

Chapter Four

1993-2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sign at new office building



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



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



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

Also during 1995, both boards updated their Strategic Plans and hired Jefferson Davis Associates as facilitators for helping with the process. Other action taken through a meeting of both the ICGA and ICMB Business Services Committees was the adoption of some language changes in the lease agreement between the two boards.

In regard to staff, in 1995 it was approved to add a part-time administrative support staff person in the office. Changes in the program staff were as follows:

- 1993 Jim Eichhorst resigned as Field Services Director
- Phil Shane hired as Market Development Director
- Jim Tarmann hired as Field Services Director



Staff in 1997 pictured l-r: Lori McCubbins, Debbie Spencer, Ann Hodgson, Philip Shane, Captain Cornelius, Jim Tarmann, Rodney Weinzierl, Michele Hoerner, Mark Lambert



Staff - back row: Jennifer Klitzing-Weber, Philip Shane, Rodney Weinzierl, Mark Lambert; middle row: Ken Kindler, Debbie Spencer; front row: Lori McCubbins, Jim Tarmann, Ann Hodgson

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR - Each year, year ICGA and ICMB had some type of participation in the Illinois State Fair. A summary of what happened during this decade follows.

1993 - Participation for this year included: participating in the parade were the Peoria bus, Captain Cornelius, U of I hydro electric vehicle and the E85 Lumina; in the Ethanol Expo was an E85 display; and in the Commodity Building there was a static display plus one of the state cars.



Exhibit at State Fair with Keith Yohnka (Kankakee County),
2nd from left and Gene Novack

1994 – President Randy Adkins spoke at the Ethanol Expo, and Bill Bradley escorted Secretary Mike Espy around the fairgrounds.



Event at Ethanol Expo; pictured l-r: Director Becky Doyle, Kent Kleinschmidt, Gov Edgar, Randy Adkins speaking, Jack Fisher



U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy, speaking at the Ethanol Expo

1995 - ICMB approved funding to conduct a joint State Fair degradable plastic bag promotion with Illinois Beef making sure the bags were actually degradable. Staff negotiated a new one-year contract for the Ethanol Expo Building at the State Fair.

1996 - The main exhibit was done in cooperation with DCCA at the Ethanol Expo where an E85 car along with an E85 dragster from Ohio was on display as well as a display on the ethanol fuel cell. Senator Dole attended the State Fair and visited the Ethanol Expo.



President Vic Riddle speaking at Ethanol Expo with candidate Bob Dole in background at the far right



Pictured l-r: Bill Bradley, IFB President Ron Warfield, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Mike Hoeft



Presidential Candidate Bob Dole speaking at the Ethanol Expo

It was also decided to put together a farm safety exhibit to be located in the Happy Hollow area where the Farm Expo had been moved.

1997 - Participation included a static display in the Commodity Building. In addition, the ICMB Board sponsored Farm Olympics at the fair which involved 4-H and other groups.

1999 - The board approved hiring a summer intern, Katie Boruff, to develop materials for the State Fair and the Farm Progress Show. She developed some interactive electronic displays which were later available for other groups to use. In a review of the State Fair exhibit, it was noted that the location didn't work too well this year because of some of the distractions going on within the building so staff was directed to explore options available for the future. A Farm Price Crisis Rally was held at the fairgrounds.



Gov George Ryan speaking at the Farm Price Crisis Rally



Cong Ray LaHood speaking at the Farm Price Crisis Rally with U.S. Senator Fitzgerald 2nd from right



President George H Bush and Barbara speaking to folks at the State Fair



Pictured left to right at the Ethanol Expo are: George Flageole, Garry Niemeyer, Leon Corzine, Senator Peter Fitzgerald, John Adams, Ron Fitchhorn, Vic Riddle, Fred Reichert

2000 - Changing locations of our State Fair exhibit was discussed, as we no longer had access to the Ethanol Expo building. Both ICGA and ICMB had discussion about constructing a new agricultural exhibit building. For this year, Growmark put up a temporary building just north of the commodity pavilion which was sold at the conclusion of the fair. Even though discussions continued about building a permanent agricultural exhibit building, that never happened. ICGA-ICMB's participation this year included Phil Shane driving the E diesel truck in the parade with baskets on the back containing over 250 food items, and Garry Niemeyer presented the First Lady with a check for \$250.

2001 - It was decided to maintain an ethanol activity around Agri-First, as the Governor was to sign the Agri-First bill at the fair on Ag Day. Also, a static display was put up in the Commodity Building.

2002 - This year was the 150th anniversary of the State Fair, and Director of Ag Joe Hampton requested we have a static display showing 150 years of progress in corn in one of the tents scheduled for Ag Expo and include an ethanol vehicle.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW – In 1994, the Farm Progress Show was in Illinois. A new highlight for the joint exhibit was the construction by staff of some huge corn stalks to help identify our exhibit. Can you see Phil Shane up in the stalk in the picture below?

Also included in the exhibit was one of the Peoria ethanol buses that was used as a theater to show an ethanol video. Those who viewed the video received a travel mug.

In the year 2000, the Farm Progress Show was located at Cantrall near Springfield. Three billboards were put up in the Springfield area.



Ehanol billboard



News conference at Farm Progress Show - Leon Corzine speaking, Joe Hampton, Ron Warfield, IFB President



Phil Shane pictured in the big corn stalk constructed to identify the Illinois Corn exhibit at the Farm Progress Show

ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

1992-93



Officers LaVern Jordal, Fred Reichert, Kent Kleinschmidt, Bob Fitzpatrick

The board voted to adopt a policy to purchase fax machines for the vice president and all committee chairmen. Another change in policy was to limit the tenure of an Illinois National board member to two consecutive three-year terms unless they were in the position of chair, co-chair or subcommittee chair of the standing committees. Illinois received the NCGA State Achievement Award.

New county associations organized during the year were McDonough, Macoupin, Boone and Christian. It was approved to add a membership application to the back of the bumper stickers, and a membership incentive was adopted. There was discussion about the Minnesota plan to use checkoff dollars to purchase memberships, and the board decided they were not in favor of this.

In order to educate congressional staffers on Illinois agricultural issues, it was decided to participate with IFB and Illinois Soybeans in hosting a congressional staff tour which was held in August. Congressional aides who participated in the tour were from Senator Simon's staff, Senator Moseley-Braun's staff, Cong. Costello's staff, Cong. Durbin's staff, staff from the Office of Management and Budget, staff from the State of IL Washington office, Cong. Poshard's staff, and Cong. Ewing's staff. This congressional staff tour was very successful and was held for several years.

The board did decide they were in opposition to NCGA's position on paid land diversion. A committee was set up to start work on the 1995 Farm Bill. Scott Durbin and Bill Bradley served on the National Farm Bill Task Force. Along with other commodity groups, the board hosted an orientation for new members of the General Assembly. In addition, ICGA hosted a reception for the Governor's Ethanol Coalition and Fred Reichert and Scott Durbin attended. SB 85 was signed by Governor Edgar, and this bill pre-exempted local control of pesticides and kept it in the hands of the federal government. A computer model was to be ran in regard to set aside for 0, 5 and 10 and the board directed national directors to pick the best option for a set aside based on the computer model.



Golfers at the Greater Ethanol Open from left to right are Paul Taylor, IL Rep Bob Pritchard, IL Senator Brad Burzynski, and Rich Clemmons



St. Clair County fair exhibit with Captain Cornelius pictured with a Ford ethanol powered tractor

Membership as of Jan. 15, 1993, was listed at 4,427. Throughout the year, the board conducted a membership call-a-thon, as did McDonough, Tazewell, Grundy and St. Clair counties. Membership incentives were approved for counties. A golf outing for commodity groups was held at Prairie Vista in Bloomington. This golf outing event has continued each year, presently being held at the Fair Lakes Golf Course in Secor, Illinois.

St. Clair County had an activity where they had the ethanol tractor on display along with Captain Cornelius.

Some of the promotional programs funded included: a NAFTA media promotion; ICMB's producer education program which included distribution of full color information cards; a direct mailing from Midwest Grain to every corn producer within a 40 or 50 mile radius of Pekin on their ethanol expansion; news releases done by USMEF, USFGC and NCGA on how checkoff dollars had helped their organizations; interviews with people in Chicago; and information on NAFB news wire and DTN.

Highlights from Kent Kleinschmidt

Kent first participated in the IFB ALOT program and then followed that with the Illinois Ag Leadership Foundation class. He noted, "When you complete a program, especially the IL Ag Leadership program, people seek you out to see if you have interest in serving on a board." Kent actually got asked by someone to serve on the Illinois Soybean Association, but the soybean districts were different from corn, and they needed someone to represent Tazewell County. However, Kent actually lives in Logan County, which is in a different soybean district. Then a few months later, Jim Hoeft, who was getting ready to go off the Illinois Corn Growers Association board, asked Kent if he would be interested



Kent Kleinschmidt

in serving on the ICGA Board. The first meeting Kent attended was the summer meeting of the NCGA Corn Classic where he served as a delegate representing Logan County. This gave him an opportunity to meet the people serving on the ICGA Board, and he was subsequently elected.

Before his service on the ICGA board, Kent was serving on the county Farm Bureau board and looking for somewhere to use the skills he had learned in the Ag Leadership class. So, he decided to get involved with ICGA. Serving on the corn boards has given Kent a great opportunity to network with people all over the country, both on the state and national level and even around the world.

Going through the chairs and serving in the officer chain forced Kent to be more comfortable doing interviews, both on paper and verbally. As Kent stated, "The ICGA and ICMB do a good job of preparing you with a broad base of knowledge to draw from for doing interviews and answering questions. Also going through the officer chain helps you a great deal."



Kent speaking in front of the ICMB exhibit

The biggest that Kent remembers while he served on the ICGA Board was the Reid vapor issue (rvp) on ethanol. This happened while Kent was serving as president of ICGA. Ethanol usage changed from 1987 when he first got on the board up to the present time, having astronomical growth. However, there always seems to be some issue going on with ethanol. Kent did attend the Ethanol Rally in Peoria and remembers Scott Durbin, being up on the stage. Jack Fisher was executive director at that time and while Kent was serving as president, Rodney Weinzierl was hired as the executive director. During Kent's term with the Corn Growers, there were two attempts to increase the checkoff rate, but both attempts were defeated. However, the checkoff rate has now been increased twice. Kent did note that he was involved with corn growers before serving on the state board.



Corn carts announcing Captain Cornelius



Pictures of Tazewell County's corn cart stored in Kent's shed

The board purchased the corn carts during Kent's term on the board. One of his best memories was driving a corn cart in the Illinois State Fair parade where they had a total of ten corn carts going down the street in a big oval formation. Kent noted that Mike Hoeft still has one of the corn carts which was crated up and sent to California at one time. There are still some corn carts around, as a couple were used up at the NASCAR race.

As Kent noted, "Corn had a great working relationship with Governor Edgar back then, and we haven't had that type of relationship since." Governor Edgar was on the Governor's Ethanol Coalition and even served as chairperson one year.

While serving on the ICMB Board, Kent participated in two trade missions, one to Japan and Taiwan through the USMEF and the second one to Japan, Taiwan, and China through the USGC. In the Ag Leadership class, they also went to Japan and Taiwan. Kent would not have thought about going to a foreign country, but as he noted he was in Japan and Taiwan three times.

Another good memory Kent is serving as co-chairman when the ICGA building was constructed. That was a very interesting project, and he thinks it has served the organization well so far. It was a big thing in being able to own your office space rather than renting it.



Kent talking with a trade team

DC visit with U. S. Senator Dick Durbin



Pictured l-r: Daryl Reid, Ella Louise Reid, Kent Kleinschmidt, Cong Glenn Poshard, Bill Bradley, Scott Durbin, Vic Riddle

On a national level, Kent served as co-chairman with Gordon Wassner from the Iowa Soybean Association on the NCGA Commodity Classic Planning Committee. He thinks that the co-location of the NCGA and USGC in Washington, DC is a great thing. He didn't have anything to do with that, but all indications are that they have a very good working relationship, and it has helped both organizations.

A couple of memorable visits to DC for Kent included a meeting in the Executive Office Building located near the White House and in 1993 Kent, Alan Dale from IFB and Larry Quandt from IFU met with Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, Senator Carol Moseley Braun, and at that time Congressman Richard Durbin in regard to ethanol. Kent noted, "That was really neat, and someone took a picture of the visit although he never saw a copy."

While Kent was serving on the ICGA Board he remembers working quite a bit with other organizations such as IFU, NFO, the Grange and IFB. Ethanol was the main issue on which they worked cooperatively. Kent thought this was a good relationship, but this has all kind of disappeared now.

In summary, Kent noted, "It has been a great opportunity to serve on both the ICGA and ICMB boards. Hopefully my service has helped the corn industry somehow through the years."

1993-94



Officers LaVern Jordal, Gene Novack,
Bob Fitzpatrick, Randy Adkins

The first Illinois Commodity Conference was held at the Peoria Civic Center on Nov. 21-23, 1993. Groups included in this conference, in addition to ICGA, were ISA, IBA, Illinois Lamb and Wool, and IPPA. An award was given to Secretary Ed Madigan and Gene Youngquist received the ICGA's World of Corn award at their annual meeting.



Illinois Commodity Conference with Commodity
Presidents presenting an award to former U. S. Secretary
of Ag Ed Madigan



Gene Youngquist receiving the World of Corn Award
from President Vic Riddle

Membership was listed at 4,626. In regard to the seed corn program, the possibility of adding some chemical companies was discussed, as the present program concluded at the end of FY 1994. In other action, it was decided to continue the membership incentive program from last year; to instruct Illinois national directors to recommend that the NCGA/NCDF Executive Committee look into the long-term effect of purchasing memberships with checkoff dollars; to have the Illinois national directors support the present NCGA one-year dues at the same rate of \$15 and raise the three-year dues from \$30 to \$40; to send four people to the officer's training in Indianapolis sponsored by NCGA and Dow Elanco; and to encourage NCGA to pursue a Leadership Program.

Membership Dues - The board voted to increase Illinois membership dues from \$30 to \$50 for a one-year member and from \$75 to \$95 for a three-year member. The following seed corn companies agreed to participate in the three-year membership program: Custom Farm Seed, Shissler Seed Co., Stewart Hybrids, Bo Jac, Pocklington Seed Co., Diener Seed Co., Great Lakes Seed Co., Lewis Hybrids, NC+ Hybrids and Growmark.

Thank you letters were sent to senators and congressmen who voted for NAFTA. In regard to the Ethanol RFG issue, the board was still supporting blanket fuel certification and noted that the White House and USEPA were working to resolve this issue. Senator Moseley-Braun set up an Illinois meeting with Sec. Espy, including Kent Kleinschmidt, Alan Dale from IFB, Larry Quandt from IFU, Maureen Crocker from the Governor's Office and Director Becky Doyle. The board supported Secretary Espy on the Targeted Option Payment Program which re-opened the set-aside program condition in the 1990 Farm Bill and allowed for an increase in set-aside resulting in an increase in the target price.

An organization called Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) was formed with the idea to get Illinois involved in funding research for the state. The mission statement adopted was to advance profitable, consumer-sensitive, environmentally sound food, agricultural and related systems by securing funding for relevant research and outreach and fostering public participation in program guidance. Organizations that were a part of this included the land grant universities, Illinois Sustainable Ag sector, IFB, ICGA, ICMB, GROWMARK, ISA, IPPA, IL Wheat Association, Illinois Seed Trade Association and Farm Credit. In the beginning, the state appropriated funding of \$3 million for agricultural research, and a coordinator was hired who was located at the University of Illinois. The board discussed C-FAR and voted to join membership, which has continued each year until the present time. Terry Wolf from Illinois served as chair in 1996-97 and different board members from ICGA and ICMB served on the committees or working groups. Each year the state funding seemed to get cut in this area, and it was finally decided in the late 2000's to reorganize. Today's C-FAR now has the following sector caucuses: 1) Corn, 2) Soybeans, 3) Pork-Beef-Dairy, 4) Specialty Crops-Wheat-Allied Industries. Leon Corzine presently serves as chair of the Corn Sector.

Through a joint project between NCGA and some of the states, Illinois sent 250 curriculum kits up to Chicago for use in the schools. It was decided to place radio spots on Hometown Radio Network's Farm Bureau Annual Meeting reports and to continue funding for radio programming on Farm Radio Illinois in cooperation with Northrup King.

1994-95



Officers Mike Hoeft, Paul Compton,
Randy Adkins, Vic Riddle

In the Strategic Planning process, three objectives were identified: 1) continue legislative and regulatory efforts, 2) improve public image of the producer and the industry in regard to economic and environmental impact, and 3) increase membership and the number of organized counties.

Total membership according to NCGA records at the end of September was 4,988 which gave Illinois forty-six delegates to the NCGA Corn Classic. Those from Illinois who signed more than twenty new members included Daryl Reid with forty-five members, Gene Youngquist with thirty-two, Dale Haudrich with twenty-three and Gene Novack with twenty-two. Daryl Reid received the membership incentive award which he chose to give as a scholarship to 4-H, and he also offered funding for a scholarship for a second year.

In regard to board policy, it was approved to purchase additional fax machines to allow all board members to have one.

Some of the public relations activity during the year included youth activities of the IL FFA Foundation; Chicago CNN visited Bob Fitzpatrick's farm to talk about new uses; participated in Midwest Ag Expo in Gifford; supported annual meeting of the North Eastern Region National Association of Farm Broadcasters; continued funding of the "News to Corn Growers" on Farm Radio Illinois with Northrup King again helping underwrite the program; Mark Lambert and Jim Tarmann visited a 6th grade class.



Jim Tarmann speaking with kids



Mark Lambert speaking to kids

Another win for the communications area was funding of a full-page ad on DTN, which meant we had a full page on their system daily, and in the process that enabled us to reach 6,000 subscribers in Illinois. A contract was also signed with Broadcast Partners to begin placing ICGA news on IL Farm Dayta units. This information source continues to be used today, although it is now a combined effort of Broadcast Partners and DTN. Captain Cornelius participated in the Washington, DC 4th of July parade.

Some of the successful county programs for this year included: Mon-Clair County Corn Growers participated in a free-standing display at Lambert International Airport in St. Louis; Champaign County conducted an "Earth Partners" program; McLean/Livingston Counties had an ethanol race night; Sangamon County promoted ethanol in a parade, and Macon County sponsored a race night and promotion activities for an ethanol powered stock car.

A delegation of sixteen Ag groups went to DC on March 1-2 to lobby for the farm bill, and Vic Riddle represented ICGA. The board approved action to send a letter to the New Uses Council expressing concerns with their source of funding, believing they needed to seek new funding rather than taking from the current USDA budget. The board DC visits this year were held in July, and there were five teams making visits for a total of forty meetings. Through this process they met with nineteen congresspeople and senators, covering the topics of E85, environmental concerns, farm bill issues, CMA research visits, and public relations areas.



Bob Fitzpatrick in front of Capitol



Sangamon County parade exhibit promoting ethanol



Pictured on a DC Visit are: Lynn Laible, Fred Reichert, Cong John Shimkus, Greg Guenther



State Policy Session with Mike Hoeft conducting the discussion



Picture of the memorial for Randy Adkins located to the northwest side of the State Office

In discussions with IFB, it was decided to send out a survey in regard to atrazine to a proportionate share of the corn grower membership. In addition, the board supported a pilot program by Bob Hauser from the U of I, using price and yield futures and options contracts replacing varying degrees of crop insurance in the 1995 Farm Bill. It was voted to support the concept of a Freedom to Farm Act, which was a proposal from Congressman Pat Roberts and the House Ag Republican leadership. The proposal provided for full flexibility allowing a farmer to plant whatever he wanted, called for reduction or elimination of ARPs, and payments were based on historical yields with a flat payment for the next seven years. All of these issues were discussed at the state policy session.

During this year, President Randy Adkins passed away. A committee of Bob Fitzpatrick and Kent Chidley were appointed to come up with suggestions for a memorial for Randy. Because of Randy's passing, the office of president was vacant. According to the bylaws, the vice president could fulfill the duties of president in the absence of said officer. Therefore, the board appointed Vic Riddle as vice president to fulfill the presidential duties. Later the committee came back with a recommendation, which was approved, for a memorial to be constructed in the area in front of the building. This memorial included the ICGA logo etched in green granite and set on a pedestal comprised of rocks from each county in the state with a small brass plaque on the pedestal.

1995-96



Board members and staff - back row l-r: Greg Guenther, Daryl Reid, Jim Tarmann, Kent Kleinschmidt, Leon Corzine, Mike Hoeft; middle row: Susan Harbaugh, Phil Shane, Scott Durbin, Doug Wilson, Vic Riddle, Jim Trotter, Fred Reichert, Mark Lambert; front row: Rodney Weinzierl, Mike Clark, Gene Novack, Mike Plumer, Dennis Bogner

Some programs in regard to communications were identified by both ICGA and ICMB committees: farmer imaging, being more active with the Ag Council, working more closely with industry and looking at possibilities of using the Internet. In June of 1996, ICGA-ICMB appeared on the Internet with their first homepage, the address being www.ilcorn.org. Safety and beef commercials ran in conjunction with “News for Corn Growers” and RFD to help consumption of beef and promote both products.

In regard to membership records, it was noted that NCGA purchased a new membership program which meant that all of Illinois’ membership records had to now be entered manually. Previously this was done electronically. Two corn coordinators were hired to sign new members at the end of last fiscal year and since the committee felt it was a successful program, it was approved to hire a corn coordinator for another year.

A new county association was formed between Shelby and Moultrie Counties. Gallatin County participated in a parade event in their area.

In a discussion of the farm bill, it was suggested that we try to get involved in the rules process when the USDA rules were written. Another suggestion was to have the marketing loan made available for non-participants in the farm program. Once the farm bill was signed, ads were placed in *Farm Week* and *Illinois Agri-News* thanking congresspeople, senators, and Governor Edgar for their support on the bill.



Parade exhibit with Bill Bradley and Tim Rister pictured

1996-97



Committee chairs Jim Trotter,
Greg Guenther, Bill Stone,
Doug Wilson

The Building Committee recommended the purchase of two past president plaques, one for ICGA past presidents and one for ICMB past chairmen. The board approved this action, and the two plaques hang in the office when you first enter into the reception area. This year was the 25th anniversary for ICGA and an event was held at the office commemorating this.



25th anniversary event - Back row: Bob Fitzpatrick, Mike Clark, Jim Hoeft, Fred Werts, Maury Gordon, Daryl Reid, Floyd Schultz, Jim Trotter, Leon Corzine, Kent Kleinschmidt, Vic Riddle, David Meyer, Tim Rister, Lawrence Woessner, Larry Zabel; middle row: John Diedrich, Kent Chidley, Leland Behnken, Mike Hennenfent, Clem Newton, Fred Reichert, Steve Wentworth, Garry Niemeyer, Mike Hoeft, Stan Blunier, Doug Wilson, Gerald Carney; seated in chairs: Bill Mullins, unidentified, Bill Furry, John Block, Rollie Main, Lew Asher, Gene Novack; kneeling in front: Ron Fitchhorn, George Flageole



Pictured are past ICGA directors and leader -
front row: unidentified, Bill Furry, Rollie Main,
Lewis Asher; back row: Larry Groce, John Block

At the meeting in November of 1996, a policy was adopted to incorporate the Pledge of Allegiance into the beginning of ICGA meetings, and this practice continues today. Other new policy adopted was to invite three corporate sponsors on a one-year rotating basis to attend board meetings. Awards were presented to counties at the annual meeting as noted in the picture below.



County awards presented to- front row: Keith Yohnka (Kankakee), Bruce Woolley (Kendall); back row: Mike Erdman (McLean), Art Bunting (Livingston), Larry Bilyeu (Christian), Dirk Rice (Champaign), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Tim Main (Knox)

A change in the bylaws and new board policy were adopted in March of 1997. The change in the bylaws pertained to the election of district directors and gave authority to the membership in each district to elect their own representative. (This was formerly done through district caucus meetings.) The portion of the bylaws pertaining to the three positions of at-large directors remained the same in allowing nominations from the floor, following the election of district directors at the annual meeting. The Policy Manual was changed in regard to the logistics for the election process: mail-out ballots were sent to the membership in the districts up for election; nominations for district directors could be done by announcing the desire to run for a district director position no later than the August board meeting or by turning in a petition no later than September 1 with twenty-five signatures of current members from a specific district. In addition, the policy was changed regarding the proxy language to read "unassigned proxies would be voted by your district director".

In regard to the Livestock Management rules, it was decided to present a resolution during the policy session in support of livestock production operations of all sizes and types using sound environmental and management practices. Vic Riddle attended a meeting on Vision 2000 which concerned a facility that was working with livestock waste management.

There was discussion on deferred payment contracts and the timing for when the money was taxed. The board took a position to encourage the IRS to use the original interpretation of the deferred payment and/or arrangements and to support new legislative efforts to correct the taxing of these contracts except in the year the money was actually received. Some of the Illinois legislation that the board supported included: 1) an income tax credit offered to corporations using biodegradable products made from corn or soybean products; 2) amended language in the Illinois Farm Development Authority on a state funding mechanism for young farmers' debt, investment guarantees, etc.; 3) eliminated property tax on filter strips. Following is a picture from the congressional visits made to DC.



Pictured on a DC visit - back row, l-r: George Flageole, Stan Blunier, Terry Wolf, Mike Clark, unidentified, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Prussner, Cong Tom Ewing, Vic Riddle, Doug Wilson, Mike Perrine (media); front row: Suzie Harbaugh and Suzie Flageole

Lowell Hill from the U of I conducted a “Managing Moisture in Grains and Oilseeds Conference” on March 26-27.

The board took a position to participate in a coalition opposing the Particulate Matter 2.5/ NAAQ regulatory process. Jim Trotter was one of five farmers appointed to serve on a Federal Task Force on Air Quality, along with the assistant administrator of USEPA and a person from NRCS. This Task Force was assigned to deal with the Ag portion of ozone regulations and particulate matter. Jim served on this Task Force for several years, and through his involvement, he was asked to serve on the Farm Foundation. Since the Farm Foundation was mainly made up of CEOs of major corporations, very large farmers, college deans and most of the past U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, the board thought it would be good to have an average farmer involved with this group. Therefore, the board agreed to support him and cover expenses for attending one meeting per year with a report of the actions to be given to the board. ICGA continues to support Jim Trotter in this capacity today and even though he no longer serves on the ICGA Board, he does report back to them.

NCGA - It was noted that NCGA was entering the third phase of their Strategic Planning process and Greg Guenther, Rodney Weinzierl, John Phipps and Doug Foss served on some of the working groups. John Phipps from ICMB helped with a rewrite of the NCGA resolutions. In July of 1997, a proposed NCGA structure change was announced to combine NCGA and NCDF into one organization. The new structure included a Corn Board of fifteen farmers elected by the delegate body who could serve two 3-year terms to take care of daily operations; 4 Corn Action Teams – Production and Stewardship, Consumer and Business Development, Public Policy and Grower Services; a delegate body called Corn Congress with a total of 126 delegates based on a formula of 1/3 membership, 1/3 funding and 1/3 production. Under the new structure NCGA would pay expenses for the Corn Board and Corn Action Team meetings. Doug Wilson was appointed to be on a transition team to work on bylaws for the new NCGA structure to be in place by the December 1997 board meeting.

Highlights from Bill Bradley

Prior to involvement with the ICGA and ICMB Boards, he was farming and working part time for a seed company. DeKalb hired him to work with some new dealers and while he was making seed dealer visits in western Illinois, he visited a farm that had just gotten involved with Corn Growers. They signed Bill up as an ICGA member and told him what the organization did. Bill was a member for a long time without being involved in the board. Bill was a second-generation board member serving on ICMB, as his dad was on the very first ICMB board elected to represent District 15. Some of the things his dad was involved with interested Bill, and he decided to run for the spot when his dad's term expired.



Bill presenting the past chairman plaque to Gary Schmalshof

Bill didn't stay home right out of high school but went to college and got a couple of degrees. He then worked in education and for a major chemical company in marketing research. When he decided to come back to the farm, he had all of the work experience and worked well with people. Getting involved with ICMB and ICGA allowed him to continue to use some of the experience he had gained, and he hoped it made him a more effective board member.

Bill felt he grew personally by being on the board in learning to collaborate with different people as well as get acquainted with the differences in the farmland in the different areas of the state. For example, the south was much different from the north. All of this helped him to grow as a person as he got into leadership and had the opportunity to work with people from other states and as he traveled to Washington, DC to work directly with elected officials to plead Illinois Corn's cause. The exposure to all other farmers from other parts of the country also helped him to be a better farmer.

Bill felt that ethanol was the biggest issue while he served on ICGA. At the time, they transitioned into the RFS and the farm bill. As Bill noted, "Under the farm bill, the farm program went from the old way of set-a-side to letting us find markets for our corn." Ethanol was the biggest issue about the time he was completing his term in office, and the board was thinking about what the next big challenge would be. Of course, history shows there can always be an obstacle that changes the best laid plans. The opposition to ethanol today hasn't changed much since Bill was working as a board member.

Bill didn't participate in the barge tours on the Illinois River because geographically they were not close to where he lived. He did get to participate in one with Indiana Corn Growers on the Ohio River, and he noted it was a very interesting and educational experience.

When Bill's dad served on the very first board after the first legislation passed, there was a period of time in which the two boards, ICGA and ICMB, had to figure out what the role should be for



Bill and Curtis Bradley with Captain Cornelius



Bill Bradley, Cong Glenn Poshard, Kent Kleinschmidt



Vice President Al Gore
campaigning at State Fair

each organization and get their agendas sorted out as to what the purpose was for each. That was pretty well sorted out by the time Bill got on the ICMB board. With the two groups learning to work together, that helped bring in people in who had not previously been corn grower members. It did take quite a bit of time sorting out the responsibilities as to which organization did what, and there were some learning curves. That all improved during Bill's tenure on the boards. In Bill's opinion, "It was a combination of good people, good leadership and good staff that helped the organization move forward."

One of the things amazing to Bill as he got involved was how much Corn Growers had to say in Washington, D.C. concerning what was heard and played out. One of the very first experiences he remembers with politicians touting agriculture was when Carole Moseley-Braun was running for the U.S. Senate. Because Bill was from the right political party, he and his dad were able to talk with her when she was campaigning in Carbondale. From that point on, she realized the Illinois Corn Growers were a good source and she used Illinois Corn for a lot of her agricultural ideas and policy.

Another example of Bill being from the right political party happened at the Illinois State Fair when he had the opportunity to meet with Al Gore while he was running for Vice President. Without Bill's involvement in Corn Growers, things like that would have never happened.

While Bill served on the ICMB, he had the opportunity to travel to Indonesia and Australia. This was a wonderful experience and something he would never have dreamed he would be able to do.

According to Bill, "Creation of the ICMB allowed the Illinois Corn Growers to become more effective, because ICMB could fund some of the ICGA programs. The two organizations working together really helped the farmers in the state as well as agriculture." Bill felt the impact of Corn Growers was to help shape public policy. One of the most important reasons for the ICGA and ICMB's existence was helping to shape public opinion which used to have animosity against the farmer.

1997-98



Committee chairs Leon Corzine, Bill Bradley, Garry Niemeyer, Lou Lamoreux



Officers Doug Wilson, Bill Stone, Greg Guenther, Ron Fitchhorn

It was approved to send directors to the USFGC meeting in February 1998 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Those who participated were Greg Guenther, Mike Hoeft, Doug Wilson, Lou Lamoreux, Leon Corzine, George Flageole, Martin Barbre and Stan Blunier.

Vic Riddle and Ron Fitchhorn attended a meeting with the Florida Sugar Growers which was put together by Keith Heard from NCGA. Eight growers participated with two from Missouri, two from Colorado, two from Kentucky and two from Illinois.

McDonald's worked with DCCA on the whole recycling issue, and it was proposed to have an essay contest with advertising of the contest to be on posters displayed in every McDonald's. The board approved getting involved, and it was noted that all the McDonald's locations in Illinois would list ICGA as co-sponsors.

A new membership recruitment tool adopted by the board was to offer ICGA members an opportunity for a 20% premium discount toward a Long-Term Health Care package through Coady and Associates. To date there have been 300+ policies written on long term care insurance. The membership program for 1998 included conducting phone-a-thons, sending out membership mailings, a corn coordinator, a value-added corn cooperative, members signing members and the insurance program. The final membership number for 1998 was 4,328 with a retention rate of about 74%.

The bylaws were changed relating to delegates to the NCGA policy development session to include the following: national directors, 15 district directors plus 3 at-large directors, and county delegates to fill the quota. This then required a change in board policy to note how the NCGA delegate positions would be filled: ICGA would appoint membership delegates, ICMB funding delegates, and the ICGA President and Vice President and ICMB Chairman and Vice Chairman production delegates. In addition, a second change to the bylaws was made to make it a requirement for the two at-large director positions, not including the IAA interlocking director, to announce their intentions to run for election. This announcement was the same as the policy for district director positions: either appear at a state board meeting no later than the August meeting or send in a petition with twenty-five member signatures by September 1. The board felt by using this procedure the membership would know prior to the annual meeting who was seeking election.

A past director event was held at the office, and the picture below shows those who attended.



Past ICGA Directors 1998

A new public relations project was the development of a farmer image public relations campaign based on safe food.

ICGA voted to support the Illinois Animal Agriculture Coalition and become a sustaining member for a one-year commitment. This was an effort to form a coalition of all the primary Ag players and was made up of five groups: beef, pork, Farm Bureau, corn and soybeans. Ellen Hankes (IBA) was contracted to coordinate this group and Lou Lamoreux served as ICGA's representative.

On the federal level, the board approved action that Congress should immediately implement the following to help corn producers in Illinois deal with the current Ag crisis: Fast Track negotiating authority; Administration and Congress should modify the U.S. sanctions policy to allow greater flexibility for food exports to restricted countries; Congress should appropriate \$35 million for the FMD program; Congress should restore funding to allow MAP to operate at the current level;



Fast Track news conference with Gov Edgar speaking



Fast Track news conference with IFB President Ron Warfield speaking; immediately behind him is Gov. Edgar, Cong Ray LaHood and Greg Guenther

Congress should immediately approve funding for the Research Title of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act, providing additional funding for Ag research. It was voted to oppose any effort to raise the loan caps or the extension of the nine-month loan for corn. A press conference was held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

A unique program to gain congressional support for Fast Track authority was to get producers to send a milk jug containing corn into the state office. ICMB helped with funding this producer awareness and educational program. In addition, an ad ran in *Farm Week* on Fast Track. Many of the milk jugs were collected at the barge tours on the Illinois River, and the office mailed the jugs to DC. (This presented a challenge for office staff, as all kinds and sizes of containers were received, and it was interesting figuring out how to send them to DC.)



Examples of milk jugs sent in during the campaign

1998-99



Committee chairs Ron Fitchhorn, Bill Bradley, Mike Clark, Martin Barbre

Leadership training - pictured in back row: Mike Rohan (NCGA staff), Art Bunting, Neil Strong (Syngenta), Steve Pigg, Roger Hubele, Mike Thompson (Sangamon Co), John Kuhfuss, Jim Tarmann; front row: Roger Sy, David Tice, Theresa Schmalshof, Ross Pauli, Jim Rapp



NCGA, ICGA and Novartis held a Leadership Training session at the ICGA office on January 26-27, 1999. Participants included: Mike Clark, Jim Rapp, Roger Sy, Steve Pigg and John Kuhfuss.

In February of 1999, another change was made to the bylaws to change representation to the State Policy Meeting to include all eighteen ICGA directors, any NCGA Corn Board member, Action Team member or Task Force members, county representation according to number of members, and the fifteen ICMB directors.

In regard to legislative issues, it was noted that 4.5 million acres were initially accepted into the CRP program, and the board voted to oppose any CRP contracts for less than ten years or that would lower the environmental standards as accepted. In addition, the board supported SB1087, the Open Land Trust Act.

During futuristic thinking sessions, one of the highest-ranking priorities was to do more in the value-added area. HB1897 on Value Added Initiative passed and was signed by the governor.

Pioneer provided 450 bags of seed corn (choice of any hybrid) for use in some type of program, and the Field Services Committee decided to use this seed as a membership recruitment tool on the barge tours or at the State Fair. A second recruitment program was sending a letter to the membership noting that those who signed up or renewed their membership would be put into a drawing to

receive Pioneer seed. A booklet was also put together on all the marketing services offered to the membership for a cost of \$15 per book.

The board voted to place information in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News* to educate producers on the pros and cons of the proposed farm bill changes.

Officers Leon Corzine, Garry Niemeyer,
Doug Wiklson, Roger Sy



Highlights from Doug Wilson

Doug was serving on the Livingston County Young Farmers at the time they were trying to form a Livingston County Corn Growers Association. He was encouraged by the county farm bureau manager, Roger Naylor, who thought Doug had talents they could use. Doug attended the organizational meeting and ended up on the county corn growers board. As a member he went through the officer rotation and served as president, and he then decided to go on to serve on the state board. The main reason Doug got involved with Corn Growers was that he felt farmers needed a voice to be their own advocate. Corn Growers was more focused on one area while IFB was focused on a broader scope, and Doug felt Corn Growers was an area where he could do some good and feel good about what he was doing.

Personal growth – Doug noted, “I ended up in a lot of doorways that a farm kid from Pike Township never would have imagined he would be in. This included presenting testimony before House Committees numerous times, being at the White House, and dealing with foreign trade visitors on the farm, as well as just learning leadership skills overall.” Doug felt he had knowledge in his own area of expertise, perhaps more than some others. In his words, “In your own way, you are just as good a lobbyist as the people you are talking with, because they don’t know about agriculture while you don’t know about their specialty, but both have things to offer each other.”

Doug felt the biggest issue during his term on the board, was the opportunity to do a lot of media interviews, and he ended up with a number of VHS tapes with segments of interviews he did. Consequently, when he retired from the Illinois and National boards, he had more than a few tapes. His wife encouraged him to consolidate them into one tape. What struck him while going through these tapes was that they included the same topics - ethanol, farm bill, biotechnology, trade and transportation which the organization is still working on today. On a positive note, there was a lot of measurable progress made during his years on the board. One thing Doug feels he first contributed to, and had a large impact on, was probably ethanol and the level it has gone to now. Doug was a part of USDA when the ethanol boom happened, and there was a lot of effort put into building a market that uses a good portion of every year’s corn crop. Another area where



Pictured in a visit to DC are: John Fulton (Kankakee Co), Vic Riddle, Cong. Tom Ewing, Stan Blunier and Doug Wilson.



Doug speaking at an event on Fast Track

Doug feels he contributed was some of the environmental things he was involved in. He took some ribbing from some of his peers, but a lot of times he went to meetings with rooms full of environmentalist and their advocates, so Doug felt if he showed up there, he at least kept a voice for agriculture.

Doug rode on several barge tours and traveled most of the Illinois River. One of the more interesting times was when candidate George Ryan, who was running for governor, decided he wanted to get on a barge tour. Everyone was concerned about him spending that much time in that type of environment, but everything worked out well. Candidate Ryan got to visit with a lot of people in a controlled environment, and it offered him time to sit down with a variety of groups. That one-on-one time with farm groups helped him to be a good advocate for agriculture. Another memory from a barge tour in Peoria was when it was learned that Green Peace was going to be there to protest. Because of Doug's environmental contacts, he got a call from someone who knew him from the River Environmental Association who had gotten word about the protest. So, they were able to work together to structure the time and it all worked out well. The barge tours helped Corn Growers to educate a lot of others, but Doug noted it is disappointing that we still don't have improved locks and dams on the Illinois and Upper Mississippi Rivers today. Overall, Doug learned that what's done in Washington and Springfield, and even county seats, impacts the farmers much more than what they think when they are back on their own farms.

Doug served on NCGA under the old structure which had over 100 board members. He was involved with the transition when the new NCGA structure was put into place, and that was a mighty interesting time. Among the groups on which Doug served through NCGA were field services, governmental affairs, and a couple of special committees such as the biotech working group and a supplemental farm bill group in the late 90's, on which Doug served as chair. At that point, Chuck Connors was with a grain association such as cereal or millers. Then, in later years when Doug was the state director of USDA Rural Development, Chuck was his boss when he was liaison to the White House and during Doug's second term served as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Doug liked to kid him about that and bossing him around. If you had told Doug when he went to the first organizational meeting in Livingston County, he would have an opportunity to serve on Corn Growers and go on to the USDA, he would not have dreamed about that. He learned a lot of different things which helped him in serving on other boards.



DC Visit - pictured Mike Clark, Stan Blunier, Doug Wilson, Cong Tom Ewing, Art Bunting



DC Visit - Doug Wilson, Cong Dennis Hastert, Kent Chidley, John Phipps

Doug served on NCGA Governmental Affairs, he ended up as vice chair and had the opportunity to work quite a bit with Bruce Knight. Sometimes their agendas were a little different, but they got along well together. Doug had good relationships with the Illinois delegation, especially Congressman Ewing and Congressman LaHood. Bruce got Doug into a couple of different hearings where he was able to offer testimony and through working with the different congresspeople, Doug learned it was good to try to “spice up” the testimony.

Doug noted he also worked well with Mark Lambert. Doug felt the area of governmental affairs was another strong point where he had a lot of influence. He had a strong working relationship with members at that time and a lot of the board members involved. Back in his time they used fax machines and would get the talking points. Then Mark Lambert would give him a call and say he would be talking with Max Armstrong or the Washington Post. Doug appreciated how that was handled within the organization in involving the directors as the voice of the organization. As Doug noted, “It takes a greater commitment from the board members, but that is something some other boards don’t do.” Also, Doug enjoyed watching other board members, such as Roger Sy and Steve Ruh, develop. These were folks he could mentor and teach positive things to.

Doug asked to go on record offering his thanks to the folks that went before him on the board. When he became involved, it was an interesting group but one he really wasn’t sure about at first. He really came to enjoy working with others such as Bob Fitzpatrick, Kent Kleinschmidt, Mike Hoeft, Scott Durbin, Floyd Schultz and a variety of others. Doug felt they really went out of their way to help the young guys to learn and pay attention. As Doug stated, “These mentors didn’t mind telling you if you needed to brush up on something and that made for a strong group. Board members could fight around the board table, but by the time they went out the door they were on a united front, and Doug really appreciated Corn Growers for that.” That was something of a reference point he could use as he went in other directions. Doug noted the importance of being able to talk something out, even when you don’t agree, rather than being told what to do. Doug felt that Corn Growers did a lot to help expand his abilities. His aspiration for future directors was that they could have as much fun while also feeling they had accomplished things in the same way as those from his era did. As Doug stated, “You build friendships with corn growers within the

state and from other states that you may not see for years, but these are lasting friendships. Even within USDA, a lot of those connections continue. On some boards, once you are gone that's it and they don't have that same connectivity. That says something to the type of organization that Corn Growers is." Also, Doug felt that Illinois Corn had patient staff. The directors would bring in their own pet projects which they thought were important and leave them for staff to take care of. Several got involved with projects more than what they had time for.

1999-2000

A new commodity group, Illinois Milk Producers, was added to the Illinois Commodity Conference. However, in 2001, Lamb and Wool Producers withdrew their participation. Following are some pictures taken at the ICGA Annual Meeting.



Committee chairs: Roger Sy, Steve Pigg, Martin Barbre, Pat Dumoulin



President Leon Corzine presenting the World of Corn Awards to Daryl Reid and Fred Reichert



President Corzine presenting retiring director awards to Doug Wilson, Greg Guenther and Stan Blunier



Exhibit promoting products made from corn and soybeans

At the NCGA/ASA Commodity Classic, Henneberry Advertising, a vendor that ICGA worked with, exhibited during the trade show. They promoted products made from corn as well as soybeans.

DC Visit - back row: John Adams, Gene Youngquist, Roger Sy, Greg Guenther, Leon Corzine, Roger Hubele, Kenneth Hartman, Ken Greene; front row: Theresa Schmalshof, Terry Wolf, Cong Janice Schakowsky, Martin Barbre, Mike Plumer, Floyd Schultz, Vic Riddle



Membership - A new web site for “Members Only” was added to the Illinois Corn homepage and was called “CornPicker”. The ICGA bylaws were amended to adopt the following levels for corporate partner dues: \$500 for bronze status, \$1,000 for silver status and \$2,000 for gold status.

Legislation the board supported included HB2932, “Farm Retraining” program, which pertained to retraining farmers going out of business and being retrained for another position. A farm bill listening session was held in the Quad Cities. Roger Sy and Greg Guenther attended a farm bill school in DC with the purpose to give a background and history on issues and programs that made up previous farm bills. Doug Wilson was appointed to a new group called Illinois Ag Assembly, and he reported the first meeting went well. IDA scheduled six meetings around the state to get input from the grassroots to determine where agriculture should be going in agribusiness, food and agricultural research, and agricultural education.

2000-2001



Officers Jim Trotter, Ron Fitchhorn, Garry Niemeyer, Jim Rapp

Membership - Changes to the bylaws were approved to add another class of members called “Retired/Absentee Landlord”, and new dues for that class were adopted of \$30 for a one-year member and \$60 for a three-year member. Beginning in May, an electronic newsletter was sent out to members in addition to two newsletters which were mailed. It was noted the July newsletter

would probably be the last printed newsletter mailed to the members, as plans were to change to an electronic newsletter.

An interesting project that happened during this year really had no origination with the corn boards, but it was related to corn. Downtown Bloomington had a “Corn on the Curb” project which consisted of giant models of ears of corn with artwork done by various groups in the community.



Delegate session at NCGA Corn Classic - second row: Jim Rapp, Martin Barbre, John Kuhfuss; first row: Ron Fitchhorn, Steve Pigg



Picture of one of the ears of corn

In the legislative area, the state legislature passed funding of \$650,000 for value added initiatives, with most of the funding going to universities. The board made a decision that help was needed to get legislation passed in the Illinois Legislature, as well as general education regarding agricultural issues. Therefore, it was decided to engage the firm of GovPlus to help with lobbying and education in the Illinois legislature. In addition, ISA agreed to share the contractual lobbyist costs with ICGA. This lobbyist contract continues to date, although ISA no longer shares the cost. Tom Madsen was the first lobbyist the board worked with, and today the lobbyist is Rich Clemmons who retired from IFB Governmental Affairs.

Farm Bill - The board voted to support maintaining the current non-recourse marketing loan and loan deficiency payment program in the next farm bill and also to support updating of bases and yields, using 1991-95 bases and yields, for a counter-cyclical payment.

Steve Pigg and Leon Corzine were appointed to the Governor's Task Force.

2001-2002



Officers Steve Pigg, Garry Niemeyer, Pat Dumoulin

With the passing of the Farm Bill, NCGA scheduled two workshops at the ICGA office conducted by NCGA, FSA, NRCS and Dr. Barnaby from Kansas State. Farm Business Farm Managers (FBFM) came up with a detailed calculator that would work for every farm, and this was available on NCGA's web site. In addition, the information could be downloaded, and CDs were burned for the membership. During the year, the board did have some discussion on disaster aid and the need to defend the farm bill and not open it up, as it was felt we needed to protect crop insurance. Discussion also included the refunding of premiums, as disaster aid was paid out and there was a concern about livestock.



DC Visit - pictured in back, l-r: Leon Corzine, Martin Barbre, Ken Hartman, Roger Hubele, Terry Wolf; front row - Cong John Shimkus, Garry Niemeyer

The Ag Legislative Roundtable sponsored an Ag Forum at the Funk Farm in Shirley, and Attorney General Jim Ryan and Congressman Rod Blagojevich attended.

At the annual meeting, three candidates declared intentions for seeking an at-large director position. Pictured below are those who received the county awards.



Back row: Walt Townsend (Wayne), Chuck Weber (Will), Mike Thompson (Sangamon), Alois Hoffman (Mon-Clair), Art Bunting (Livingston), Tony Storm (Knox), Eldon Gould (Kane), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Dirk Rice (Champaign), John Diedrich (DeKalb); front row: Mark Prose (Macoupin), Ross Pauli (Peoria), Troy Uphoff (Christian), Jerry Matthews (McLean), Mike Hoeft (Tazewell), Steve Pigg (McDonough), Hank Cryder (Kendall), Dewey Long (Macon Co)

Highlights from Steve Pigg

Steve first joined ICGA in the late 80's. In 1992 someone started the idea of forming a county organization in McDonough County, and Steve was involved in this group. He was eventually named president in which capacity he served for seven years. In those days county presidents were much more involved with the state organization than they are today, because the NCGA structure at the time gave Illinois so many delegates to the national meeting that they took county presidents. Then, in 1992 Steve decided to apply for an NCGA Action Team and because he was serving as a county president, thought the Grower Services Action Team would be the best fit. He was appointed to the action team.



Steve received the World of Corn Award in 2011

Steve speaking at an event

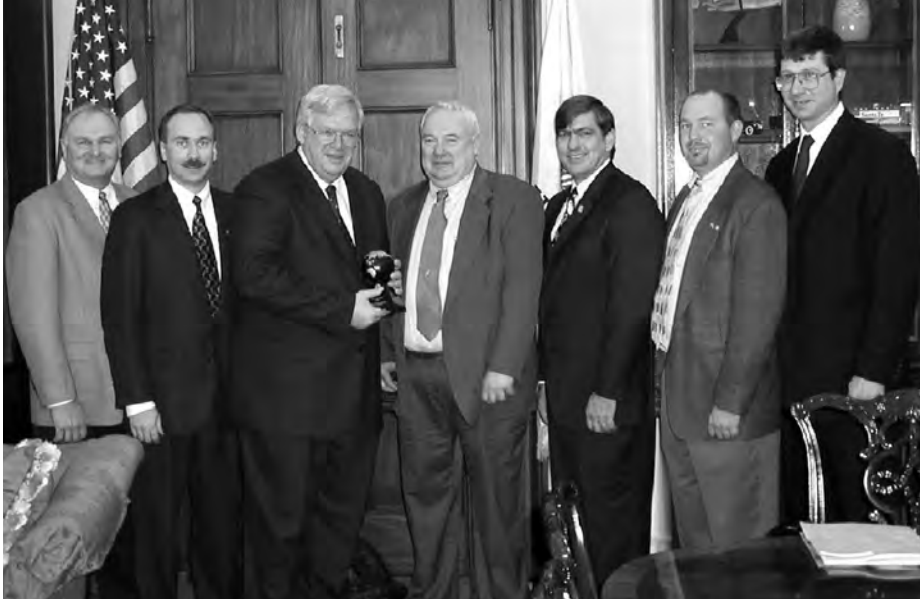


With his involvement on the national level, Steve thought it made sense to get involved with the state board. His district director at that time was Jim Trotter and he didn't want to run against him. So Steve decided to run as an at-large director. His competition for the two at-large spots were incumbents Vic Riddle and Doug Wilson, and he was defeated. This was very discouraging to Steve, but a good friend, Floyd Schultz had a long talk with him and told him not to give up. Then the next year an at-large position opened up and Steve was successfully elected. He served on the state board until after he was past president.

After being involved, Steve could see how important the organization was in standing up for corn grower rights with legislation and regulations and just being involved in those processes. He learned to value what the organization meant. As he stated, "On a personal level, Corn Growers advanced me so much in my leadership abilities, public speaking ability, and in lots of different facets. It kept me more up to date on issues. If it hadn't been for corn growers, there were lots of things I would never have had the opportunity to do. When I went away to college and then decided to return to farming, I would never have imagined I might one day be involved in an organization where I would have that much influence and impact."

One memorable event Steve recalls was the time his daughter answered the phone at his office and told him the Speaker of the House of the United States was on the phone. Speaker Hastert wanted to make sure IFB and ICGA were okay with whatever he was doing at the time. As Steve noted, "It is kind of hard to explain the value of things like that which happen when you are in leadership."

After Steve's involvement on the state board, he served on the NCGA Public Policy Action Team where he served as chairperson for three years. During that time, he was involved in the negotiations for our position on the 2008 Farm Bill. An idea that started in the action team eventually became a piece of legislation because a couple of senators liked the NCGA idea.



Pictured are board members presenting the World of Corn Award to Speaker Dennis Hastert - l-r: Jim Rapp, Rod Weinzierl, Speaker Hastert, Ron Fitchhorn, Steve Pigg, Steve, Barry Smith



Pictured are Ryland Utlaut from NCGA, Sen Carol Moseley-Braun, Doug Wilson and Steve Pigg

Steve recalled a couple of issues that happened during his term on the ICGA Board. One was when an elevator went bankrupt, which in turn bankrupted the grain insurance fund. In looking at how to rebuild that fund, Steve recalled a meeting he attended in Springfield at which Ron Warfield, President of IFB was also present. As Steve noted, “Our proposal was to assess ourselves for every bushel sold and IFB was not keen on that solution.” The second issue was when he used

the words “train wreck” in the media and that came back to haunt him, as it made the headlines in the Ag news. His reference was to an issue dealing with Monsanto selling some of their biotech traits in the Decatur area which were then being exported to Europe. ICGA was trying to stop them from doing that. In the end, they did a total turnaround and said the biotech traits were not being exported. At the time, which was a pretty important issue.

Another memorable side activity took place during a state board meeting to DC when the board went to the Marrakesh Restaurant for dinner one evening. Steve’s comment was, “Not only did I see Ann out on the dance floor, but I witnessed the chief executive officer relaxing and letting go. Rod was always in business mode, because his brain never shut down on corn grower business and this was the first time, I saw him relax and let go.” Steve thought that Rod having a family had made a difference. In fact, he recalled sitting in Rod’s office one day when one of his daughters was there and that fact opened Steve up to the idea of having kids around him at the office. That gave him the idea to incorporate having his grandkids around at his business today. Through changes in staff, Steve got to know a lot of people. The first executive director during his term was Jack Fisher, and Jim Eichhorst was the field services director who later went on to work as a legislative aide for Congressman Ewing. Steve noted it was always fun being around Jim Tarmann and Mark Lambert who liked to have a good time but were also very, very good at their jobs.

One personal experience that Steve will never forget was the time his wife Linda and daughter Erin accompanied him to Washington, DC for the ICGA visits. His daughter was a member of FFA and wore her FFA jacket on the Capitol Hill visits. At that time, Speaker Denny Hastert had a son who was in the same fraternity house as Steve’s son, and his daughter had a goal to get into the Speaker’s office. His daughter got her picture taken with the Speaker. Later when Steve was vice president, he was in the Speaker’s office and asked him how his son was doing. The Speaker noted that he had finally graduated from college and was working in the Vice President’s Office.



DC Visit - Dean Miller (DeKalb Co), Linda Pigg, Erin Pigg, Cong Dennis Hastert, Paul & Bill Dumoulin, Barry Smith (DeKalb Co)



DC Visit - Jim Trotter, Jim Rapp, Theresa Schmalshof, Cong Lane Evans, Erin Pigg, Steve Pigg, Linda Pigg

Steve's Linda was fortunate to be in a group which got into the West Wing of the White House and met with John Podesta, Chief of Staff. So she had her picture taken along with the group which included Bill Bradley. During his term on the board, Steve met with several key people in the Executive Building, an annex to the White House. These are all memories Steve would never have dreamed would happen in his lifetime. After Steve's many visits to DC through serving on the state board and on the NCGA Public Policy Action team, everything became more matter of fact. But he was in awe of the whole DC environment on his first few visits.



DC Visit - back row: Art Bunting, Mike Plumer, Bill Stone, Terry Wolf, Mike Clark, Greg Guenther, Stan Blunier, Vic Riddle, Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, Leon Corzine; front row - Senator Dick Durbin, Lou Lamoreux, Steve Pigg

The next few pages are pictures from some of the congressional visits made during this decade.



Pictured l-r: Ron Fitchhorn,
Greg Guenther, Senator Paul Simon,
Vic Riddle, Mike Hoeft



Pictured l-r: Bill Bradley, Mike Hoeft, Senator Richard Durbin, Lynn Laible,
Floyd Schultz, Kent Kleinschmidt



Pictured l-r: Art Bunting, Bryan
Fogerson, Cong Tim Johnson, Doug
Wilson, Roger Sy



Rod Weinzierl family with Cong Jerry Weller - Rod, Kathy, Gracie, Claire and Hannah



Pictured l-r: Senator Richard Durbin, Leon Corzine, Steve Pigg, Garry Niemeyer, John Adams, Doug Wilson, Floyd Schultz, Roger Hubele, Ron Fitchhorn, Rod Weinzierl, Senator Peter Fitzgerald



Pictured l-r: John Adams, Cong Jerry Costello, Greg Guenther, Phil Shane



Pictured with Governor Edgar signing a bill are Vic Riddle, Fred Reichert and Garry Niemeyer

Autographed picture from Speaker Hastert with Rod Weinzierl and Cong. Ray LaHood



ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD 1992-93



Officers Bill Bradley, George Obernagel,
Gene Youngquist, Lynn Laible

A new policy was set for the board to purchase fax machines for all board members. The board voted to have a representative participate in the USFGC/NAFTA Mission to eastern and western Canada and Mexico.

Joe Hampton testified at the Association of FAS Cooperators in Washington, DC at the request of the USFGC.

Public relations projects approved for funding included: providing paint to county associations to refurbish the corn carts, funding for the Capital City Farm Show in Springfield along with the use of Captain Cornelius, funding to build an educational commodity game and purchasing permanent displays for the Taste of Illinois at ISU and purchasing ten “Abundant Food and Fiber” education units for use in the Chicago metropolitan area. This was an educational curriculum program for schools that included information on corn.

Of significant note was the U.S. exporting the 50 billionth bushel of corn in the spring of 1993. That was enough corn to fill nearly 175,000 miles of rail cars that would circle the earth seven times. April 27 was designed as C-Day and corn producing states from across the U.S. conducted a series of high-profile events to recognize the significant contribution corn producers and corn exports had made to the U.S. economy. To celebrate the milestone, the USFGC held an event in Louisiana, and Gary Schmalshof represented ICMB at that event. ICMB decided to celebrate the 50 billionth bushel promotion at the Peoria barge loading facility.

Another item of interest was that the June 1993 issue of National Geographic showcased corn in an in-depth and entertaining article entitled “Corn, The Golden Grain”.

The name of the Research and Education Committee was changed to Research and Commercialization.

1993-94



Officers Don Doehring, George Obernagel,
Gene Youngquist, Lynn Laible

New directors Merle Miller, Terry Wolf,
John Adams, Doug Foss



The board adopted policy that one ICMB director participate annually in market assessment or development missions organized by national organizations funded by ICMB. Also, new policy listed the make-up of the Business Services Committee to be the past chairman, chairman, vice chairman and treasurer.

At the July meeting, it was reported that the refund rate was running at 8.7%. The retiring board member recognition was set for August 31 at Alexander Steakhouse.



Larry Zabel presenting plaque to retiring director Eldon Gould



Larry Zabel presenting plaque to retiring director
Terry Ferguson



Captain Cornelius in the classroom

NCGA-NCDF - The new CEO for NCGA/NCDF was Chris Wehrmann.

A joint relations project done in cooperation with NCGA consisted of curriculum kits targeted to fourth grade students. These were mailed to county farm bureaus and Ag-in-the Classroom coordinators. The kit contained experiments, a video, a teacher's guide, a World of Corn booklet, a weekly reader and a classroom poster. Other projects approved included development of a second comic book, ordering a new Captain Cornelius costume and the purchase of additional Captain Cornelius curriculum kits. A program with Captain Cornelius was conducted in Pekin with over 350 kindergartners through third graders participating. This was a joint program with Tazewell County Corn Growers.

In an effort to educate those who requested refunds, it was decided to develop a series of post cards containing checkoff facts to be mailed quarterly. This program continues to this day.

Farm Bill - The board approved additional funding for the IRAM Model contract which was currently being used for the 1995 farm bill. In addition, this model looked at the IFB "START" program, the Iowa proposal and the National Grain & Feed program.

A couple of new research projects were funded. The first was for a refrigerant which could be put into an E85 vehicle with the project called "CLEERTM Cooling Liquid Environmentally and Ecologically". The researcher was a local person by the name of Tim Lee from L & R Research, which later changed to Bio Research, Int'l. This refrigerant was put into the E85 vehicles being used by office staff. After funding the project for about three years, the board decided to terminate the contract in 1997 because the project work was behind schedule. The second project funded was in regard to nitrogen runoff from corn by researcher David Lightfoot from SIU. Co-funding was received from Kentucky on this project. This project was working on a gene trait to assimilate nitrogen to help improve water quality, and some of the work was taken to Hawaii.

It was decided to have staff investigate research payback of royalties for research funded by the board. Research tours were held at the U of I in June.

Highlights from George Obernagel

George was originally approached by Joe Hampton to serve on the ICMB Board. At that time George owned farmland in the Shelbyville area. He didn't know much about the organization but knew he had checkoff taken from corn he sold. Joe took him to meet Jack Fisher, who was the executive director at that time. Dave Meyer retired from the district where George resided, so George decided to seek election.

George noted that most people didn't know much about what ICMB did, and he learned that they funded national organizations such as USMEF, USGC and NCGA for research projects at universities. At the time when George was involved with the board, ICMB funded several research projects with the majority of those projects being done at the University of Illinois on ethanol and byproducts from corn. He further learned that working with the USMEF involved marketing of beef, pork and lamb overseas and the USGC promoted agricultural products. George hadn't realized just how much ICMB, and all these organizations did. He encouraged the board to get involved with the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), because chickens eat a lot of corn. There are so many uses for corn that inspired him, and he noted that we still get new production today. Personally, George gained so much knowledge on what happens.



George Obernagel

George felt the two biggest issues when he served on the ICMB Board were ethanol and an effort to increase the checkoff rate. On ethanol, the board worked to make people aware of it. The public at the time was afraid to use it in their cars. George did attend the Ethanol Rally at the ADM plant in Peoria. As he stated, "All the farmers were supporting us as well as a lot of legislators, because we had so much corn that was not being used and had to find uses for it." In regard to increasing the checkoff rate, the board felt there was a need to do that to try to get higher corn prices.

George participated in overseas trade missions five or six times through the USMEF. Some of the countries he visited were Hungary, Poland, England, Taipei, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and Viet Nam. The USMEF celebrated their 25th anniversary in Japan and had a big celebration where the agricultural minister was present. George was chairperson at that time in 1999 or 2000. The big promotion was to educate the people about meat, and commercials were produced for grocery stores in Korea and China. Besides promoting products overseas, they toured livestock facilities and went to slaughter plants, but the people were not always receptive. Some people didn't like animals and didn't like us shipping products overseas. George found these missions to be very educational, and he got to meet people and learn about their culture while promoting our product. He noted, "Everyone on ICMB should take an overseas mission through UGSC or USMEF to learn the different cultures. You come back home and say, 'What can we do to promote our products overseas?'"

George further noted, "Increased funds are always needed to do research projects, and people need to understand that we need to create new products from corn. It is a big thing to meet people around the U.S. to discuss what other states are doing and get new ideas for your state." George felt serving on ICMB was a great experience in helping him to learn all the fundamentals about what local or state leaders do to promote the corn product.

Obernagel tractor



The board was not always in agreement on how to fund the different organizations, as each person seemed to have their own idea. But in the end the board members worked together to come to an agreement on the funding. Growing conditions in southern Illinois are much different than those in northern Illinois and consequently, everyone has some different ideas.

Another thing which George always found to be great was working with the different staff people from the executive director on down. Staff he mentioned were Jack Fisher, Rod Weinzierl and Jim Tarmann. He liked the camaraderie with the board. According to George, “You worked hard and had fun in the evenings, but you established friends for life.”

1994-95



Officers Terry Wolf, Lynn Laible,
Gene Youngquist, Floyd Schultz

A group consisting of IFB, IDA, IFU and Illinois Grain and Feed Dealers Association worked on the Grain Code rewrite for three years, and a lot of debate took place in the Illinois House and Senate.

The board approved funding for NCGA’s study on farmers’ attitudes nationwide towards membership, communications and various other areas. It was hoped this would give some insight into producer attitudes toward checkoffs.

During this period of time, discussions were taking place about combining the Meat Board and the MEF, and it was noted that MEF planned to take a position at their June meeting in Denver. ICMB was opposed to this merger. The MEF meeting in June was the World Meat Export Conference. Staff and the board chairperson were directed to identify the most effective poultry export group for ICMB to become involved with. As a result, the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) made a funding presentation at the June meeting, and it was noted they were a cooperator with the FAS. The board subsequently approved funding of USAPEEC, which they continue to fund today. It was noted that chickens do eat a large quantity of corn. The board recommended appointment of Gene Youngquist and Terry Wolf to serve on the USFGC Executive Committee.

The Ag Council of America developed a FoodWatch Communication Model, and the board voted to invest in this program. John Adams was ICMB's representative on the Ag Council, and he reported the meeting he attended was very informative. They continued to increase guidelines like media placements and trade media placements and were learning more about the food safety issue.

During this year, ICMB voted to develop regular radio advertising on RFD Illinois Radio, and this project continued to be funded each year. In addition, funding was approved to support IFB efforts to further Ag education through a Summer Ag Institute program. Again, this program has been funded each year up through today, although Illinois Corn now has its own intern who presents their part of the program.

In an effort to learn about ways of communicating with the public, an ethanol video was sent out to grain elevators, county farm bureaus and service companies. Then about six weeks later a survey was sent out. About a 20% return was received and the video was rated between 7 and 8 and as the number 1 way of communication.

New promotional items or programs approved included: the printing of 100,000 trading cards featuring Captain Cornelius; "Ethanol for Cleaner Air" bumper stickers; and conducting a radio promotion distributing America's Solution and ethanol grill-charcoal lighter to NAFB stations. The name of the committee was changed to Communications and Education. It was decided to print the ICMB Annual Report and three additional information sections in *Farm Week*, *IL Agri-News* and the IFU paper.

NCGA - A new research project for NCGA was a corn genome project. Also, it was noted that the Commodity Classic would be combined with the Soybean Association and would be in Phoenix in February 1996.



Board members and staff - back row l-r: Jim Tarmann, John Adams, Floyd Schultz, George Obernagel, Gene Youngquist, Rodney Weinzierl; middle row: Mark Lambert, Merle Miller, Doug Foss, John Beatty, Tim Rister, Larry Chamness, Russell Williams, Theresa Schmalshof; front row: Phil Shane, Terry Wolf, Don Doehring, John Phipps, Lynn Laible

1995-96

A new project for working with the Illinois FFA was to lease an E85 car for their officers' use in traveling the state doing promotion activities on ethanol. In addition, it was approved to pay for signage on the car. This arrangement still continues today.

Funding was approved for a project to investigate starch yield identification of different corn hybrids. This project was to identify forty or fifty popular hybrids and evaluate them to find out what their starch content was and what value they might have for wet millers.

Some of the promotional programs funded during the year included: broadening of media exposure for checkoff programs on stations with full-time farm broadcasters; November and January education ads in *Farm Week* and *IL Agri-News*; conducting a targeted post card mailing on utilization of checkoff dollars; purchasing two new displays; and a summer beef promotion in Illinois grocery stores in cooperation with IBA. The post card proved to be successful. A follow-up survey to the one sent last year to track producer awareness of the checkoff was also approved. In order to save money and hopefully reach more producers, it was decided to print the annual report in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News*; and that same procedure has continued up to the present time.

New documents signed with the University of Illinois included: 1) a patent and royalty agreement stating that we would receive 20% of the net proceeds, and 2) an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the U of I and ICMB.



Officers - back row: John Adams, Terry Wolf;
front row: Floyd Schultz, Theresa Schmalshof

1996-97

Funding for a new area was approved this year to sponsor a Value-Added Cooperator program. The purpose of the program was to increase the profitability of corn producers by facilitating and providing start-up funding for programs that create new value for corn products. The conference was held on August 25 and proved to be very successful.

Another avenue for promotion of corn was a contribution to the McLean County Historical Society for a corn exhibit, which later won an award.

Lowell Hill from the University of Illinois requested funding for a conference on “Managing Moisture in Grains and Oilseeds”, and the board approved to help with this conference.

NCGA –NCDF – As noted in the ICGA section, NCGA-NCDF changed their structure to become one organization. Therefore, ICMB signed a new contract which outlined some of the legalities of ICMB funding. Additional funding was approved this year to be designated to the NCGA Transportation Task Force for an economic model on the Upper Mississippi River.

USMEF – The board voted to carry George Obernagel as an ex-officio member on ICMB during his tenure in office on USMEF. George went through the chairs and served as president. USMEF also had a Market Expo March 7-15 in Japan and Korea, and the board approved sending George Obernagel, Don Doehring and Dennis Denton to the Expo.

USGC – The board approved sponsoring elevator managers to attend the USFGC - International Value Enhanced Grains Conference in Phoenix, AZ. In addition, it was approved to send up to ten media to this meeting.

Highlights from Terry Wolf

Actually, Terry was going to apply for the Illinois Ag Leadership program and had an application ready to send in. He was asked to speak at an NCGA breakout session in Denver and while there he ran into Fred Werts from Sidney who asked him to take his place on the ICMB. Even though Terry told Fred he was applying for the Ag Leadership program and might be interested after completion of that program, Fred was persistent. After much thought and talking with his wife, Terry finally decided to apply.

Terry feels like he got as much out of the organization as he put into it. He thought it was really a tremendous experience. Through Terry’s involvement with ICMB, he got involved with the U.S. Grains Council; and from Rod Weinzierl sending him to a meeting, he got involved with the Illinois C-FAR program. He ended up leading that organization for four years, and as a spin-off was involved with starting the National C-FAR effort. At one point in time, Terry was president of three organizations during the same year—ICMB, IL C-FAR and National C-FAR. However, he noted by serving in all of these organizations, he had some experiences he would never have had. He loved the international and domestic policy aspect. Terry enjoyed the interaction with all the people that he met through all of these organizations and to this day, some of his best friends are people he met from all over the world through USGC.

The biggest issue Terry identified was being involved with the USGC when they were looking at how they were organized, did extensive restructuring, and were involved in the strategic planning process. At that point, NCGA was looking at how it would fit in with USGC and vice versa. It was a changing time for the USGC, and Terry had some great people to work with such as Don Jacoby and Jerry



Terry Wolf

Salzman. He noted, "It is amazing to look back and think about all the time spent in meetings during my two years of involvement and how amazing it is to see how committed people were to spend all that time in traveling." Terry remembers one of the meetings in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he ended up filling in for Chairman Don Jacoby who had to have open heart bypass surgery. Terry was sent to lead the meeting and to try to move forward with some consensus in the restructuring plan of the Council. The recommendation was to vote on this at the July meeting. At the end of the business meeting, the delegates wanted to vote on the restructuring plan, and it passed unanimously. This was unique to see because all sectors of USGC worked together to put that in place. Although their strategic plan was fluid, Terry is satisfied to see the same structure still in place today.

While Terry served on the USGC, he traveled through a lot of countries because of being an officer. Terry noted, "Every place I went to was exciting and interesting, and it was a constant learning experience." To Terry, everything in life seems to be an adventure, and he felt these were very interesting times. He enjoyed all the people he met through the Council and the agribusiness people involved on the officer team of the Council were great. One of his most memorable experiences was when the officer team went to Cuba in 2001. After being there three days, they got a call at 10:30 p.m. to meet with Fidel Castro at the Presidential Palace at 11:00 p.m. So the officer team, including Ken Hobbie and Chris Corey, met one on one with Fidel Castro until 3:30 a.m. They had dinner with him and sat across the table from him.



USGC Office Team with Fidel Castro



Terry with Fidel Castro and his interpreter

When Castro found out Terry was a farmer, , he had a great conversation with him. After Terry was back at the hotel and at the checkout counter of the hotel in Havana, Cuba, he turned to Ken Hobbie and said, "Have you ever done anything like this in your life?" It was just an amazing experience and Terry was even able to joke and poke fun at Castro and felt no one else probably ever did that. Terry noted, "Whether you agree with his politics or not, it was a unique experience to meet someone who had a big impact on history, positively or negatively." In fact, traveling through Cuba was amazing, because he realized they had met with all the people in charge of policy throughout the country. Terry noted that it was such a poor country and most of the buildings in the country looked like those from 1958-59, but at the end of the day you realized how

key these people were to the Cuban government. It was amazing to realize how important the USGC was in opening up doors to meet with leaders and businesspeople throughout the world. Terry was able to travel to Cuba two other times and each time met with Castro, but the first time was the most intimate and unique.

From Terry's viewpoint, the USGC at the time prior to their restructuring was the most unique organization in the U.S. The producers were from three different sectors: corn, barley and sorghum; plus, agribusiness leaders, along with people from the foreign Ag service and the U.S. government all worked together with a unique plan to develop markets around the world and improve their way of life. If they were going to improve exports of corn, they had to prove they could help improve the quality of life. Terry is concerned today that the agribusiness influence in the Council has been reduced. Just as an example, he noted Owen Newlin from Pioneer was very influential in getting the checkoff programs put into place in Iowa and Illinois. In Terry's view, experience like this is missing from the USGC officer team today. He realizes that it is a huge commitment for an agribusiness person to be involved, and the company needs to be behind that person. However, Terry believes the Council could have benefited over the last few years from having someone like Jerry Salzman from Case IH, who was a wonderful leader, involved in the leadership team. Many farmers don't have the business experience like the agribusiness people do for working internationally. Business experience is helpful at certain times.

1997-98

Funding was approved for a new agricultural exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The grand opening for this new exhibit called "The Farm" was held in 2000.



Officers Roger Hubele, John Adams,
Theresa Schmalshof, Floyd Schultz

A second Value Added Conference was held with the speakers being Alan Andreas from ADM, Robert Fraley head of the Ag Division at Monsanto, and Sano Shimoda who spoke on bio sciences.

A research project was funded in cooperation with Nebraska on succinic acid.

The past director event was held at the office, and there was a good attendance as shown from the following picture.

USGC - Continued funding was approved for elevator managers and media to attend the USGC conference in Orlando. A new gift, Cross pens, were purchased to pass out on trade missions.



Back row l-r: Fred Werts, John Adams, Roger Hubele, Larry Zabel, Ken Hartman, Gary Edwards, George Obernagel, Don Doehring, Gene Youngquist, Eldon Gould; middle row: Tim Rister, Floyd Schultz, Terry Wolf, Dennis Denton, Theresa Schmalshof, Gary Schmalshof; front row: David Meyer, Maury Gordon, Clem Newton, Gerald Carney, Lew Asher, Lawrence Woessner, Meredith Worner, Joe Hampton

Highlights from Floyd Schultz

Floyd noted that he had served on a lot of boards, but the years on Corn Growers he remembers as being helpful; and a good influence for the organization included, Lew Asher and Bill Furry. Floyd always thought of Lew as his corn grower dad. Jerry Davidson, George Beutel and Bob Muehling encouraged Floyd to go with them to a meeting with IFB and ICGA, because they wanted to do something about membership for ICGA. Bill Furry was the first-person Floyd met. They had a discussion about creating a three-year membership, but at that particular time it was noted this would cause a problem because ICGA didn't have any money. So, they went back home and organized the Will County Corn Growers Association. During this time, John Campen was on staff with IFB, working with corn growers and the milk producers. Floyd's first exposure to the state board was when he went to a Soy Corn Conference held in the winter. The ICGA needed new directors and Bob Muehling encouraged Floyd to run. Floyd was subsequently elected as an at-large director.



Floyd Schultz



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



Floyd with Jack Block

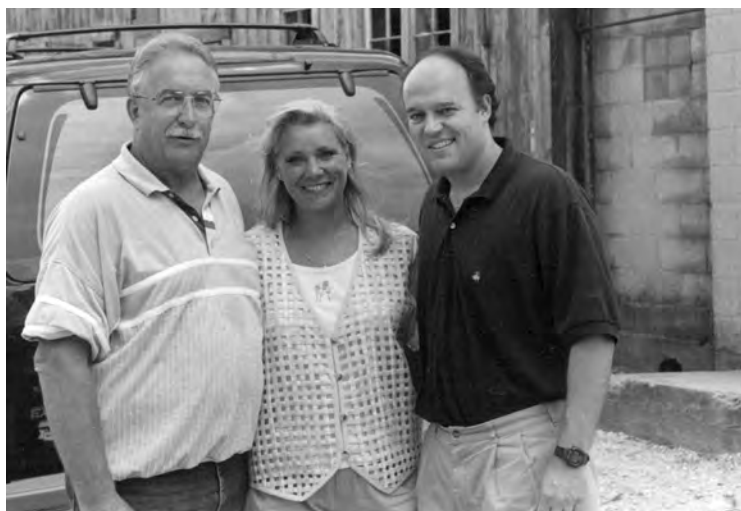
During Floyd's term on the ICGA Board, he got involved with working on the checkoff program. He noted they always had obstacles to overcome. He remembered Dain Friend and Maurie Gordon working hard for the organization. After the creation of the checkoff and election of directors to the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, the working relationship between the two boards got off to a rocky start. Floyd credits Gerald Carney for mending the fences between ICGA and ICMB. Once the personality issues got straightened out, the working relationship got to be what it should. ICGA was disappointed because the ICMB directors didn't really know the history of how they got there. ICMB didn't realize what the benefits of the combined efforts of state and national corn growers were going to bring to agriculture. Joe Hampton also worked to get the two sides together, reminding them about the strides made from the groundwork laid in using 5 billion bushels of corn to make ethanol and for the livestock industry, which was in a lot better shape than they liked to admit. They had high hopes and ambitions but today we keep developing corn no matter what. As Floyd noted, "What would we do with corn today if it wasn't for ethanol and other programs?"

When Floyd went to Washington the first time for six or seven days, he was really happy to get home. He did learn when you visited with congresspeople on agricultural issues, the people listened. Staff put together a good packet of information which could be backed up with numbers that were positive to agriculture. Floyd remembered visiting Congressman Jesse Jackson's office where they met with his legislative aide. This aide indicated he didn't know anything about agriculture but did understand how important agriculture was to the state of Illinois and the income it produced for the state. He indicated if Corn Growers needed something and it was logical, the Congressperson would back it, but they needed to send them the information to keep them informed. Congressman Jackson usually voted favorably to agriculture.

While on the NCGA Board and serving as secretary, Floyd remembered having a meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, and he thought Clayton Yeutter was part of that meeting. He noted this was the room where the Cabinet meets when the President is not there. That was where Floyd got the M&Ms with the presidential seal on them. Floyd also had the opportunity to meet with Vice President George W. Bush.

Floyd served on the NCGA Board after the restructuring when the Market Development Committee became the Research and Education Committee. As chairperson of that committee, Floyd worked hard with Bob Mustell from NCGA staff to get the legislation for the corn genome mapping. As he noted, “That was a highlight of some of those times when you were working to get new research done and had the opportunity to see those things actually get put into place. It was a very positive experience for the whole group of guys that sat on that committee. Before NCGA was restructured, there was such a large board that it was hard to get things done, and the committees handled a big load. Sometimes you would leave the meeting to have conversations in the hallway, and when you returned to the meeting, they were still discussing the same topic as when you left. It was difficult for some, while others may have thought the idea was good, but I didn’t like the way it was being done. In all reality this all makes for a stronger, more viable organization. Every organization experiences growing pains and often has to refresh and change every so often.”

Floyd had the opportunity to go to Guadalajara, Mexico for one of the USGC meetings. He noted it was really impressive to see how far behind the agricultural community was in Mexico compared to the U.S. That was in the late 1990’s – 1998-1999. He went to a county fair south of Guadalajara where they were showing cattle and other livestock. There was some of the new machinery on display which included a John Deere four-row corn planter that had the same parts as the one used by Floyd’s dad in 1952. As Floyd noted, “It was interesting that they were that far behind, but that’s where their technology was. The Grains Council formed a coop for the dairy people, which gave them the opportunity to get their milk sold and delivered. The coop would actually take milk into the dairy in cans, and then right next to the dairy was a feed mill so that they could pick up feed to bring back to the farms. It was noted at one time they would just take the milk out and hope that someone picked it up. This was quite a step up, and USFGC put this all together. It was a good eye opener.” Floyd also went to a state-of-the-art poultry production facility where they had millions of birds, but not an egg ever left that facility. It was laying production. All eggs left in liquid form in stainless steel trucks. Again, that was a real eye opener. The Grains Council had a lot to do with getting that set up. Two gentlemen, the father retired, had taken over the cattle feeding lots; and Floyd talked with the son who could speak English. He apologized for his English but did note that he had studied at Concordia University in Chicago to learn the language. It was good to see this type of industry flourishing which created jobs for people. Floyd noted the people working didn’t seem to be downtrodden, and the conditions at the plant looked good. He did note there were a couple of places in the poultry facility where they were not allowed to walk through because of sanitary reasons, but mainly they got to see the whole production facility.



Floyd and Karre Schultz with Senator Peter Fitzgerald

On a personal level, Floyd noted he was a pretty lucky guy to get to go to Washington, D.C., because without corn growers, he was just a guy that steered the plow up and down the field. This gave him the opportunity to see what things were away from the farm and how you could bring the knowledge learned back to the farm as far as to how legislation was built. As he noted, “You have to understand that Springfield and Washington somewhat control what you are doing so it was better to be part of it than just stand aside and watch the world go by. This was an opportunity that I would never have had if I stayed on the farm and didn’t get involved with Corn Growers.” Floyd thought Lou Faivre said it the best when he stepped down, “Corn Growers gave a lot more to me than I could ever give to them”. As Floyd noted, “Anyone active would say the same thing.”

When Floyd first started, it was a changing time, and he was young for the group. ICGA had been set up in the structure of the IFB, as they were the supporters that helped get the Corn Growers started. Floyd stated, “ICGA met every year with the Commodities Division of IFB, and they gave us guidance as to how they thought we should be looking at things. It was almost like a dad having a talk with his son who he didn’t want to turn the reins over to yet.” Floyd went through a couple of those meetings and felt they were more of a listening session than a discussion session. So when Floyd took over as ICGA president, he decided ICGA needed to have more of a two-sided communication with IFB. John Campen, who was on the IFB Commodities Division staff, was a little nervous about this. There was quite a discussion where they talked about the issues and had a good roundtable discussion. However, after that, ICGA met with a staff person from IFB rather than the IFB Board. Again, this was one of those growing pains of organizations. Floyd felt, “It was alright for IFB to give direction because they had spent a lot of time and effort to see that ICGA got up and on their feet. It was just time to move to the next step.”

Floyd was part of the group that established the Syngenta Leadership Program but because of timing, he never had a chance to go through the training until he served on the NCDF Board. He did enjoy the leadership training which helped him learn how to establish goals. The year Floyd was going to be president of ICGA, he took the Dale Carnegie course and that helped him. Will County Farm Bureau board helped to sponsor his involvement in the course. Through that course he learned to deal with your everyday family life as well as help for running a business, and he still has friends today that he made during that training. When Floyd had to make presentations for NCGA, he noted it was hard trying to convince them that he didn’t need a prepared script; “Just give me the bullet points and let me talk about an issue.”

A memorable event happened for Floyd during his report as chairperson of ICMB at the ICGA Annual Meeting. ICMB had funded a project on zein from corn beginning in 1995 at the University of Illinois; and as part of Floyd’s ICMB update, he was showing a sample bookmark made with zein. He was explaining how flexible and pliable it was, when it broke into two pieces. However, research on that project continued and will be coming into production in the near future. Today Floyd serves on a joint venture board called Big Rivers Prairie Gold which is developing a plant they hope to have on-line sometime within the next year to eighteen months. The plant will be in Galva, Illinois. Floyd noted it is hard to put a timeline on a new development, and this is an exciting time. In the research area, anyone will tell you if you can get it done and out the door within ten years, it is considered to have done well. It is impressive to Floyd that he

was able to be involved with something like that from the time of concept to the finish. Others, who have previously served on an Illinois Corn Board, who are now serving with Floyd on the Prairie Gold Board, are John Adams, Roger Hubele and Gene Youngquist.

In Floyd's opinion, bringing Dave Loos to Illinois Corn staff has been a positive move. Floyd noted, "The organization does have a good staff when it comes to knowledge and expertise. Finding people like that is a positive thing. It is good to get people with the expertise to help with whatever the organization is doing and important that you have a good team. Corn Growers working together as a team has a lot to do with where the organizations are today."



Officers Roger Hubele, Theresa Schmalshof, Ken Hartman, John Adams

1998-99

ICMB directors gained a right to vote at the State Policy Session, because ICGA adopted changes to their bylaws allowing them to do so.

The third value added conference was set for July 22, 1999, at the Holiday Inn in Normal. The conference talked about farm structure, a GMO panel was a highlight, and there was also a panel of producer groups. Following the conference, a reception was scheduled at the office with Illinois members of USGC. Past ICMB board members were also invited. The next day, the USGC put on the first International Trade and Marketing Workshop to teach participants about exporting. The USGC mission this year was to Taiwan.

The board decided to send a team to Mexico in regard to marketing white corn, and it was felt this mission was much more valuable and successful. It was noted this happened as a result of grain tours to Illinois under the direction of Terry English. The Mexican people were very interested in working together on marketing. The board continued funding for elevator managers and twelve media to attend the USGC conference in Orlando.



Exhibit at State of Illinois event - pictured are John Adams, USGC barley guy, Theresa Schmalshof, Terry English (Dept.of Ag), Ken Hobbie (USGC)



Promotional brochures

In conducting a survey to determine what kind of promotional materials were needed, it was learned that most people still wanted printed material. Therefore, it was decided to order additional Captain Cornelius comic books, a new general corn brochure, and to produce some value-added brochures. Also, a new value-added corn exhibit was developed. (insert picture – Chapter Four Pictures/Ethanol-Corn Brochure)

A new exhibit approved for funding was an “Amaze Your Friends Corn Exhibit” which was located at Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida. This was done in cooperation with other states. Since the exhibit was so popular with children, the board approved additional seed money in 2000 for a larger Corn Exhibit.

A couple of research projects funded this year included one on corn zein into Environmental Packaging Materials by Dr. Cheryan and a project for specific testing of different hybrids and their traits “Corn Hybrid Testing for Alkali Cooked Products”. On the corn zein project, it was learned that additional work was needed because the first product was very brittle, as noted in Floyd Schultz’s highlights when the product he was demonstrating actually broke into two pieces.

During this year Joe Hampton, former ICMB director, was appointed as the Illinois Director of Agriculture.

Highlights from John Adams

Kent Kleinschmidt first approached Sue Adams about serving on the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. Sue was busy with the Ag Leadership Program so John thought he would be interested in serving on this board, and that is how he got started. John noted that it was a tremendous experience which he really enjoyed.

The opportunity to serve on the ICMB broadened John's horizons so much. He noted, "When you farm, you are in your own little area and at about that time I was becoming bored with farming. Serving on the board invigorated me more and gave me the chance to meet new people. It was good to work with a board of directors as well as those serving on national organizations such as the USGC and Ag Council of America. Illinois had a very good staff working for them."

As John further stated, "The whole experience was an eye-opening experience which gave me a broadened perspective beyond my own front door and a good background for serving on other boards." He now serves on an elevator board. This experience also helped to broaden his knowledge of international trade and what happens on a bigger picture in the world of grain. John noted that attending meetings in DC or anywhere else were always very informative.



John Adams



John speaking



Jim Tarmann presenting award to John

During John's tenure on the board, NCGA was experiencing some problems as an organization which caused some struggles for Illinois. In the end, this all worked out and is much better today. Also during this time, Illinois helped with getting the Adkins Energy ethanol plant started. A lot of research projects were funded during the 1990's, mainly through the University of Illinois. A couple of projects were in regard to zein and butanol. A company called Prairie Gold was set up to work toward commercializing zein, and it was recently announced that is coming to fruition with a plant to be built. John serves on the Prairie Gold Board. In regard to butanol, John remembers visiting with ADM, which was an interesting experience personally and from ICMB's point of view. John was also

involved in attending meetings with Phil Shane on the ethanol tractors. During the time John served as chairperson of the Public Relations Committee, they started to sponsor monster truck pulls.

Quite a few trade teams have visited John's farm. Phil Thornton took a gentleman from Japan who wanted to see corn production across the Corn Belt. Another time John enjoyed showing one of the Korean marketers at harvest time the rolling wagon. The group wanted to get a sample, and John couldn't believe how fast they got to that wagon. While attending a meeting at Advance Trading for an elevator meeting, John recognized a guy present who had been to his farm. (insert pictures: Chapter Four Pictures/Adams-Trade Team)

John served on both of the Building Committees, the building of the original structure and the expansion. He noted it was interesting to work with everyone and to plan and see it being built and utilized. Over all, John is just amazed at how much effort it took the original people to get this organization going. One surprise that John received after serving on the board was being awarded the "World of Corn" award.



John visiting with a trade team on his farm

1999-2000

The opportunity to be part of a new IFB group called Producers Alliance was offered to the board. The Executive Vice President and CEO of this group was Larry Groce, who served as a coordinator for ICGA in its beginning years. Accepting an agreement with this group required a three-year commitment to provide \$250,000 of in-kind services through corn projects in exchange for 50,000 shares of stock and a nomination to the board of directors with full voting rights. John Adams was appointed as ICMB's representative. In addition, a representative from Producers Alliance attended ICMB board meetings. Their first representative was William Olthoff and that later changed to Stan Blunier. This group worked on contracts for grain, isoflavins, soybeans GTI and nutria-dents. In 2000, Producers Alliance changed from a for-profit organization to a not-for-profit organization in order to qualify for more grants. This meant ICMB stocks were returned and with the change in structure, a board representative was no longer necessary.

USGC - The board decided to continue the practice of sponsoring elevator managers, farm managers, and media to the USGC meeting in Monterey, California. In addition, with funding from ICMB, nine elevator managers, representatives from producer groups and university

representatives attended the USGC “Meet Your U.S. Grain Supplier” meeting in Mexico City. It was noted that the Grains Foundation, which was formerly an entity of the USGC for years, had to be reinstated to attract money from other foundations.

USMEF - In order to review poultry and edible meat rendered to Mexico, the USMEF hired a consultant to explore electronic document transmission with Mexico. Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois all committed funding toward the project.

During the year 2000, the board decided it would be advantageous to subscribe to “The ProExporter Network”. This subscription continues to this day.

Research - Funding was approved for the NCGA degerm project in cooperation with Iowa and Nebraska. In June it was noted that project was moving forward and an engineering company, Katzen, began engineering work. Another project funded was on “Activated Carbon” which was done by the Illinois State Geological Survey at the U of I. It was noted this was the second stage of work to determine the engineering aspects required for production and to determine the quality of the carbon. In 2001, it was noted that the preliminary test from the power plant on activated carbon project looked good. In 2003, it was reported that the activated carbon project was moving toward commercialization with the final report received. The U of I determined that activated fiber from corn fiber looked as well as anything on the market for the use of mercury removal. The project appeared to have great potential.

2000-2001

Cooperator Programs - It was decided to continue the practice of taking media to the USFGC value added meeting. Terry Wolf was asked to join “The Bennett Agricultural Round Table” (Farm Foundation), and the board decided it would be good to have farmer input with this group and approved paying expenses associated with his involvement.

As noted earlier, the board funded science teacher projects each year through Illinois Agri-Women. One of the exhibits showed a new product that had been developed from corn starch called “magic noodles”. This product was safe, non-toxic and completely biodegradable and made its own glue. The inventor of “magic noodles” was Dr. Ramani Narayan, professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at Michigan State University. Below is a picture of the ICMB exhibit at the science teacher trade show.



ICMB Exhibit at Science Teachers Conf

Farm Bill - Research was funded to develop a prototype for use with the farm bill and beyond which would update the IRAM model.

Research Projects - It was decided to apply for a patent on the Pulse Electric Field Dryer project.

2001-2002

A very notable event that happened during this year was the Ty Walk Elevator declaring bankruptcy. As a result, that left the Grain Insurance Fund out of money. Therefore, the IDA formed the Grain Insurance Task Force on which Rod Weinzierl, Ken Greene and Steve Pigg served. In the legislature, there were two bills associated with this issue – one to deal with the mechanics on how to reimburse the fund and improve the oversight of the fund, and the second one was a trailer bill passed as a shell bill.

Another unique opportunity that the board decided to explore came as a result of Williams Energy (ethanol plant) being up for sale. The board decided to investigate the value and opportunity of this plant in Pekin, identifying the value to ICMB in being able to partner with an interested party to buy the plant and perhaps influence them toward a farmer cooperative structure. It was also noted that the IFB Producers Alliance group had a lot of interest in this. In the end, the company was sold to another ethanol company.

Cooperator Programs - USMEF scheduled a Japan BSE public relations campaign to get consumption of beef back up, and the board approved funding. The USGC meeting in 2003 was scheduled for February of 2003 in Guadalajara, Mexico and the board decided to continue their past practice of sponsoring key individuals from the grain industry and media to attend the meeting.

In 2001, Frank Buerskens put together a project evaluation and performance measurement system for the Market Development Committee to use in evaluating the cooperator funding presentations. This committee found this process to be very helpful and decided to continue with this evaluation process to include development, project evaluation, a review of last year's process and set up a better estimated performance process enabling them to do more in-house.

Some of the research work approved this year related to dried distillers grains (DDGS) including a DDGS project for pigs and a Pro Exporter Study by Bill Hudson on DDGS. In addition, a Dried Distillers Grains Conference was held in August in Prior Lake, Minnesota, and the board voted to send four university people to the conference. The U of I offered ICMB the opportunity to fund a position of Ag Policy Chair. This was a program to put a person in place at the U of I who had expertise in Illinois agriculture and who could answer policy questions, as well as having a friendly voice speaking on behalf of agriculture in the State of Illinois. The ICMB thought this would be very beneficial and funded the program for three years.

Trade Missions - In 1999, new Cross pens were purchased to give to trade missions. ICMB directors participated in several trade missions during this decade. Some of them were as follows:

1994	Larry Chamness	Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia - Pioneer & USFGC (Max Armstrong from WGN provided about 20 hours of video coverage on this mission which he ran on U.S. Farm Report)
1995	Terry Wolf Rod Weinzierl	Mexico, Columbia and Venezuela – USFGC Japan/China or Indonesia/Malaysia - Pioneer
1997	John Beatty & Gene Youngquist Dennis Denton	Russia and China - USFGC & Pioneer Brazil - USFGC & Pioneer
1998	Doug Foss & Roger Hubele	Hong Kong, Taiwan & China - USMEF Market Expo
1999	David Tice, Lou Lamoreux & George Obernagel Tim Rister	USMEF Mexican Expo London, Poland and Hungary - USMEF Expo Korea & Japan - USMEF Market Expo
2001		
2002	Tom Martin, John Beatty & Dennis Denton Terry Wolf Wendell Shauman & Rod Weinzierl Mike Adams (media)	South America – IFB South America – Top Producers Mission Russia, Hungary & Italy – USGC Cuba – USGC

Trade Teams - During this decade, there were several trade teams that came to Illinois. The ICMB decided to purchase letter openers to be used for a trade team gift. Some of these trade teams in which ICGA was also involved included:

- 1993 Samara, China and Malaysia.
- 1994 Taiwan and Russia at Eldon Gould farm
- 1995 Indonesian trade team visited Eldon Gould's farm



Wayne Meyer with a trade team

- 1996 Korea – hosted by Theresa Schmalshof
Japanese – hosted by Lynn Laible, Merle Miller and John Adams
Columbia – hosted by Terry Wolf
- 1997 China, Mexico, Japan, and one from France meeting at office with Hoeft and Weinzierl.
Soviet Team visited Terry Wolf's farm.
- 1999 Egypt – hosted for dinner by Terry Wolf, Bryan Fogerson, Roger Sy, Mike Clark and Mark Lambert
Malaysia & Indonesian visiting the Terry Wolf farm
China visiting with Ron Fitchhorn and John Kuhfuss
- 2001 Japanese Scientific Feed Association toured Niemeyer's farm where seed beans and high oil corn were grown.



Ron Fitchhorn visiting with
a trade team on his farm



Garry Niemeyer visiting with
a trade team on his farm

- 2002 Niemeyer reported on a Taiwan Trade Mission where grain contracts worth \$1 million of grain were signed. In attendance were State Treasurer Judy Barr-Topinka, Director of Ag Joe Hampton, and Director of DCCA Pam McDonough.
Indonesia, Malaysia and China – hosted by Terry Wolf and John Adams