 USCG Chairman-1989
Gordon	Steve	Rantoul	Sept. 1983-June 1987		
Gould	Eldon	Maple Park		1986-1993	ICMB Chairman-1990, 1991 USCG Chairman-1995

Last Name	First Name	City/Time Service	ICGA Years Served	ICMB Years Served	Special Note
Grabowski	Ron	Dubois	1986-1992		
Gray	Ron	Claremont		2002-2011	ICMB Chairman-2007
Green	Dennis	Lawrenceville		2015-2018	
Greene	Kenneth	Durand		1999-2002	ICMB Chairman-2002
Groppel	Tom	Jerseyville	2009-2013		
Guenther	Greg	Belleville	June 1992-Aug. 2000		ICGA President-1998
Guinnip	Don	Marshall		2015-present	
Hampton	Joe	Windsor		1983-1991	ICMB Chairman-1988, 1989 USMEF Chairman-1992
Harbaugh	Susan	Tuscola	Jan. 1995-Feb. 1998		
Harbaugh	Larry	Newman		1983-1987	ICMB Chairman-1986
Hartman, Jr.	Kenneth	Waterloo	2008-2017	1997-2006	ICMB Chairman - 2003-04 ICGA President-2015
Hasheider	Larry	Okawville		2006-present	
Hastings	Sarah	Sidney		2018-present	
Haudrich	Dale	Waterloo		2018-present	
Hawkins	Garrett	Waterloo		2017-present	
Hennenfent	Mike	Gilson	1983-1986		
Hennenfent	Pat	Wataga	1998-Mar. 2002		
Higgins	Russell	Morris	2011-present	2013-present	Extension Ex-Officio
Hoelt	Jim	Delavan		1982-1987	ICGA President- 1986
Hoelt	Mike	Delavan	1990-1998		ICGA President-1997
Holstine	Jim	Milan	2006-2007		
Homerding	Mike	Plainville		2015-present	
Hubele	Roger	Enfield		1995-2002	ICMB Chairman-2001
Hudson	Gary	Hindsboro	2007-2016		ICGA President-2014
Janssen	Spencer	Litchfield		2014-2017	
Jarboe	Jeff	Loda	May 2009-2018		ICGA President-2016
Jeschke	Donna	Morris		2002-2012	ICMB Chairwoman-2008
Jeschke	Paul	Morris		2012-2021	ICMB Chairman - 2017-18
Jordal	LaVern	Earlville	1989-1993		
Kallal	Henry	Jerseyville	2000-2004		
Kammeyer	Darrel	Manito		1988-1994	
Kleinschmidt	Kent	Emden	1987-1995	2006-2015	ICGA President-1995 ICMB Chairman-2012
Koeller	Steve	Godfrey	Aug. 2000-June 2008		
Kuhfuss	John	Mackinaw	1998-Mar. 2008		ICGA President-2006
Kunzeman	Eric	Tremont	Mar. 2008-2012		
Laible	Lynn	Magnolia		1990-1996	ICMB Chairman-1995 NCDF Chairman-1996-97
Lambin	Al	Kewanee	1972-1974		First Board
Lamoreux	Lou	Lanark	Jan. 1996-Nov. 1999	2009-2018	ICMB Chairman - 2014-15
Lane	Gene	Kirkland	1984-1989		ICGA President-1988
Leeper	Tom	Decatur		1993-1994	

Last Name	First Name	City/Time Service	ICGA Years Served	ICMB Years Served	Special Note
Leigh	Bill	Minonk	2013-present		ICGA President-2020
Lenz	Tim	Strasburg	2002-2011	2018-2021	ICGA President-2010
Lessley	Norris	Sparta	1980-1986		
Linden	Ernest	Bradford	1981-1984		
Long	Bill	Franklin	2011-2020		
Love	Don	Galva	1972-1974		Incorporator & First Board
Lower	Mark	Lanark	Feb. 2000-Mar. 2008		
Main	Rolland	Victoria	1972-1983		Incorporator & First Board ICGA President - 1973-1982
Marr	Marty	Jacksonville	2013-present		ICGA President-2022
Marshall	Robert	Ipava	1976-1981		
Martin	Tom	Mt. Pulaski		2000-2006	ICMB Chairman-2004
McAllister	Norman	Warsaw	1983-1986		
Meyer	David	Keyesport	1980-1982	1983-1991	NCDF Chairman - 1990-91
Meyer	Wayne	Tuscola		1987-1995	
Miller	Merle	Clinton		1994-2005	
Mooberry	Harold	Pekin	1974-1982		
Moore	Rollie	Oneida	1986-1993		
Moser	Steve	Champaign	Feb. 2001-Nov. 2003		
Mottaz	Ted	Elmwood	Jan. 2013-2020		ICGA President-2019
Mueller	Tom	Taylor Ridge		2010-2019	ICMB Chairman - 2015-16
Mullins	Bill	Shabbona	1975-July 1979		NCGA President - 1980-82 NCDF Chairman - 1982-83
Murphy	Don	Harvel		2012-2018	
Murphy	Joe	Harrisburg		2014-present	
Neff	Karen	Belleville		2015-2018	
Newton	Clem	Bradford		1983-1990	ICMB Chairman - 1987
Niekamp	David	Coatsburg	2003-Nov. 2007		
Niemeyer	Garry	Glenarm	1995-2004		ICGA President -2002 NCGA President- 2011-12
Noland	Grant	Blue Mound	June 2012-17		
Noland	Duane	Blue Mound	1987-1990		
Novack	Gene	Kankakee	1987-1996		
Obernagel	George	Waterloo		1991-1997	ICMB Chairman-1994 USMEF Chairman-2001
Parnell	Jill	Champaign	Sept. 2004-May 2009		
Pauli	Ross	Edwards	2004-2006	2021-present	
Phipps	John	Chrisman		1995-1999	
Pigg	Steve	Bushnell	1998-2004		ICGA President - 2003
Plumer	Mike	Creal Springs	1991-2010		Extension Ex-Officio
Porter	Gene	Johnsonville	July 1987-Feb. 1988		
Rabe	Glen	Princeton	Aug. 1977-1981		

Last Name	First Name	City/Time Service	ICGA Years Served	ICMB Years Served	Special Note
Raben	James	Ridgway		2010-2019	ICMB Chairman - 2016-17 USGC Chairman-2021
Raben	Matt	Ridgway		2020-present	
Rahn	Ellen	Mount Carroll		2020-present	
Rapp	Jim	Princeton	1998-Aug. 2004	2004-2014	ICMB Chairman - 2009
Reed	Jim	Monticello	2002-2014	2014-present	ICGA President - 2011
Reichert	Fred	Auburn	1986-1995		
Reid	Daryl	Macomb	1986-1994		ICGA President - 1990
Reike	Leroy	Reddick	1977-1982		
Rice	Dirk	Philo		2013-present	ICMB Chairman - 2020-21
Riddle	Vic	Wapella	1990-1998		ICGA President-1996
Rippelmeyer	Russell		Jan.-June 1979		
Rister	Tim	Omaha	1993-July 1995	1995-2001	
Robbins	James	Peotone		2002-2011	
Roberts	Housel	Altona	1972-1976		Incorporator & First Board
Rosentiel	Jon	Pearl City		2018-present	
Rosenthal	Wayne	Morrisonville		2021-present	
Ruestman	Arlen	Toluca	1984-1989		
Ruh	Steve	Sugar Grove	2000-2008		ICGA President - 2007
Rush	Matt	Fairfield		2016-present	
Rylander	Dave	Victoria		2016-present	
Saline	Sterling	Rio		1986-1992	
Sanders	Keith	Vandalia		2017-present	
Scates	Jeff	Shawneetown	Jan. 2005-2014	2019-present	ICGA President - 2012
Scates	Hugh David	Shawneetown		2001-2010	
Schielein	Jim	Dixon	2006-2008		
Schmalshof	Gary	Adair		1989-1995;2004-2013	ICMB Chairman -1992
Schmalshof	Theresa	Adair		1995-2004	ICMB Chairwoman - 2000
Schrof	Glen	Forrest		1983-1987	
Schultz	Floyd	Plainview	1981-1986	1993-2002	ICGA President - 1985 ICMB Chairman - 1998
Seifert	Tim	Auburn		2002-2010	
Shane	Mike	Peoria		2020-present	
Shauman	Wendell	Kirkwood		2001-2010	ICMB Chairman - 2006 USGC Chairman - 2012
Shields	Dean	Gorham	1986-1993		
Shore	John	Casey		2007-2013	
Singley	Jerry	Stanford	2013-2016		
Smith	Terry	Clayton		2016-2021	
Steiner	Emiel	Buckley	1974-1976		
Stirling	Scott	Martinton		2004-2013	ICMB Chairman - 2010
Stone	Richard	Springfield	1974-1976		

Last Name	First Name	City/Time Service	ICGA Years Served	ICMB Years Served	Special Note
Stone	Bill	Knoxville	1994-1998		
Stumpf	Kenneth	Columbia	1974-Jan. 1979		
Swanson	Brett	Oneida		2021-present	
Sy	Roger	Newman	Feb. 1998-2006	2013-present	ICGA President - 2005 ICMB Chairman - 2019-20
Taylor	J. Orin	Cullom	1974-1977		
Taylor	Terry	Geff	1990-Jan.1996	1983-1990	
Taylor	Paul	Esmond	2006-2015		ICGA President - 2013
Taylor	Glenna	Oakland	2012-2016		
Thompson	Tim	Franklin		2020-present	
Tice	David	Shelbyville		1997-2000	
Townsend	Walt	Fairfield	1986-1990		Extension Ex-Officio
Tracy	Robert	Alexis	1972-1974		First Board
Trotter	Tim	Coal City	1982-1987		ICGA President - 1987 NCGA President - 1991-92
Trotter	Jim	Adair	1994-2003		
Wagner	Mike	Lexington	Feb. 1998-Nov. 1990		
Wentworth	Steve	Maroa	1984-1987		NCGA President - 1988-89
Werts	Fred	Sidney	1981-1990	1989-1994	
Willaredt	George	Edwardsville	1985-1986		
Williams	Russell	Leaf River		1919-1997	
Wilson	Doug	Gridley	1993-2000		ICGA President-1999
Wilson	Mark	Toulon		2014-present	ICMB Chairman - 2021-22
Woessner	Lawrence	Shannon		1983-1991	
Wolf	Terry	Homer		1994-2004	ICMB Chairman - 1997 USGC Chairman-2004
Worner	Meredith	Manito		1983-1988	
Wurmnest	Mike	Deer Creek		2015-2021	
Young	Jack	Clinton	1974-Feb. 1978		
Youngquist	Gene	Cameron		1992-2001	ICMB Chairman-1996
Zabel	Larry	Dwight		1987-1994	NCDF Chairman - 1993-94

## ICGA Presidents



John Block, 1972



Rolland Main, 1973-1984



Dain Friend, 1983



George Anselm, 1984



Floyd Schultz, 1985



Jim Hoeft, 1986



Tim Trotter, 1987



Gene Lane, 1988



Kent Chidley, 1989



Daryl Reid, 1990



Leleand Behnken, 1991



Scott Durbin, 1992

## ICGA Presidents



Kent Kleinschmidt, 1993



Bob Fitzpatrick, 1994



Randy Adkins, 1995



Vic Riddle, 1996



Mike Hoeft, 1997



Greg Gunther, 1998



Doug Wilson, 1999



Leon Corzine, 2000



Ron Fitchorn, 2001



Garry Neimeyer, 2002



Steve Pigg, 2003



Martin Barbre, 2004

## ICGA Presidents



Sy Roger, 2005



John Kuhfuss, 2006



Steve Ruh, 2007



Art Bunting, 2008



Rob Elliot, 2009



Tim Lenz, 2010



Jim Reed, 2011



Jeff Scates, 2012



Paul Taylor, 2013



Gary Hudson, 2014



Kenny Hartman, 2015



Jeff Jarboe, 2016

## ICGA Presidents



Justin Durdan, 2017



Aron Carlson, 2018



Ted Mottaz, 2019



Bill Leigh, 2020



Randy DeSutter, 2021



Marty Marr, 2022

## History of Illinois Corn Staff

Last Name	First Name	Position	Years of Service
Bidner	Scott	Intern/Market Development Director	May 1985-Nov. 1987 (2 yrs)
"	"	Executive Director	Dec. 1987-1990 (3 yrs)
Braid	Tricia	Communications Director	July 2009-Nov. 2019 (10 yrs)
Campen	John	Manager/Executive Director	Mar. 1975-Nov. 1987 (12.5 yrs)
Cherry	Annette	Communications Adm Asst	Dec. 2006-Sept. 2007 (1 yr)
Day	Julie	Membership Adm Assistant	June 2004-Feb. 2012 (8 yrs)
Deal	Ashley	Membership Adm Assistant	Mar. 2015 - Feb. 2019 (4 yrs)
"	"	Membership and Grassroots Advocacy Manager	Feb. 2019 - present (3 yrs+)
Deppe	Travis	Nutrient Loss Reduction Manager	July 2017 - Apr. 2019 (2 yrs+)
"	"	Director of Precision Conservation Management	Apr. 2019 - Nov. 2021 (2 yrs+)
Desmond	Tara	Communications and Marketing Manager	Oct. 2021-present
Dwyer	Megan	Nutrient Loss Reduction Manager	July 2019 - present (2 yrs+)
Eichhorst	Jim	Field Services Director	Nov. 1990-July 1993 (3 yrs)
Fayhee	Megan	Financial Secretary	Aug. 2002-Aug. 2003 (1 yr)
Finrock	Becky	Communications Adm Asst	Nov. 2007-Dec. 2014 (7 yrs+)
Fisher	John (Jack)	Executive Director	July 1990-June 1993 (3 yrs)
Gallagher	Kayla	Operations Manager	May 2013-Sept. 2018 (5 yrs)
"	"	Director of Operations	Sept. 2018 - present (3 yrs+)
Gentry	Laura	Director of Water Quality Research	Dec. 2013-present (8 yrs+)
Goodwin	Greg	Director of Precision Conservation Management	Feb. 2022 - present
Groce	Larry	IAA/ICGA Coordinator	1974-Mar. 1975 (1 yr)
Hancock	Dana	Accounts Payable Specialist	July 2019 - present (2 yrs+)
Hansen	Brian	Accounting Analyst	Nov. 2003-Nov. 2010 (7 yrs)
Hodgson	Ann	Office Manager	Aug. 1986-May 2013 (26.5 yrs)
Hoerner	Michelle	Financial Secretary	June 1994-Dec. 1998 (4 yrs)
Kindler	Ken	Value Enhanced Project Director	Feb. 2000-May 2004 (4 yrs)
Kleine	Gerald R	Acting Secretary	1973-74 (1 yr)
Klitzing-Weber	Jennifer	Financial Secretary	Mar. 1999-June 2002 (3 yrs)
Knapp	Kim	Membership Secretary	Feb. 2002-May 2004 (2 yrs)
Lambert	Mark	Communications Director	Aug. 1988-June 2009 (21 yrs)
Loos	Dave	Technology & Business Development Director	Mar. 2007-present (7 yrs+)
Malloch	Debra	PCM Administrative Manager	Mar. 2019 - present (3 yrs+)
McCubbins	Lori	Receptionist Secretary	Feb. 1997-Oct. 2006 (9 yrs)
McDonald	Taylor	Communications Adm Asst	Feb. 2016 - Feb. 2019 (3 yrs)
McPherson	Lucas	Accounting Manager	Dec. 2020 - present (1 yrs+)
Meenen	Julie	Accounting Assistant	Feb. 2019 - July 2019
Meredith	Katie	Administrative Assistant	Mar. 2019 - present (2 yrs+)
Mitchell	Lindsay	Project Coordinator	Sept. 2007-Mar. 2016 (8 yrs+)
"	"	Marketing Director	Mar. 2016 - Nov. 2019 (3 yrs+)
"	"	Communications and Marketing Director	Nov. 2019 - present (2 yrs+)
Muhammad	Jacqueline	Biofuel Programs and Public Policy Manager	June 2020 - present (1 yr+)
Mortimer (Smith)	Jana	Receptionist Secretary	Sept. 1985-May 1995 (10 yrs)
Mullins	Mary	Receptionist Secretary	May 1995-Dec. 1996 (1.5 yrs)

## History of Illinois Corn Staff

Last Name	First Name	Position	Years of Service
Obert	Dan	Communications Manager	Nov. 2019 - Aug. 2021 (2 yrs)
Pence	Rose	IFB Secretary	July 1981-Nov. 1982 (1 yr)
Rogers	Suzie	Accounting Analyst	Jan. 2011-Nov. 2020 (9 yrs+)
Ross	Anita	Accounting Assistant	Dec. 2015 - Apr. 2019 (3 yrs+)
Sanderson	Rosie	Membership Adm Assistant	May 2012-March 2015 (2 yrs+)
Schlieper	Amanda	Membership Secretary	May 2001-Jan. 2002 (.5 yrs)
Shane	Phil	Market Development Director	Sept. 1993-Nov. 2006 (13 yrs)
Shriver	Ginny	Communications Director	Jan. 1987-June 1988 (1.5 yrs)
Spencer	Debbie	Membership Secretary	July 1995-Apr. 2001 (6 yrs)
Tarmann	Jim	Field Services Director	Oct. 1993-Sept. 2018 (25 yrs)
"	"	Managing Director	Sept. 2018- present (3 yrs+)
Taylor	Melody	Communications Director	July 1982-Jan. 1987 (4.5 yrs)
Taylor	Sheila	Director of Office Operations	Nov. 1982-July 1986 (3.5 yrs)
Thompson	Diane	Secretary/Bookkeeper	Jan. 1985-May 1994 (8.5 yrs)
Thornton	Phil	Value Enhanced Project Director	Oct. 2004-Oct. 2019 (15 yrs+)
Wade	Caroline	Nutrient Water Shed Manager	Oct 2013-June 2017 (3yrs+)
Wagner	Mike	IAA/ICGA Coordinator/Manager	Mar. 1975-1977 (2 yrs)
Ward	Mike	Accounts Receivable Specialist	April 2019 - present (3 yrs+)
Watters	Collin	Director of Exports & Logistics	July 2019 - present (2 yrs +)
Weinzierl	Rodney	Market Development Director	June 1988-May 1993 (5 yrs)
"	"	Executive Director	June 1993-present (21 yrs)
Zeller	Hannah	Communications Adm Asst	Mar. 2015 - Feb. 2016 (1 yr)

Ann Hodgson retired from IL Corn in 2013 with 26 years of service to the organizations. She is pictured here at her retirement party at the Bloomington home office with past Secretary Lori McCubbins and past Membership Assistant Julie Day.



## World of Corn Award Winners

Year	ICGA Member	Other
1991	Pat Hennenfent	
1992		Governor Jim Edgar
1993	Scott Durbin	
1994	Gene Youngquist	
1995	Randy Adkins	
1996	Eldon Gould	
1997	Leland Behnken	
1998	Gerald Carney	
1999	Gene Novack	U. S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert
2000	Daryl Reid & Fred Reichert	
2001	Hank Cryder	IL Representative Julie Curry
2002	Joe Hampton & Floyd Schultz	
2003	David Meyer	
2004	Doug Wilson	
2005	Bill Mullins	Adkins Energy
2006	John Adams	
2007	Bill Bradley	
2008	Greg Guenther	
2009	Garry Niemeyer	Gary Schnitkey, Univ of Illinois
2010		Dale Roth, Carpenter's Union
2011	Steve Pigg	
2012	Walt Townsend	U. S. Congressman Jerry Costello
2013	Leon Corzine	
2014	Rollie Main	
2015	Gary and Theresa Schmalshof	
2016	Art Bunting	
2017	Kent Kleinschmidt	U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood
2018	Ron Gray	
2019	Jim Robbins	Bruce Kettler
2020	Paul Taylor	U.S. Congressman John Shimkus
2021	Paul and Donna Jeschke	





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