

Chapter Two

1983-1992

Beginning 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.



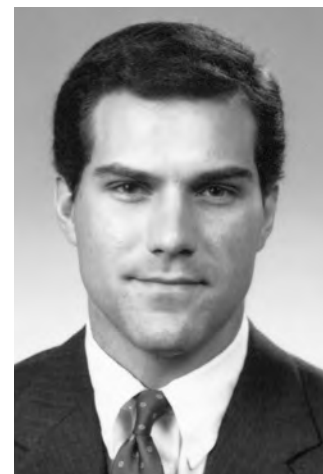
L-r: Rod Weinzierl, Jana Smith, Diane Thompson, Scott Bidner, Ann Hodgson, Mark Lambert

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.

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| 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