

Chapter Five

2003-2013

Because it had been some time since both boards updated their strategic plan, a session was scheduled on December 18, 2003, with outside consultants Bill Hudson, Frank Buerskens and Darrell Good in attendance. A second session was conducted at the January meeting with comments noting that members had found the sessions to be very beneficial. In January of 2005, ICMB and ICGA met together and brought in Bill Hudson and Marty Ruikka from ProExporter for some help regarding a business plan and a good structure for the boards. The boards then divided into two groups to become more educated in two key areas which had been identified: industrial and exports. At the March meeting, ICMB experimented with a two-committee structure for this meeting, one for industrial and the other for exports. In July they adopted the two-committee structure. Each committee identified the need to set measurable goals and then identified objectives to accomplish those goals. The ICGA decided to adopt a similar new committee structure also, although they had a few challenges with how to manage the membership area, which you will note in their section below.

In June of 2005, a suggestion came from a former board member that it might be good to consider adding a storm shelter to the office. Another idea identified was to also consider more office space to handle the size of the committees under the new committee structure. These suggestions led to the formation of a Building Committee which was charged with coming to the August meeting with four different options: 1) keep the building in its present form; 2) put a storm shelter in the ground at the north end of building; 3) construct a 40 foot addition to the building; 4) construct a 60 foot addition to the building which would maximize the lot. In addition, it was suggested some investigation be done into the feasibility of selling the present building and constructing a whole new facility. In June of 2006, both boards voted to proceed with construction of a 56-foot steel addition to the building plus purchase of new equipment.



Shows equipment for beginning construction

Checkoff Program - In June of 2004, , the ICGA board voted to move forward with requesting that ICMB seek a referendum vote, but it was later decided the timing was not conducive at this time. In January of 2007, in a secret straw poll, ICGA and ICMB approved conducting a referendum to increase the checkoff by 1/8 cent, making the new rate 3/8 cent. Areas identified for the needed increase were ethanol, DDG's and promoting the use of E85 vehicles. The referendum was conducted on March 29, 2007, and voting was done by walk-in ballot. The referendum passed with 69% "yes" votes and 31% "no" votes.

In 2012, ICGA and ICMB voted to request a referendum to increase the checkoff rate, and areas identified for additional funding were: infrastructure improvements, challenging new USEPA regulations and a need for more science, public perception of farming, and higher ethanol blends. ICGA sent a survey to their membership to learn what their feelings were toward an increase in the checkoff rate, and the results were positive. A public hearing was held and five people testified in support of an increase while no one testified in opposition. ICMB voted to request an increase in the rate from 3/8 cent to 5/8 cent. A reminder of the referendum vote, which was conducted by walk-in ballot, was published in *IL Agri-News* and *Farm Week*. The checkoff referendum passed to increase the rate to 5/8 cent per bushel with 78% voting in favor and 22% against.

New staff positions - In 2007, a new staff position was approved for a Project Coordinator. With nutrient management issues coming to the forefront in 2013, the boards decided there was a need to hire two full-time staff positions to start researching and collecting data. Job descriptions were approved, and it was noted the new staff would be housed with the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association. Therefore, new staff positions were added, one for a Director, Water Quality Science and the other for a Nutrient Water Shed Manager.

Program Staff Updates:

Nov. 2006	Phil Shane left ICGA to become president of Prairie Gold
Aug. 2007	Dave Loos hired as Technology Business Development Director (title changed)
Nov. 2007	Lindsay Mitchell hired for new position of Project Coordinator
June 2009	Mark Lambert resigned to accept position with NCGA
Aug. 2009	Tricia Braid hired as Communications Director
Oct. 2013	Caroline Wade hired as new Nutrient Water Shed Manager
Dec. 2013	Laura Gentry hired as new Director, Water Quality Research

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR - During this decade, , ICGA and ICMB continued to have a presence at the Illinois State Fair. However, there were some changes made in where these exhibits were located on the fairgrounds. Some of the notable exhibits were as follows.

In 2005 the exhibit was located behind the AFL-CIO booth, next to an antique tractor display. There was a race car on display, an E85 exhibit, and DCEO and the American Lung Association had two or three people working at the booth. The exhibit did have good traffic.



Pictured with the race car are Art Bunting, Garry Niemeyer, Samantha Slater (NCGA), Pat Dumoulin and the race car driver

In 2006, the exhibit was located in the old “Happy Hollow” area and included the Avalanche and the F150. The American Lung Association staffed the exhibit. A lot of pictures were taken with the F150 truck.

Beginning in 2010 a new agricultural exhibit called “Farmers Little Helper” was put together, and each of the commodity groups had an exhibit space. The exhibit was geared towards small kids and gave them the opportunity to visit small barns focused on different commodities and to have interactive experiences about agriculture. Both young and old enjoyed the hands-on nature of the exhibit. After this new exhibit area was developed, this continued for the years of 2011, and 2013.



Staff Becky Finfrock in front of new “Farmers Little Helper” area at State Fair



Corn exhibit in the “Farmers Little Helper” area at State Fair

FARM PROGRESS SHOW - By this point in time, it had been decided to have a permanent site in Illinois for this show. Also, Indiana was no longer in the mix for hosting the show, meaning that it would be in Illinois every other year. In 2003 the permanent site identified for the Farm Progress Show in Illinois was on land located near Richland Junior College in Decatur, Illinois. In discussing the options for the Illinois Corn exhibit, there was some thought about having a more permanent exhibit structure. However, for the first year, it was decided to go ahead with using a tent to allow more time for planning something more permanent. Our exhibit for this year was shared with NOVECTA, NCGA and Indiana Corn. Secretary Veneman planned to attend. “Our Crops, Our Fuels” bulk tank decals, bumper stickers, window stickers, and shirts were produced and passed out.

Again in 2005 there was discussion about the possibility of constructing a permanent building for our exhibit. After investigation, it was noted there were some concerns about a permanent building, as the cost was pretty high for a structure being used for only a few days every other year. The Board did, however, vote to do further investigation into a permanent structure. For this year, it was approved to have a joint exhibit with ISA.



Pictured inside the exhibit are: Norm Marek (IL Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity), Tom Madsen (Gov Plus lobbying firm), Julie Day, Phil Thornton, Roger Sy, Phil Shane, Lori McCubbins and Dave Loos (DCEO)



Picture of front of exhibit



Picture of the race car



Art Bunting speaking at the Farm Progress Show with the Ford E85 Escape in the background



Staff Phil Thornton talking with Angela Tin from ALA and Jim Tarmann working the booth at the Farm Progress Show

Tim Seifert, Tim Lenz and Mark Lambert met at Richland Community College to get information on the options for constructing a permanent building at the Farm Progress Show. It was noted that the property was owned by ADM and overseen by Richland College who had a long-term lease. In June of 2007, it was reported that Farm Credit had learned it would cost \$246,000 to construct a 60' x 90' building. For 2007, the boards used a tent for the exhibit which covered the topics of E85 and Food versus Fuel.

By the year 2009 it was learned that the cost of a permanent building would be approximately \$200,000. The boards decided to continue researching the option for going ahead with a permanent building in a couple of years, if another organization would be interested in sharing one with us. For the show this year, it was approved to place ads along the Farm Progress route.



Front of exhibit



American Lung Association exhibit inside Illinois Corn exhibit with Angela Tin in center of picture



Shows the ethanol trailer exhibit



Part of exhibit which shows billboards used in Washington, DC for the Corn Farmers Coalition

Kenny Wallace race car with staff and board from l-r: Wayne Anderson, Jim Reed, Jim Tarmann, Scott Paddock, Becky Frinfrock, Tricia Braid, Kenny Wallace, Martin Barbre, Phil Thornton, Dave Loos, Don Duvall



In the year 2011, the exhibit included the ethanol trailer exhibit which was owned by four ethanol plants in Iowa. The educational materials within the ethanol trailer were updated. Another unique event that happened at the show was the launching of the KIC 2025 program by Gary Hudson, president of C-BMP.

At the show in 2013, Kenny Wallace from NASCAR appeared at our exhibit. As in past years, participants drafted faxes to be sent into congressional offices regarding support of the RFS II.

TRADE TEAMS - Several trade teams visited the U.S. during this decade. In 2004, it was decided to produce an Illinois photo book to use as give-a-ways for trade teams. In 2012, Illinois Corn began working with the USGC on a database of trade teams coming into the country and

leaving the country to measure the value of the visits/missions for US corn interests. Following is a list of some of the teams that came to Illinois:

- 2003 Muldova Mission toured the U.S. for two weeks. In meeting at the office, Garry Niemeyer explained the corn growers, and they also toured the John Kuhfuss farm



Trade team visiting the State Office

- 2003 Steve Ruh hosted representatives from Jordan, Syria and Egypt at his farm.
2004 Teams from Columbia and China
2005 Japanese Trade Team



Japanese Trade Team
visiting the State Office
with Phil Thornton the
first one on the left in
the second row

- 2006 Trade teams from Korea, China and Egypt hosted by Wendell Shauman,
Steve Ruh and John Kuhfuss
2007 Taiwanese group in Springfield to sign an agreement
2009 Chinese professionals toured Art Bunting's farm
2010 About 20 trade teams visited the U.S.

2010 Teams from Korea, 2 from China, Costa Rica, South Korea, and Dubai



Picture of Chinese Trade Team visiting the office. Phil Thornton is in back row, third from left and Tricia Braid is in purple.

2010 French Buyers Mission by Trader's Group - Group of DDG buyers from EU

2011 Teams from Finland, South Africa, Viet Nam and France

2012 John and Sue Adams hosted a trade group from Japan interested in seeing the effects of the drought.

Japanese Trade Team talking with John Adams at his farm



Phil Thornton met with Japanese and Chinese trade teams. He noted that the Chinese, who were federal regulators and high-level government officials, mostly asked about federal crop insurance because they were concerned about how to keep their farmers in business.

ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

2002-2003



Pictured in back row: Mike Hoeft, Gene Youngquist, Kane County members; front row: Steve Ruh, Randy Pauli, Kane County member

Kane County County Corn Growers donated money for a flagpole to be placed near the road at the front of the building lot. Some of the members of their county group attended a board meeting to present the plaque.

It was approved to have board members participate in the U.S. Grains Council meeting in February in Guadalajara, Mexico. Those who participated were Jim Rapp, John Kuhfuss, Steve Ruh, Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, Henry Kallal, Art Bunting, Pat Dumoulin and Mark Lower.

Membership – Novecta and Adkins Energy brought in some new members with an increase of 193 over last year. Current membership was reported at 4,294. The “CornPicker” was updated, and a full-page ad was run in *IL Agri-News* as well as some radio spots on RFD. The board also approved the purchase of the first plot data.

Political Action Committees - In July of 2002, it was formally approved to form two Political Action Committees (PAC), one for state and one for federal. Designated members of the PAC Committees were past president serving as president of the committees; legislative chairperson, market development chairperson, and two at-large directors. Kent Kleinschmidt and Hank Cryder were the at-large directors appointed to serve for the first year, and it was decided the two at-large directors needed to be appointed each year. NCGA later formed a Political Action Committee, and the board voted to allow the ICGA Federal PAC to contribute to the NCGA CORNPAC.



Pictured are Senator Durbin, John Kuhfuss, Rod Weinzierl, Steve Pigg, Henry Kallal and Senator Fitzgerald



Ken Hartman and Steve Pigg in front of the Capitol

For this year, the schedule for the DC visit in March was modified with only the committees participating in agency and congressional visits and no formal board meeting was held. Congressional visits to DC continued each year, some years with only committees and some years with a formal board meeting.

The Illinois Commodity Conference decided to move to a one-day format. The Past Board Member event was held in conjunction with the ICC in 2002, and it was decided to move that event to the August meeting beginning Aug. 27, 2003. County awards were given at the annual meeting, and those receiving awards are in the picture below.



County awards - pictured l-r: Hank Cryder (Kendall), Ross Pauli (Peoria), Tim Rister (Gallatin), Kent Kleinschmidt (Tazewell), Randy Pauli (Kane), Walt Townsend (Wayne), Dave Bossert (Livingston), Floyd Schultz (Will), Dale Haudrich (Mon-Clair), Ray Prussner (Kankakee)

Beginning with this year, it was decided to no longer fund the “News for Corn Growers” radio program. To replace this program, it was decided to work with Rita Frazier from WSMI in Litchfield to run 160 radio spots between April and October, sponsorship of speech events, and interviews of corn grower leaders. The ICGA annual report was published on the website. It was noted that this year marked the 50th anniversary for the Farm Progress Show.

The board voted to join the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, which gave ICGA a seat on the Infrastructure Council and Transportation Illinois Coalition. That membership continues today.

Because there were often issues with aflatoxin, the board voted to participate with the Texas Corn Producers Board in the U of I study entitled “Creation of Commercially Usable Corn Inbreds and Hybrids with Low in Grain”. This study was to try to identify and isolate the different varieties to improve aflatoxin resistance.

Highlights from Garry Niemeyer

Garry got involved with ICGA through a good friend and neighbor named Fred Reichert who was going off the board in 1995. From 1987 to 1995 Garry had been a director of the Sangamon County Farm Bureau, serving as president in 1994-95. Since Garry was going off the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board and Fred was going off the ICGA Board, Fred asked if Garry would be interested in serving as a director for the Illinois Corn Growers Association. Even though he didn’t know much about Illinois Corn Growers, he decided to run for the board.

On a personal level, involvement in Corn Growers increased Garry’s knowledge base of corn, whether it was policies for ethanol, policy work such as building locks and dams, or identifying the kind of policies which needed to be put in place. Through his involvement with Corn Growers, Garry learned a lot about the technology of growing corn. By serving in the organization, he learned a lot about corn production, nitrogen utilization and conservation issues. Garry noted it was just amazing the things you think you know about, but after being involved you learn you really didn’t know the particulars.



Garry receiving the Environmental Award from President Vic Riddle

Garry gained self-confidence by being a director of this organization and learned good communication skills. He will never forget the endless days Mark Lambert spent in helping him to learn to communicate effectively. He not only learned the policies of the organization and how to move forward with those but also how to communicate those policies effectively to national political leaders. As Gary stated, "In general, as a person you have a particular way you feel about politics but to be an effective leader, you have to learn to work in a bi-partisan manner. This is a challenge for everyone that comes in. You have your own opinions that you have formulated your whole life, and you really need to learn how to deal with other leaders." Ironically, Gary felt he learned more from opposing points of view, which he had never thought about until being challenged. He further noted, "Getting a more worldly view of working together helps you to accomplish things." He learned in working with NCGA, the strength of the organization is its unity.

Another point Garry mentioned was that it really helped him was to be a better spokesperson for the industry. He learned by doing interviews, knowing your policy points, and making sure you stay on target, you become an effective spokesperson to influence the elected officials to buy into your point of view. That was really very important to him. "Quite honestly," Garry noted, "it taught me a lot and prepared me to move up to a national leadership position."

Garry got to work with a great assortment of farmer leaders by being president of ICGA and he learned where things are. Illinois is a huge state and by being president, you get to meet leaders of the different county corn growers. As he stated, "This helps you begin to understand their points of view when it comes to policy development meetings." The friendship of the people he has known has been very important to Garry and greatly helped him to be able to work together for a common cause with someone from a different part of the state.

Being an elderly farmer, Garry had the opportunity to learn a lot of new technology which helped with computer skills and organizational skills. His granddaughter even helped him to operate his own cell phone and work on the internet. Being in leadership, especially of ICGA, Garry learned a tremendous amount of skill sets he would never have accomplished on his own. He credited the staff for helping him to learn how to use this to be an effective communicator.

"Last, but not least," Garry stated, "as a leader you get more involved in politics than you ever expected to be." Through farm bureau he learned the importance of grassroots organizations and the policies that you have to create opportunities for profit as a farmer.

The first big issue he identified during his term on ICGA was ethanol. He was tremendously surprised at the lack of knowledge of the public in thinking the high price of corn was because of ethanol. The beginning base was set up through ICGA to understand ethanol policies and develop this. When he ended his term in 2004, it was NCGA's priority to pass the 2005 & 2007 Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which helped him understand how to develop markets for the extra 5 billion



Garry speaking at an event

bushels of corn. “Unfortunately,” Garry noted, “the last few years there have been a lot of weather problems which have run the price of corn up, but we are still growing more corn and will probably have the largest crop this year in spite of all the weather problems. It all goes back to the technology base on the other side of those.”

Garry in front of one of the ethanol billboards



A tremendous opportunity that Garry had was getting to stand behind President George W. Bush as he signed the 2002 Farm Bill. That was a unique experience which Garry will never forget and would never have dreamed would happen. He had the frustration to be president of NCGA when they were unable to get through the farm bill vote in 2012 so Garry has seen both sides of the farm bill. As he noted, “It is essential to have good policy to help farmers to be profitable and effective at their job.”

Garry noted he will never forget when he first started in 1995, Rodney Weinzierl asked him what he did with his corn—feed livestock, sell to the elevator, or what? At that time, Garry was hauling his corn to the river. Rodney asked Garry if he would be interested in the project for upgrading the locks and dams along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Garry didn’t know much about it but after going on his first barge tour in 1995 and seeing the locks in disarray and how they were crumbling before everyone’s eyes, Garry figured it had to be a piece of cake, as everyone would see the need for upgrading the locks and dams. So, he took that as a challenge and got involved. In about the year 2000, Garry provided testimony in front of the House Infrastructure Committee, and he remembers a gentleman saying, “The books are cooked” and Garry thinking ironically, so are we. ICGA regrouped at that time and formed a coalition with the Carpenters’ Union and several environmental groups as well as soybeans and farm bureau. Through that coalition, Garry learned more about politics than ever before in his life. By working together through a concerted effort where all were equal, Garry remembers walking into congressional offices and questioning whether guys would commit and saying, “We have come here because we want to pass the 2007 WRDA”. A highlight he still remembers is that 83 senators and 46 congressmen voted to pass WRDA 2007. That was the largest vote count he ever worked on before in his life, but it was a bi-partisan approach and that was

just for authorization. As he reiterated, “You have to learn there are two things you need to get before you can get something done. Through the appropriations process is where you get the money to complete the project that was authorized.”

When Garry first began working on the locks and dams in 1995, the locks were approaching seventy years of age; and now, almost eighteen years later, nothing has happened as far as building new locks and dams. There have been a lot of appropriations on other things, such as miter gates, cleaning out the rivers, sedimentation, and even removal of rock pinnacles a year ago, only to see flooding within nine months. It is hard to believe the country could go from a drought to a flood in that short a time period. Since that time, Garry has assumed the position of directorship on the Waterways Council, Inc. (WCI), which was formerly MARC 2000. Again, there are still eighty-three votes in the Senate for the WRDA bill, but we continue to work on the House. On September 16 they talked about moving the bill into the House but as of the time Garry did this interview, there was a hold-up with the whole issue in Syria, which was slowing the process down. Garry hopes before he completes his term on the WCI Board they will have appropriations for the WRDA bill, which will hopefully start the process for building at least one lock on the Illinois River and one lock on the Mississippi River before twenty years have gone by (1995-2015). He would just like to see appropriations granted for building.

Personally, Garry believes that the successes and effectiveness of Illinois Corn which helped him to grow was the staff. In his mind, Illinois Corn has a tremendous staff, some of which have come and gone, and he still runs across some of those people every day in other industries. Garry noted, “There has been no other organization I have been involved with that has provided the depth of knowledge that was generated and the concerns about growing our crop and finding a market for our crop.” On top of that, he learned how to communicate what you know. As he has grown into national leadership, Garry has really realized the importance of being able to communicate effectively what you are doing and the importance of that. He doesn’t believe you ever get enough leadership training. Garry has had all kinds of opportunities as a grower leader to learn firsthand, whether on the local level, state level, regional level or national level, the ability to communicate effectively what you are doing and the importance of getting to the next higher level.

Garry received the World of Corn
award in 2009



With ethanol, reducing the dependence on foreign oil started back in the 1980's with Farm Bureau when there was 68 percent dependence on foreign oil. Today that is now down to 40 percent. This has all happened because we grew a product, created production where the product is grown here in America, and reduced greenhouse gases tremendously compared to gasoline.

On the issue of locks and dams, one person asked Garry how important it was to get legislation passed. In the last three years, there has been only one piece of legislation that he is familiar with related to agriculture that has passed effectively through the House, Senate and presidential levels. Congress has passed three free trade agreements for South Korea, Panama and Columbia. Ninety-five percent of the population of the world lives outside the borders of the U.S., and we have to export our products. Unfortunately, the 2012 drought reduced the amount of corn exports worldwide, but we are sure that will come back as we have larger crops in the future.

"Historically," Garry commented, "industry has created huge markets by working on infrastructure issues so that we can move our product. We have worked with all kinds of transportation – railroads, the barge industry, and new methods of containerization to move our product overseas. It really sums up what ICGA stands for – 'To maximize the profitability of Illinois corn growers'" (original mission statement).

After Corn Growers, Garry plans to continue his agricultural involvement through the following groups: membership in the Farm Foundation, a group called 25 by 25, which is another ethanol group working to promote 25 percent renewable fuel in the U.S. by the year 2025, and a member of Illinois Channel where they talk about agricultural issues and how they affect the State of Illinois. Garry noted, "As you look at the State of Illinois, we are uniquely positioned with essentially three rivers surrounding us - the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio. Fifty percent of our crop has the ability to be exported because of our unique geographic position, and for that reason we need appropriations for building new locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers."

Garry would like to thank everyone for the opportunity he had in the time frame from 1995-2013 to be part of growing agriculture from where we were. He remembers growing \$2 corn and how frustrating that was. Now we are really probably at the peak of agricultural production, although he is sure we will continue to grow further. The whole point is that we have laid the groundwork for profitability in farming.

2003-2004

A new pilot project that came on the scene was in regard to carbon credits. The Chicago Climate Exchange announced a four-year pilot project accumulating a list of farmers willing to sell carbon credits into large enough blocks that the Exchange could effectively decide what carbon credits were worth. The Board approved participating in the Chicago Climate Exchange as a carbon credit aggregating member. In surfacing participants for this program, 18,000 acres out of 25,000 were identified. IFB and Growmark also considered the program.

In regard to membership, ICGA finished the year with 4,493 members. Even though recruitment of members continued to be a challenge, ICGA decided to continue to place emphasis on encouraging a higher level of political producer involvement to help open doors in both Springfield and Washington, DC. The Political Action Committee (PAC) worked to expand the political influence of the organization by forming Grassroots Teams in some of the legislative districts. It was noted that NCGA membership dues were to increase beginning in 2005 with their portion being \$5 per one-year membership and \$15 per three-year membership. Therefore, the board decided to increase Illinois membership dues to \$35 for one year retired/absentee landlord membership; \$75 for one-year producer or associate membership; \$75 for three year retired/absentee landlord membership; and \$145 for three-year producer or associate membership.

It was noted that ICGA recognized the contribution that exports made to the Illinois farm economy and the key role that ICMB played in developing and defending key export markets. ICGA played a significant lobbying role in boosting federal funds for overseas Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP) funding.

The sugar program created some problems with bilateral agreements, in addition to some of the other free trade agreements. A meeting with the Corn Refiners Association was held in Decatur to discuss the sugar program, and those who attended the meeting were Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, John Kuhfuss and Rodney Weinzierl. Another hot issue that came to the forefront during the year was high fructose corn syrup (HFCS). National advertising blamed HFCS for obesity in the U.S. However, true facts indicated HFCS, and sucrose had virtually the same metabolism.

Exploration began on the idea of developing a new for-profit entity. This idea came forward because ICMB was looking at licensing a technology on research which was being done at the U of I. ICMB could not own a for-profit entity, but they could assign their licensing rights to a company of their choice. Therefore, since both boards had a good cooperative arrangement, ICMB requested that ICGA form the new entity, noting that ICGA could license the technology from the university under a memorandum of understanding. Also, with ICGA forming a for-profit entity, that entity could become a holding company for different technologies and as the technologies were commercialized, they could license them to another company. This meant that two companies were needed – the first company would require an investment and the board could be made up of ICGA and ICMB members, and the second company would need more expertise and sources of funding. The two companies formed were Illinois Corn Opportunities (ICO) as the holding company and Prairie Gold, Inc. as the company for commercializing the zein technology. The beginning board of directors for ICO included Roger Hubele (ICMB), president; John Kuhfuss (ICGA), Tim Lenz (ICGA), Ken Greene (ICMB) and Matt Carley (at-large). In 2005, ICO began to apply for grants which included an Agri-First grant. In March of 2006, it was voted to capitalize ICO by transferring \$10,000 into it. Prairie Gold, Inc. was officially formed in February of 2006.

2004-2005



Pictured are: Legislative Chair Steve Ruh, President Roger Sy, Vice President John Kuhfuss

A suggested change in the committee structure was discussed, as ICMB was considering changing their committee structure to deal with subject areas. These changes came about with the updating of the strategic plan, and the two subject areas identified were industrial uses and corn exports. However, ICGA needed to consider how membership would be handled under that type of structure and how PAC would be handled. In March of 2005, the new committee structure of Industrial Committee and Exports Committee was adopted with the continuation of Field Services and Education for membership and county programming. At the June meeting, it was decided to use the two-committee structure through the November board meeting, with the addition of a Grassroots Committee to run concurrently with the Executive Committee. The make-up of the Grassroots Committee was the immediate past president, two vice chairs of the new committees, two county leaders, two past directors and two current directors.

State caucus at the Commodity Class. Pictured are - front row: Donna Jeschke, Jill Parnell, Andy Goleman; second row: Mike Plumer, Steve Koeller; third row: Jeff Scates, Phil Thornton; fourth row: Ken Greene, Mark Lower; fifth row: Gary Schmalshof, Ken Hartman, Art Bunting

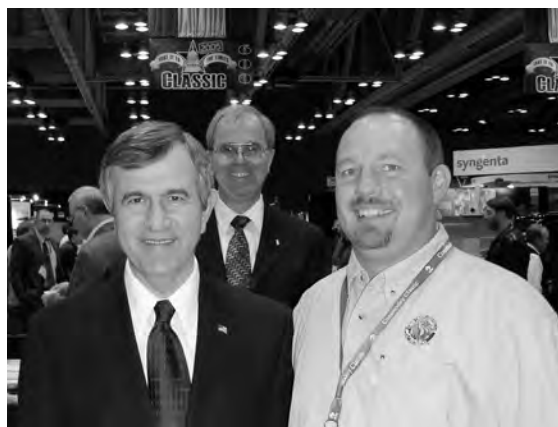




Leon Corzine family
at the President's Reception



Pictured are Rodney Weinzierl and Jon Doggett of NCGA
visiting with Secretary Johanns (at right)



Secretary Johanns and Steve Ruh with
Leon Corzine in back

Leon Corzine was honored at a president's reception at the Commodity Classic in Nashville, TN. U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Johanns spoke at the general session, and delegates had an opportunity to visit with him.

New board policy adopted gave board members an allowance for internet technology.

A new form of transportation came to the forefront in 2005 with the DeLong Company starting to rail corn to the Pacific Northwest in containers. They were loading up to 100 cars per day in Joliet and Rochelle and doing fifty per day with Consolidated Grain and Barge. It was noted that 90 percent of the world's cargo would be containerized by the year 2010. At the January 2006 meeting, the ICGA Board toured Scouler Company, which was a container loader, and BNSF in Elwood. A lot of dried distillers' grains (DDG's), a byproduct from the ethanol industry, were being shipped by container and in 2006, Chris and Kari Manns, owners of the Traders Group, helped with shipping 500 metric tons by container to Vietnam through a group called ProConco. ProConco toured the farm of Donna Jeschke from ICMB. The Traders Group was a new group related to exports which had contacts overseas and Chris and Kari Manns visited with the ICMB board to

educate the board members about their group. The ICMB Board allocated funding to promote the use of containerization in Southeast Asia. There were three feed mills that Proconco worked with which were now using DDG's from the U.S. The board also approved funding to create two DDGS container loading facilities on two of the remaining four Class 1 railroads in Illinois. In 2011, GIPSA came out with a program to allow only twenty containers to be combined under one certification, and that was a change because the number of containers that could presently be combined was unlimited. ICGA submitted comments to help make this work for Illinois corn farmers.

Pictures of DDGS
at Illinois River Energy



DDG's could be fed to livestock and with three proposed ethanol plants coming online, that meant 249,000 cows would be needed to eat the DDG's. In the State of Illinois there were only 160,000 cows, however, the state of Texas had a lot of cattle. White Energy, LLC in Texas proposed a 100-million-gallon ethanol plant in Hereford, TX and was interested in buying Illinois corn to use in making the ethanol. Another fact noted was that 5 billion gallons of ethanol would yield 10 million tons of DDGS per year. In 2006, representatives from ten elevators committed to going to Mexico to meet with Mexican buyers and then the Mexican buyers would travel to Chicago to meet with elevator managers. Through the Mexican program, twenty-seven train loads of corn were sold, which equated to 11 million plus bushels of corn.

Roger Sy was appointed to be ICGA's representative on the Illinois Livestock Development Group (ILDG), and it was noted ILDG had hired a new coordinator, Nic Anderson. Through Nic's efforts progress was being made toward providing a step-by-step plan for siting a livestock operation. Another focus for ILDG was addressing the regulatory issues and nuisance suits regarding siting of facilities. ICGA placed a renewed emphasis on working jointly with Illinois Pork Producers Association and the Illinois Beef Association to educate legislators regarding the overall benefits and economic value of a healthy and growing livestock sector.

One of the legislation areas in regard to trade agreements on which ICGA worked this year included the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreements (CAFTA-DR). CAFTA-DR met the goals of eliminating high tariffs and making U.S. Ag products more competitive. Corn tariffs as high as 35 percent had effectively blocked this market until the passing of this agreement. Since more than 40 percent of the corn crop was currently being exported, trade and market access were key issues for Illinois corn growers.

A Farm Bill Task Force was appointed to be chaired by Steve Ruh, with ICGA members being Tim Lenz, Andrew Goleman, Jeff Scates, and John Kufuss as well as ICMB members Scott Stirling, Tom Martin, Ron Gray and Kenneth Hartman. In the first meeting, some of the goals and main bullet points were identified. It was hoped to meet with the Iowa Farm Bill Task Force. Farm bill listening sessions were held around the state in 2006, and 77 percent of the respondents said the farm bill should be trade compliant.

2005-2006

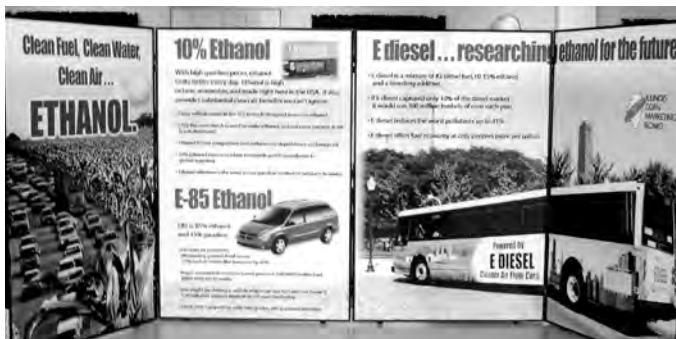


Staff - Back row: Ann Hodgson, Phil Thonton, Rodney Weinzierl, Jim Tarmann, Brian Hansen, Phil Shane; front row: Julie Day, Lori McCubbins, Mark Lambert

The board voted to keep the three committee structure: Industrial, Exports and Grassroots.

In the membership area, encouragement was given to ethanol plants to sign up their members as ICGA members, noting that Adkins Energy had been paying ICGA membership dues for their members for several years. It was also decided to do a media training for ICGA, ICMB and county leaders.

Examples of some of the displays that were available for use by county groups and others in promoting corn are depicted in the pictures below.



Display on ethanol and e-diesel



Ethanol display

The bylaws for the federal and state PAC Committees were amended to change the makeup of the committee to be the immediate past president of ICGA and four additional members appointed by the current ICGA president. Annual solicitations for contributions were sent each year in the July/August time frame.

2006-07



Officers - Art Bunting, Steve Ruh, Jeff Scates and Craig Buhrow

Staff - back row: Phil Thornton, Brian Hansen, Jim Tarmann, Rodney Weinzierl; front row: Annette Cherry, Ann Hodgson, Julie Day, Mark Lambert



In August of 2007, new board policy was adopted to cover the premium for directors for Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance for \$100,000 of coverage. This was a group plan offered through Illinois Farm Bureau.

Legislative issues: In an effort to expand efforts to reach the congressional delegation, funding was approved for doing visits in the Chicago congressional offices. These proved to be very successful. The board also approved funding to participate in the Iowa Presidential Caucus program. A legislative intern was hired for the summer who spent time doing research on the agriculture voice in the northern part of the state. On the state level, the board voted to oppose the Gross Receipt Tax proposed by the governor. The following picture was taken at the NCGA Commodity Classic during the Illinois delegate governor.

The following picture was taken at the NCGA Commodity Classic during the Illinois delegate caucus.



Pictured in the front row: Jim Tarmann, Kent Kleinschmidt; second row: Jim Rapp, Kenny Hartman; third row; Jeff Scates, Leon Corzine, Mark Lower; fourth row: Tim Seifert, Bill Christ; fifth row: Theresa Schmalshof, Larry Hasheider

Membership in the American Sugar Alliance was renewed. The board approved funding for a study by DTB Associates on the impact of the sugar program.

The board continued to be involved with the livestock industry, especially in the area of DDGS. Scott Stirling (ICMB), Mark Lower (ICGA), Larry Hasheider (ICMB) and Rodney Weinzierl met with the Illinois Pork Producers Association to discuss how to better utilize DDGS in the livestock industry. Novecta worked on standardization of testing methodology on DDGS. It was noted that each ethanol plant generated different DDG's. It was suggested doing a sampling of every corn processor in the state and having NCERC evaluate these samples. Once the testing was done, results were published on the WIU Rural Development site.



ICGA Board - Front row: Art Bunting, Steve Ruh, Craig Buhrow, Jeff Scates; second row - Andrew Goleman, Rob Elliott, Jill Parnell, Paul Taylor, Mark Lower, Jim Reed; back row: Richard Gates, Jim Holstine, Jim Schielein, Mike Plumer, David Niekamp, John Kuhfuss, Mark Degler, Tim Lenz

Farm Bill and Crop Insurance - Figures for a revenue revenue assurance program needed to be nailed down and work continued with the NCGA Public Policy Team. Also under discussion was crop insurance, and ICGA voted to support ICMB in following the U of I's recommendation for a proposed crop insurance program. This allowed the U of I to explore ideas with the Risk Management Association (RMA). If RMA approved of the program they developed, all costs in Phase II of the project would be reimbursed. The board took a position that they were willing to adjust payments to pursue a revenue-based program. Gary Schnitkey from the U of I developed a model to show how the different farm bill proposals would affect individual farmers. It was noted that the current model showed the current bill wouldn't fill the gap and crop insurance wouldn't fill the gap. A suggestion was made to have the computer model at the Farm Progress Show.

2007-2008



Officers Andrew Goleman, Rob Elliott,
Art Bunting, Paul Taylor

Staff - back row: Rod Weinzierl,
Brian Hansen, Jim Tarmann, Phil Thornton,
Becky Finrock, David Loos; front row:
Julie Day, Lindsay Mitchell,
Ann Hodgson, Mark Lambert



Probably the biggest obstacle to overcome throughout 2008 was the misinformation out in the countryside that there would not be enough corn to both feed and fuel the world. When heavy rains kept most growers out of the fields until summer weather arrived, negative ads and news columns overwhelmed the media. NCGA finally identified the source of this negative publicity as the Grocery Manufacturers Association. Corn Growers needed to restore the American people's

faith in the corn grower, and ICGA and ICMB developed a public relations campaign called “Corn Growers Fighting Back” to address concerns around ethanol’s effect on food and gas prices. This campaign was conducted in the Chicago and St. Louis markets and included radio buys on the three major radio stations in the Chicago market, WLS, WGN and WBBM; a direct mail piece to 26,000 members and non-members; and four half page ads in *FarmWeek*. Also, members were encouraged to write letters to the editor and to call in on radio talk shows. In June, the ICMB granted additional funding for a Food and Fuel campaign, including radio buys in the Chicago and St. Louis markets, around the 4th of July and in early August and radio buys downstate.

**It's been a fight unlike any we've fought before...
And Corn Growers Are Making a Difference!**

Big Oil and Big Food came out throwing haymakers at corn farmers—blaming us for high food prices. They thought we were lightweights. But instead of covering up, your Illinois Corn Growers Association went on the offensive.

The Illinois Corn Growers Association has been taking the fight to Big Oil and Big Food—in the media and in Congress. And we've landed our share of punches.

We pointed out that energy costs were the real culprit.

- Corn farmers get only a small percentage of retail food costs.
- Ethanol is actually helping lower gas prices.
- Imported oil is coldcocking our nation's economy and energy security.

Although we've scored some points, we still need your help. Don't be a spectator. Get in the ring with us.

We Still Need Growers In Our Corner....Join Today!

When we're all in the fight together, we can be heavyweights.
Join the Illinois Corn Growers Association by visiting our website at www.ilcorn.org or call 888-WHY-CORN (888-949-2676).



Fighting back ad



Picture of President Art Bunting in the boxing ring with staff Julie Day and Phil Thornton to the right

Food products-2008 campaign



NCGA requested each state to send two or three people to DC on June 24-26 to work their congressional delegation and others relative to the whole “Food and Fuel” issue and Art Bunting, Rob Elliott and Andrew Goleman participated. Because the negative publicity blaming ethanol and corn for the high price of food continued, ICGA launched another program asking members to mail selected products containing corn which were manufactured by the Grocery Manufacturer’s Association (GMA) to their congressmen. The four products identified were corn flakes, Corn Chex, corn meal and cornbread mix. Products were sent directly to congressional offices, in turn asking them to donate them to a local food pantry. A sample of the products was also sent to county farm bureaus asking them to participate in the program with a goal of putting 100 of these boxes in every congressional district office in Illinois. The result of the program was that over 1000 boxes of the four food products containing corn were sent to Illinois Congressmen and Senators. In addition, these four products were also sent to Illinois Senators and Representatives.

Farm Bill - The ICGA membership indicated a need for a new type of farm program, one that would provide a revenue-based safety net for growers in the event of a low-price year. ICGA worked hard with lobbying efforts in DC for NCGA's championing of a revenue-based safety net. The outcome of their efforts was the Average Crop Revenue Election program (ACRE) which provided a market-based state level crop revenue protection program based on the five-year state average yield and the rolling two-year national average price. With the weather conditions experienced this year, in addition to the high cost of inputs, calls were received from some members in regard to prevented planting. They were encouraged to go ahead and plant. A cooperative effort was made with Iowa and Ohio to put together a farm bill calculator to evaluate the farm bill, with the program to be launched at Corn Congress. It was felt that once the farm bill was signed, we needed to provide some educational information to members and tools for analyzing it. The board allocated funding for creation of a Farm Bill Calculator as well as a brochure and CD for distribution.



Board members - back row: Tim Lenz, Gary Hudson, Richard Gates, Mike Plumer, Mark Degler, John Kuhfuss, Steve Koeller, Jim Reed, Jim Schielein, Jeff Scates, Steve Ruh; front row: Jill Parnell, Andrew Goleman, Rob Elliott, Art Bunting, Paul Taylor, Craig Buhrow

Another transportation infrastructure issue addressed was the rail efficiency issue. A Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program was developed to alleviate bottleneck problems in the Chicagoland area. ICGA committed funding for this program and Illinois Grain and Feed Association also committed to help. By 2009, the CREATE Project had raised \$190 million, although it had not yet received any of the stimulus monies. The Melrose Connection was finished in September. A couple of other rail transportation projects included working with the American Association of Railroads and Go21 to feature Ron Gray (ICMB director from Claremont) in a Super Bowl commercial and Paul Taylor, Garry Niemeyer, Art Bunting and Dan Cole participating in a BNSF rail tour. BNSF projected all rail lines would be at capacity by 2025.



Pictured are the Lobbyists from DCLRS, David Beaudreau and David Crow along with Dave Loos

An addition to the board congressional visits to DC in March included covering the cost for six Indiana Corn Growers to participate. In order to help with legislative efforts in DC, the board approved to hire DC Legislative and Regulatory Services Inc. (DCLRS) on a twelve-month contract. This group was to do government relations consulting on ethanol policies, climate change, and public relations efforts relating to agriculture and biofuels. In addition, they were working to get data for corn to be classified as an advanced biofuel. Considering the success of this working relationship, funding for this lobbyist firm has continued to the present day.

The ICGA Political Action Committee increased their involvement in 2008, hosting six fundraisers for candidates in the November elections. The PAC also contributed to several state elected officials. Due to these increased efforts, a need was identified for increasing funding opportunities. In August, the first PAC auction was hosted.



Pictured talking to Cong Debbie Halvorson is Mark Schnedewind from Will County and Glenn Ginder on ICMB



PAC Event for Candidate Aaron Schock (center) with Rod Weinzierl on left front, Sandy Christ next to Schock, Eric Kunzeman and back center are Kent Kleinschmidt and Bill Christ



Pictured are Stefanie and Rob Elliott (left), Theresa and Gary Schmalshof (backs) talking with Cong Hare (center)



John Kuhfuss, Ross Pauli, Congressional Candidate Colleen Callahan, Kent Kleinschmidt



Donna Jeschke, Congressional Candidate Ozinga, Jim Rapp

A new group called Corn Vision 2012 was organized and included two representatives from each of the participating states. This group met during the months of December 2007 through February 2008 to seek a common understanding of how to address major issues facing the corn industry. A total of eighteen states participated in the project: WS, TX, VA, SD, PA, OH, NY, NE, ND, NC, MO, MN, MI, KY, KS, IN, IL and IA. The group divided into five subcommittees and Steve Ruh from ICGA was appointed chair of one subcommittee and Donna Jeschke from ICMB chair of another subcommittee. Some board members also served on subcommittees. From the final report, the ICGA board voted to support the process of evaluating, in greater detail, the concept of one national corn organization.

Highlights from Art Bunting

Art first got involved with Corn Growers through the Livingston County Corn Growers Association. He was asked by a friend to take his place on the county board. Art went through the officer positions on the county board and as county president did a few things with the state board, such as legislative visits to D.C. Also, as a county board member he worked at the Corn Growers exhibit at the Illinois State Fair. Then in 1999, Mike Clark and a friend of his, Don Johnson, both urged Art to get on the state board and get involved.

The reason Art got involved was that he felt the story of corn needed to be told. In his words, “If we don’t speak up for ourselves, no one else is going to.” Art noted that in the early days working with the state board, it seemed like they were always putting out fires when an issue would come up with ethanol or biotech. He doesn’t remember being at any state meeting where ethanol was not discussed.

One of the biggest issues during Art’s term in office would have to be ethanol. Looking through old information, he saw a picture of Roger Sy standing by a big pile of corn in 2004 and Art noted, if it wasn’t for ethanol we would still be standing on a big pile of corn. When the ethanol plants were built in Illinois, no one knew what was going to happen with all the DDGS created. However, through funding of research by the corn growers, that product continues to be very much in demand today.

Another big issue that corn growers worked on was the locks and dams and passage of the WRDA bill. The board worked on those forever, but the outcome is still not good today. Although the authorization bill was passed, we are still trying to pass the appropriations to get new locks and dams built.



Art and Gary Schmalshof at a NASCAR race



Art Bunting



Bunting boxing



Art speaking at Ag Day at the State Fair with IFB President Phil Nelson in back

Another issue that the corn growers have worked on is biotech, and they came out with a “Know Before You Grow” booklet so that farmers would know where to take the corn after they produced it. In the early days, only certain places accepted GMO corn.

With the leadership programs that Art participated in through corn growers, he met a lot of people and went places he would never have dreamed about. When he started on the county board, he wouldn’t get up in front of a microphone to save his life. After being president, and all the training he received, that helped him to be more comfortable getting up to speak. He never would have gotten as involved if not for being president. Before email, the board members talked about their fax machine running all the time and after being president he noted they would barely run. However, all that information kept them well informed.

While Art served as president, he was involved in a promotion program called “boxing versus fuel” in the spring of 2008. Big oil and the Grocery Manufacturers Association came out with a big add campaign stating that food prices were going up because of ethanol. Illinois Corn started a campaign to fight back, and Art went to a gym where they put him in boxing gloves and a helmet as an illustration for a media campaign that we needed to fight back. The campaign included sending out cards and requesting farmers to write their congresspeople or send articles to the newspapers. This whole campaign was to try to get farmers involved. Another part of the campaign was to put some coins in cereal boxes showing the price the famers get was very minimal compared to the price of the cereal. Also while Art was president in 2008, a WRDA bill and a farm bill with ACRE were passed. So, a lot of things happened that year while he was president. He noted it was interesting going up through the different officer positions.

Through NCGA, , Art served for two or three years on the Growers Services Action Team and about three or four years on the Production and Stewardship Action Team. Because of his involvement with the NCGA Action Teams, Art had a great experience in participating in tours to Washington State and to New Orleans to see where our exports go. He was able to meet people from other states, including talking to dairy farmers from South Dakota that were on the board, and learn how their climate was so much different than Illinois'. Art learned a lot about farming from others in different states, what you have in common with others and what you don't have in common.



Steve Ruh and Art to the far right in the front row at an NCGA Classic delegate session



DC visit with Senator Dick Durbin; front row: Art and John Kuhfuss; back row: Jim Tarmann, Roger Sy, Rob Elliott, Rodney Weinzierl

In Art's words, "The people that make up the organization, both state and national staff and the board members, really help to make a good organization. When you attend the past director event that Illinois Corn has each year, they talk about how tough it was. You learn to appreciate that the corn industry wouldn't be near as strong if not for all those involved in the past with NCGA or the state organizations. The staff provides information to the board members and puts them in front of others."

During the legislative visits to D.C., Art remembers meeting with EPA, auto manufacturers, and quite a few consulates including the Mexican Consulate. He participated in quite a few meetings with EPA and the Waterways Council, Inc. As he noted, “Meeting congressional staff and members, you learn they are just people too.” Art did help Jim Tarmann with quite a few of the barge tours and went to a lot of Army Corps of Engineer hearings to testify on behalf of farmers about the need for new locks and dams. While serving as president of ICGA, Art went to some EPA wastewater hearings for a couple of different ethanol plants in Annawan and Hennepin.

Art attended the Syngenta Leadership Program with Ron Gray, and he noted that was a good exercise. He also participated in two or three leadership training programs on the state level, and those were a big help in learning how to speak in public and get your thoughts together.

2008-2009



Officers - back row: Paul Taylor,
Gary Hudson; front row:
Rob Elliott, Tim Lenz

One of the more notable new priorities ICGA had to work with was the increased focus of the new administration on environmental issues, specifically reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the ways farmers were already contributing to the solution to this problem included planting crops that sequestered carbon, reducing their chemical and fertilizer input per bushel, utilizing no-till practices and reducing trips over the field. Also, transporting products by rail or barge saved energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. ICGA remained neutral on the Climate Change bill, which passed in the House of Representatives, as a way to be “at the table”, negotiating the best deal they could for Illinois agriculture.

Mission to Texas cattle lot with Art Bunting, Gary Schmalshof, Phil Thornton, Scott Stirling, and Larry Hasheider pictured



Pictured left to right beginning with front row: Bill and Sandy Christ, Rod Weinzierl, Wendell and Janet Shauman, Craig Buhrow; middle row: Larry and Marla Hasheider, Mary Cole, Stefanie Elliott, Theresa and Gary Schmalshof; back row: Dan Cole, Leon Corzine, Valerie and Mark Degler, Rob Elliott, Kent Kleinschmidt, Richard Gates, Ken Greene, Jeff Scates, Phil Thornton

Funding was approved for several market study tours during this year: 1) cooperative trade mission, along with Iowa and Nebraska to Brazil in Jan. 2009; 2) market study of Chesapeake Bay area and the poultry industry in cooperation with Ohio, Virginia and Indiana with Bill Christ, Paul Taylor, Mark Degler and Phil Thornton participating; 3) Exports Committee went to the USGC meeting Feb. 7-14 in Guatemala City and then on to Panama; 4) Paul Taylor participated in IFB's Market Study Tour to China ; 5) worked with Nebraska and Iowa on a Texas market study; 6) sent an ICGA leader on Governor Quinn's commercial mission to Mexico City; 7) Dan Cole, Scott Stirling and Phil Thornton went on a mission to Texas to meet with cattle producers.

A couple of producer-listening sessions were held, one in District 2 and one in District 11. Jim Tarmann, Lindsay Mitchell, Rob Elliott and Kenneth Greene attended the session in District 2. ICGA continued the push to educate growers about their farm program options. Every ICGA member received an updated Average Crop Revenue Election calculator, and ICGA also hosted several ACRE webinars which reached more than 300 people. As a result, the USDA Farm Service Agency reported that of all the eligible corn acres in the U.S., 15.6 percent were enrolled in ACRE with 21.8 percent of those acres being enrolled by Illinois farmers.

Membership - In continuing efforts to try to gain new memberships, the board approved contracting with a company called Comnet to do member database updating and lapsed member solicitation. A new membership tool was co-sponsoring the “Stateline Farm Rescue” bin safety training program along with Grain and Feed Association of Illinois. This was a relatively new rescue method which was being used to hopefully improve survivability in grain bin accidents.

The picture below shows those receiving the county awards at the annual meeting.



County award recipients: Hank Cryder (Kendall), Jerod Brown (Knox), Kent Kleinschmidt (Tazewell), Kent Blunier (Livingston), Mike Hardt (DeKalb), Jim Seboldt, (Mon-Clair) Ross Pauli (Kane), Floyd Schultz (Will), Art Bunting

Crop Insurance - Filing was done for an Advance Notice/Prefiling of a new crop insurance program, with a goal of having this out as a pilot product for the 2010 crop. In 2011, the Risk Management Association (RMA)’s review of crop insurance came back mostly positive, and it was noted they would be reimbursing Illinois for half of our costs. This new product developed was called “Yield Trend Endorsement”. Later it was learned that the crop insurance product was delayed and wouldn’t be available for the 2011 crop. Gary Schnitkey continued working on the project to get everything ready for the 2012 crop. The Yield Trend Endorsement program did come to fruition, which resulted in a big success story for Illinois Corn.

With livestock being the number one user of U.S. corn, ICGA continued to work to make the livestock industry profitable in Illinois. To help in the fight for the rights of livestock producers against animal welfare activists, ICGA approved funding toward the Ohio campaign against the Humane Society of the United States to ensure that livestock producers could continue to operate without the burden of onerous regulations. They also wanted to be prepared should the same fight relocate to Illinois.



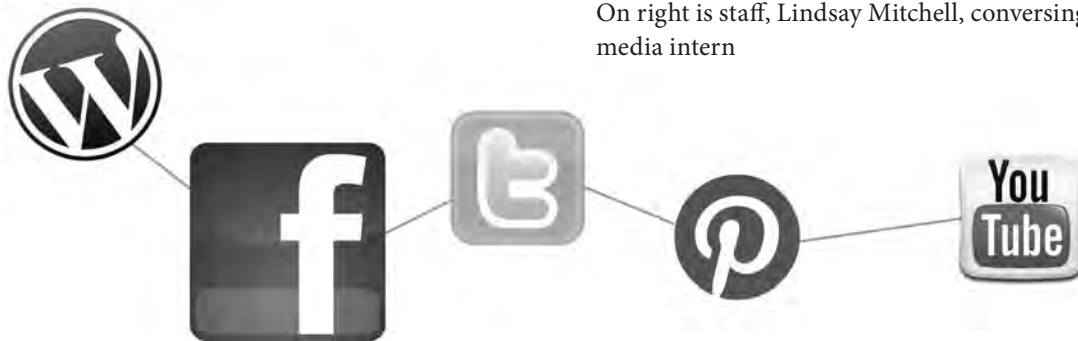
Michelle Payne-Knoper spoke on social media at the Illinois Commodity Conference



Picture of some of the social media collaborating



On right is staff, Lindsay Mitchell, conversing with a social media intern



Social media became the new “buzz word” as a form of communication. With the new generation seeking to obtain their information quickly and from new avenues, the board identified the need to adopt new ways in reaching a consumer that understands less and less about the farm. To help in this area, ICGA and ICMB utilized college interns to increase their presence on YouTube, Facebook and other online media to get out their message that corn farmers provide safe, abundant and affordable food.

2009-10



ICGA Officers Dan Cole, Eric Kunzeman, Jim Reed, and Tim Lenz with the Capitol in the background

Board policy was changed to increase the communications expense reimbursement to add an additional amount per year for those who had the ability to receive email on their phone. In addition, the board adopted some new IRS reporting requirements in regard to the Form 990, which is the non-profit organization tax form. These new requirements included a “Whistleblower Policy” and a “Conflict of Interest” policy which board members signed.

Another new venture for the board came about with a request for input into a documentary being developed based on the book “Fragile”. This documentary pointed out how modern agriculture helps feed the world. Since the work was being done by a Foundation, it was deemed we needed to form a foundation. Therefore, the board approved funding for the creation of an Illinois corn farmer foundation with 501(c) 3 status. The foundation was called the Zea Mays Foundation, which received a grant from Monsanto in 2012.

Farmer imaging was a term which came to the forefront this year. The majority of consumers, who are not farmers, seemed to have the opinion that corporate farms were producing their food. This image hurt the farmers politically, and this led ICGA to work to improve this image. Full page ads were placed in *FarmWeek* and *IL Agri-News* to help with farmers’ imaging. In addition, NCGA, along with Illinois and thirteen other states, formed a group called the Corn Farmers Coalition (CFC) which ran ads in the DC area designed to put the faces of family farmers and the sustainable story of corn farming up front and center. CFC continues to operate today, and you can find more information in the ICMB section. ICGA decided to update their website to showcase the board members and their families working on behalf of ICGA.



Pictured in the front row from l-r are: Sue and John Adams, Tricia Braid, Ken Beck, Lindsay Mitchell, Martin Barbre; second row: Donna Jeschke, Gary Hudson, Leon Corzine, Garry Niemeyer, Mark Lambert; back row: Doug Wilson, Becky Finfrock, Kent Kleinschmidt (back)

As noted last year, communication in the world was moving toward social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs. Therefore, a social media training session was held at the office to get board members up to speed with this new form of getting the correct information out to the general consumers. The Illinois Corn website was also updated, focusing on directing visitors where they needed to go with new tabs for members, teachers, and the media. The new website allowed for more flexibility to highlight important issues as they arose.

With the state of Illinois experiencing budget problems, a smaller group of representatives from commodity organizations and IFB met to come up with a unified solution to minimize cuts to Ag in the state budget. Their plan was called “Integrity Project on State Budget” to which the board committed funding.

Missions - Jim Rapp, Kent Kleinschmidt and Paul Taylor visited with importers, millers and pork operations in Mexico immediately following the USGC meeting. A group led by Phil Thornton went to Panama, and Ken Hartman, Eric Kunzeman and Jim Tarmann went to New Orleans and then on to Panama to join up with the first group. It was noted that there were fourteen shuttle train loader sites in Mexico, and the U.S. exported our grain to Mexico for livestock and poultry. Also of note was that Mexicans liked to get DDGS from the U.S. because those gave yolks a good color.

Farm Bill - Rod Weinzierl presented a proposal from the U of I to prepare for the 2012 Farm Bill. The Board committed funding to the U of I to carry-out phase one, which was to discover synergies between ACRE and crop insurance. A Farm Bill Task Force consisting of the ICGA President and ICMB Chairman plus Paul Taylor, chairperson; Bill Christ, Lou Lamoreux, Ron Gray, Gary Hudson, Richard Gates, and Jeff Scates was appointed and began meeting in the summer to start thinking about what policies would best benefit farmers. Farm Bill listening sessions were held with a total of 130 participating in those sessions.

Membership - NCGA rolled out a “Green Energy and Growth Fund, LLC” plan available to corn grower members. The board decided to provide this information to the membership by making them aware of the webinars that were scheduled.

A conference called “Growing Opportunities for Illinois Livestock and Ethanol Industries” was held in September with the purpose to build relationships with the livestock industry, the ethanol industry, researchers and animal nutritionists to help undermine all the misinformation out in the country.

A unique dilemma presented itself in the summer of 2010 when some elevators were hit with a surcharge because they had to dry grain during days when the temperature was below the agreed upon temperature. Jim Reed, John Adams, and Phil Thornton participated in a Natural Gas capacity meeting to address these concerns. It was noted that gas used at below that rate was triple the cost, and many elevators were unable to get enough natural gas.

2010-11



Officers Gary Hudson, Jim Reed,
Jeff Scates, Dan Cole

Several videos were put together profiling Illinois corn farmers to help consumers see them as people who are concerned about their family and the preservation of their heritage. These videos drove home points that farmers are knowledgeable about their craft, they are knowledgeable about the land and resources in their care, and they want to pass on this legacy to future generations. Also, ICGA leaders participated in communications training where they discovered how to talk about themselves to people of various different learning styles.

Membership - Under the ICMB section, you will note that they became involved with the Normal CornBelters, a minor league baseball team, which was done to improve education of consumers about who farmers are. It was decided to schedule a membership event in Marion at the baseball game of the Marion Miners and the Normal CornBelters to give our members an opportunity to experience how we are trying to get our message out. Another program approved was a GIS Mapping System to track detailed information about the entire corn and wheat industry.

Tim Lenz and Jim Reed presenting
an award to Senator Richard Durbin



One of Illinois' proposed uses was to track the location of E85 tanks and flex fuel vehicles by zip code as well as doing Congressional district analysis. ICMB also approved funding to help with this GIS product, and in 2012 the program was populated with additional elevator information, including capacity and bridge information. This GIS system also included the Illinois state board of elections information, which was valuable to the PAC committee. ICGA hired a consultant during 2011 to look at our PAC activities to make sure we were in compliance and possible ways of improving the PAC program to get better results.

ICGA contacted members of Congress, reminding them free trade agreements were the right thing for agriculture. In addition, the membership was contacted to do the same thing, and draft letters were sent to the county Corn Growers Associations to encourage positive news in local papers. On October 12, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate passed the Panama, Colombia and Korea Free Trade Agreements. An award was presented to Senator Durbin at the Annual Meeting.

To help with connecting international buyers to domestic sellers, Phil Thornton worked with four trade missions interested in DDGS – three from Japan and one from China. In addition, he worked with a group called A T GRAIN operating from Chicago but headquartered in Korea. It was also decided to fax a letter to the agricultural attaché of Africa, African Embassy and Republic of Congo to offer assistance as a trade team to open up trade between Illinois and Africa.

Crop Insurance - Research showed that farmers in the Corn Belt had significant and consistent low "loss ratios" relative to other crops and other regions of the country, which meant that farmers throughout the Corn Belt were paying insurance premiums that were too high. Therefore, through the work of ICGA, NCGA and ICMB, the Risk Management Association (RMA) proposed a re-rating which could lower premiums for the 2012 crop year. In addition, Illinois Corn, with help from Iowa Corn, developed the Yield Trend Endorsement product, which was approved by the RMA. This allowed the farmer to factor in a trend yield adjustment to their average production history (APH), which allowed for insuring a more correct anticipated yield instead of a historical average. Again, the Yield Trend Endorsement product was available for the 2012 crop year.

A cooperative effort was cost sharing with ISA the completion of the study on surface transportation. The study would look at the impact of the inadequacy in the infrastructure and the economics of what the impact would be on the agricultural industry should a bridge go out.

Livestock - ILDG did some advertising in regard to Rantoul FFoods which had just opened back up and welcomed them to the community from all of agriculture. BOS Dairy was trying to get established in the Rockford area, but the Governor was fighting the issue, as well as the public in that community. After a great deal of effort over about three years, the owner finally decided to pull out of Illinois.

Highlights from Jim Reed

Jim first got involved in Illinois Corn because he received a letter in the mail announcing there was a vacancy in his district. Ron Fitchhorn was retiring before the end of his term and a letter was sent out seeking to fill his position. Jim had been active in Farm Bureau for some years ahead of that but had taken five years off, as he was starting a family and felt he should concentrate more on his business. When this letter came, he saw this as an opportunity to re-engage with policy development and activities to serve the industry. Ultimately, he was chosen to fill that position.

Most fulfilling to Jim on a personal level was the opportunity of networking with different people across the country. As he stated, "You get to hear how their crops are doing, different production techniques, different financing techniques, and get exposure to people that grow different crops than you do." This was a great network of people to plug into with all the very diverse, professional and forward-thinking producers, and it helped him bring back a lot of experience to benefit his own operation.



Jim Reed

Jim feels his leadership skills were developed a great deal by being around very great leaders within the organization—just watching them, learning from them and dealing with them. Corn Growers has a Syngenta corporate level leadership development program which is very beneficial. As Jim stated, "It helps you grow and also helps you to understand the different difficulties in other parts of the country." For example, Jim had never previously thought about prevented planting which they have in the Dakotas, or the problems faced by peanuts and rice in the south. This all gave him the opportunity to grow with his understanding.

In regard to the most important issue during his tenure, Jim felt there were two different ones. First would be the Farm Bill. This last bill was the second farm bill Corn Growers dealt with during Jim's tenure. Jim feels the accomplishments the association made the first time through were huge. Getting the ACRE program implemented into the farm bill in 2008 was something Corn Growers focused on and really did all the work to get that put in there. Illinois had a lot of leadership involved in this with Steve Pigg serving as chairperson of the NCGA Public Policy

Jim Reed, Richard Gates, and Gary Hudson
headed to meet with a congressman in DC



DC visit - Scott Stirling, Jill Parnell,
Jim Reed, Cong Tim Johnson,
Art Bunting, Bryan Fogerson

Action Team and a lot of other people in national leadership, which really helped to get the bill moved forward. Now, in dealing with the 2012-13 farm bill, we are dealing with a lot of the same issues. Because Jim was involved in 2008, he feels he brought experience to 2012, and that was the number one policy issue.

Right behind behind that comes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation which Illinois Corn helped with in developing a close working relationship with labor to get that bill accomplished and signed into law. It is unfortunate that we haven't received the funding necessary to move this forward. Getting the legislation passed and building a relationship with labor was something new and unique to Illinois and not a traditional way of working the Hill. Jim did have the opportunity to go on a barge tour and also went to a hearing in Peoria where they all wore red t-shirts and flooded the room to get the point across that we were a unified voice to move this forward. Illinois had several lobbying trips to DC to activate the Illinois congressional delegation, and Jim felt these were all very interesting and really made a difference.

During Jim's time on the board, he feels the one thing which needed to be understood about Illinois Corn was that we have been able to advance people into national leadership on many different levels. During his time on the board, Illinois had three NCGA presidents in Leon Corzine, Garry Niemeyer and upcoming president Martin Barbre and a couple of different leaders in the U.S. Grains Council in Wendell Shauman and upcoming president Ron Gray. Jim also remembers guys when he first got on the board like Gene Youngquist, who was very involved in NCGA. As Jim noted, "This is something to look back on - how we have given people the background in serving on the state board which allowed them to go on to serve in national leadership to really benefit and help Illinois famers."

Other things of significance during Jim's time on the board was Illinois had both a dues increase for the association and also developed lifetime dues which are unique and a great investment for young farmers just getting involved. Also, during his time on the board, ICGA helped ICMB in two checkoff rate increases.

Of historical significance during Jim's term was the entire development, beginning and ongoing discussion on biotech and GMO's. There was really no mention of this when he first came on the board. This was in its infancy and just being talked about with just the first few commercial releases with broad spread acceptance. In looking at the industry today, there is a huge acceptance of biotechnology. As we get into the second and third generation traits, we are starting to see some talk of resistance in certain areas and starting to see some displeasure from the organic movement as they try to channel their stuff and develop their markets. This has all evolved while Jim was on the ICGA Board. Today there are things you can't even foresee coming at you. Jim related to the time when his dad started farming with horses and by the time he retired, when Jim was first starting in farming, they had the first computers in the cab to control sprayer rates. His dad saw them walk on the moon. We have gone from paper documents to electronic documents. In Jim's words, "The evolution of technology is huge, and it is hard to image how everything will advance another thirty years down the road."



Staff - back row: Tricia Braid, Jim Tarmann, Becky Finfrock, Phil Thornton, Rodney Weinzierl; front row: David Loos, Lindsay Mitchell, Ann Hodgson, Julie Day, Suzie Rogers

2011-12



Pictured are three of the four officers: Tom Groppel, Paul Taylor, Gary Hudson - missing is Grant Noland

A change in board policy was approved in regard to the makeup of the Executive Committee beginning in 2013. The new members of the committee included the five officers - president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and past president, plus the chair (or a representative) from each of the standing committees. It was decided to have a celebration for the 40th anniversary of ICGA in conjunction with the past director event in August.

Membership - In November of 2011, the bylaws were amended to reflect the adoption of two new membership classes: "lifetime producer" and "lifetime associate," with the dues of \$750 prior to December 31, 2012, and after that date \$1,000. Should a lifetime member pass away, it was decided to allow a transfer of the membership to the spouse of the person in whose name the membership was listed. Plans were to roll out the lifetime membership option in August, but that got delayed a few months. There was discussion about creating a new lapel pin for lifetime members. Again this year, CornBelter membership events were done in Bloomington, Evansville and Marion and were well attended.

The PAC bylaws were changed at the recommendation of the consultant hired. The change was in the make-up of the committee and allowed no more than two people from a legislative district and no more than seventeen members. The change allowed for getting more people involved to minimize the board members' time commitment. Because members of the committee would not necessarily be board members, the board allocated funding to cover travel expenses for the PAC meetings. It was noted that the consultant, Pam Hashem, would be under contract for the next couple of years. She also did a lot of work in setting up the GIS program for Ohio. The PAC committee developed a scoring system for legislators in order to make an objective decision on distributing their funds, and this system has worked very well.



ICGA Leadership - Ken Hartman, Tom Groppel, Paul Taylor, Gary Hudson, Jeff Scates, Andrew Goleman

Committee meetings during the March DC congressional visits were held at the new NCGA/USGC office building. A congressional staff tour was held again this year with new sponsors, GROWMARK, ISA and ICMB. This was formerly organized by IFB but due to a change in the election rules, the event could not be sponsored by anyone working with a lobbying firm in DC and the group sponsoring this event had to be changed.

ICGA gained a new neighbor when the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) moved their office to the building just north of ICGA. In addition, IFCA and the Grain and Feed Association worked with the Asmark Institute for constructing a new building located directly behind theirs to use for a training facility. This presented a good opportunity for Illinois Corn to work with IDA to see if we could get this facility certified as a pesticide training facility. Legislation on moving the Fertilizer Research and Education Council out from under IDA was successful. ICGA was allowed a representative to sit on this Council.

Picture of Cong Schock visiting the Asmark facility with Jeff Adkisson (Grain & Feed Association) on the left and Jean Payne (IFCA) on the right



Phil Thornton and Rodney Weinzierl met with IFCA, GROWMARK, IFB and IDA regarding training classes on anhydrous, as there was a lot of concern about people getting hurt. ICGA approved pursuing a safety program for anhydrous application training for farmers, partnering with other farm organizations.

Farm Bill - Gary Schnitkey from the U of I worked on evaluating the different farm programs which had been identified – AARM, ACRE and SRRP. Producers needed to be thinking about what they wanted in the next farm bill. For example, did they want a risk management product delivered by a public FSA or a public/private plan? The Senate did pass a farm bill, but the House did not.

Missions - Richard Gates traveled to Texas with ICMB, Iowa Corn and Nebraska Corn. Eric Kunzeman traveled to the EU with ICMB, Iowa Corn and Nebraska Corn. Paul Taylor traveled to Columbia from Panama following the USGC meeting. Richard Gates participated in the IFB mission to Cuba.

2012-2013

Membership - The big kickoff for the lifetime membership program was done right after the annual meeting. Since this date had gotten pushed back, it was voted to amend the bylaws to change the date for the reduced rate for lifetime membership from December 31, 2012, to March 31, 2013. After that time the rate became \$1,000. Membership at the end of September was listed at 4151. It was noted that one of the reasons for a decrease was the loss of the Adkins Energy members, as they decided to no longer pay ICGA dues for their members. The practice of sending out prospective membership mailings continued periodically, but getting members remained to be tough with the number of farmers decreasing. It was approved to publish and send two PAC newsletters.

Pictured are recipients of the county awards given at the annual meeting. Front row, l-r are: Matt Rush (Wayne Co), Jim Seboldt (Mon-Clair), Ross Pauli (Peoria), Paul Taylor (Kane), Jeff Scates; back row: Keith Yohnka (Kankakee), Kent Blunier (Livingston), Glenn Ginder (Will), Ted Mottaz (Knox), Kent Kleinschmidt (Tazewell)





Picture of a training session

Part of our association with ASMARK gave us the availability to plug into their programming, and we scheduled producer training sessions at the ASMARK building. The first training session had twenty-two in attendance, the second one was cancelled due to lack of interest, and the third session had thirty in attendance. Each session covered different regulations such as fuel tanks, oil storage on farms, anhydrous, etc.

Crop Insurance - The yield trend endorsement was available this spring, and the data showed that most people remained at a percentage of coverage with some going to a higher level. It was pointed out this had been a very good investment for ICGA and ICMB.

Jeff Scates and Jim Reed made visits in DC with the main message pushing for a five-year farm bill. The board approved funding to educate the Illinois congressional delegation on the farm bill and crop insurance issues, with the work to be done by Gary Schnitkey and Bruce Sherrick from the U of I. Garry Niemeyer attended the FARM BILL NOW Rally in DC as pictured below.



Garry Niemeyer at the
Farm Bill Now Rally in DC

The congressional staff tour done jointly with GROWMARK and the Illinois Soybean Association had eight participants this year.

There was a new focus on an EU/U.S. Free Trade Agreement, as industry was pushing them to adopt hard and fast rules about what they would and wouldn't accept. Although the Free Trade Agreements were finalized with Korea and Columbia, the drought of 2012 caused our exports to fall considerably.

Phil Thornton worked on the Transpacific Partnership (TTP) and how it would affect Japan. For example, if Japan participated in the TPP, the tariffs on meat would go to zero over time. This would decimate the livestock producers in Japan, because they would be able to import finished product cheaper than they could grow it. This could give the U.S. an upper hand, as the 3.5-5 metric tons of corn that we export to them would be taken off the market. The extra corn could be fed to livestock in the U.S., but additional demand could be filled by other countries.



Picture taken at a Corn Fest Event in DC. Front row: Art Bnting, Jill Parnell, Garry Niemeyer, Martin Barbre, Theresa and Gary Schmalshof; middle row: John Kuhfuss, Jon Scholl, Steve Ruh, Donna Jeschke, Jim Rapp, Rod Weinzierl, Mark Lambert; back row: Eldon Gould, Bryan Fogerson, Tim Lenz, Scott Stirling, Wendell Shauman, Steve Pigg, Roger Sy, Jim Tarmann

Pictured in a DC visit with the two IL Senators are from l-r: Senator Durbin, Bryan Fogerson, Jim Reed, Scott Stirling, Art Bunting, Tim Lenz and Senator Obama





Pictured are Dale Roth (Carpenters Union), Eric Kunzeman, Kent Kleinschmidt and Cong Aaron Schock during a DC visit



Visting with Senator Durbin from right to left are: Paul Taylor, Jim Reed, Craig Buhrow, Kent Kleinschmidt, Randy DeSutter, Brad Middleton (staffer for Sen Durbin), and seated is Glenna Taylor



Pictured are: Dave Loos, Jim Rapp, Cong Bill Foster, Aron Carlson, Ted Mottaz and Steffen Mueller (U of I-Chicago)

ILLINOIS CORN MARKETING BOARD

2002-2003

In an effort to educate new board members, the Board decided to develop a mentoring program to pair up new members with members who had already served a few years.

A new grain code passed in the legislature. Some issues were being experienced with moisture testers, and Ken Kindler worked with Syd Colbrook from IDA, IL Grain and Feed Association, and Marvin Paulsen from the U of I on testing these. They found a big discrepancy on moisture testers, however, the positive things to come from this testing were that all the data was entered into USDA's GIPSA and the U of I published the results.

The USGC set up a "Structure Task Force" project to which Illinois approved funding as well as others such as Nebraska, AFBF, Syngenta, Iowa, and Ohio. Tom Martin was appointed to this task force as well as Rod Weinzierl and Garry Niemeyer. A proposal was presented at the USGC meeting in Guadalajara, and then focus group discussions followed. In other action, the NCGA and USGC combined their Trade Policy Advisory Teams to help with opportunities for the WTO in regard to the lawsuit with the EU.

Pro Exporter began developing market intelligence on the Brazilian corn market, and the board approved funding for this.

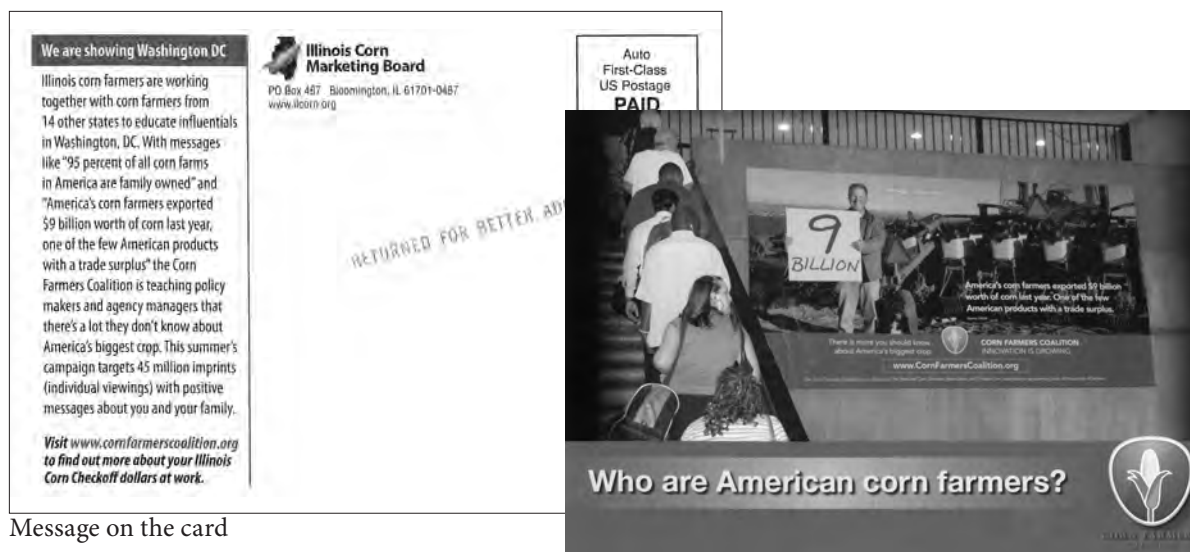
Some new promotional materials were ordered: river brochures, ethanol brochures, bumper stickers and kids' stickers. An educational campaign about checkoff activities called "Producer Education Campaign" was developed. This program included sending out a series of post cards to educate farmers about the activities on which their checkoff dollars were being spent. This program was considered very successful and continues today. The following are a couple of examples of cards.



Example of one of post cards sent out over the years



Message on the card



Message on the card

Another example of post card sent out

Livestock - Developed a livestock display for use by Illinois livestock organizations.

Research - The U of I Geological Survey received a \$1.5 million grant from DOE to work on a carbon sequestration project. Phil Shane committed to working with the Robinson area for sequestering the CO₂ from their ethanol plant, because the plant was located close to rock formations which were conducive to pumping carbon into the ground. It was noted there was a lot of political interest in this project. The board approved hiring of two consultants to complete a detailed economic study on activated carbon, and also approved funding for an activated carbon pilot run and economic analysis. Another research project funded was on "A Photodegradable Cornstarch-based Polymer".

2003-2004

A first opportunity to speak to the IFB Board came about in 2004. Martin Barbre, Tom Martin and Roger Sy made a presentation to the IFB Board of Directors regarding the direction that ICMB and ICGA were going in the state. This was a tremendous opportunity to get our message out. Since Terry Wolf was elected as an officer to the USGC, the board voted to carry him as an ex-officio board member for the period of one year.

As part of a strategic planning process, the officers were charged to come back with a plan at the August meeting for board structure. During the August meeting, PowerPoint presentations were given on "Sector Trends" on the topics of U.S. corn into feed, U.S. meat consumption, corn exports, export sector projects, industrial sector and U.S. corn supply. The first mission statement read, "To maximize the profitability of Illinois corn producers," and the board voted to update this to read, "Create opportunities for increasing Illinois corn value and utilization."

Some special cooperator projects were funded during this year, such as NCGA's Ethanol Portfolio and Trade Portfolio and a Corn Export Workshop which covered issues such as industrial uses and livestock issues. Those invited were board members, 10-15 elevator managers,

10-15 non-board member producers and Illinois Grains Council members who were Ag related. The Corn Export Conference was held on June 28 in Peoria and was very well attended. Al Jarand from RFD interviewed all the speakers and put together a CD.

A unique opportunity came about this year when a team of reporters from the Sacramento Bee interviewed Leon Corzine and Ron Fitchhorn on their farms. In addition, they toured the Yuton Elevator and an elevator in Jerseyville. Some of the topics they discussed included why farmers sell the products they do, why corn was put into storage bins, etc.

A meeting was held with Orion Samuelson and Colleen Callahan to determine whether commodity groups could help with the dwindling media coverage on Ag issues.

Livestock - The board sponsored a U of I livestock conference called “Producing High Quality Grading Feed”, and supported USAPEEC efforts to address avian influenza.

Research - An updated Memorandum of Understanding with the U of I was approved. New research projects funded were: “Commercializing New Uses of Corn Protein” by Gordon Selling; “Evaluation and Development of Quick Fiber” by Dr. Singh; “Reinforced Zein Films for Agricultural Applications” by Dr. Padua, WIU “Value Added Rural Development Center” project, and a project for pulling starch off fiber and sending it back through the fermentation process to be done by Aventine. Projects funded through NCGA included the second year of “Separation of Corn Fiber and Conversion to Fuels and Chemicals” by Renee Skunk of NCGA, “Maize Traits” by Nate Danielson of NCGA, and a Texas research proposal on aflatoxin.

Highlights from Tom Martin

Tom got involved because of John Adams, who was the current representative from his area on the ICMB. John approached Tom about his interest in serving on the board and tried to recruit him for several years. At the time, Tom was very busy with other things in his community and his children were young. John’s persistence paid off, as Tom finally decided to run for a seat on the board. Tom believes that John knew him well enough that he knew Tom would enjoy it.

Tom felt that serving on the Corn Board made him a better time manager. His wife was employed outside the home, and he had young children who were eight and twelve years old when he first got involved. Tom moved up through the ranks of the officer chain of the board. Serving on the board made him good at planning his time. He set a goal to plan his time so that he knew when he would be at certain meetings and knew how to plan around his business. Tom didn’t want to lose the ability to run his business, as



Tom Martin with equipment



Tom and his family while attending a USGC meeting

he saw that happen to others. The experience allowed him personally to grow among his peers, not only from the state of Illinois but around the nation. When he attended meetings, he tried to listen and observe and bring new ideas back to the farm. While he was away, he always tried to come back with one or two ideas for running his own business. He noted that he saw a lot of things that were on the cutting edge. The opportunity of serving on the board allowed him to be more out in the forefront than some of his neighbors, and that helped him quite a little.

The biggest issue Tom remembered from his term on the board was being involved with the reorganization of the major partners of ICMB, such as NCGA and USGC. They were trying to make these organizations more responsible and to be more representative to their members and to the monies coming in. Tom believed any organization needed to take a look, probably every four or five years, at what it was doing and how it was responding. Tom got heavily involved in the Grains Council reorganization. It all came down to responding to large donors, but he noted that you also have to listen to all who are part of the organization, although maybe not necessarily the loudest voices. Even though there were struggles, Tom felt that the organization ended up in a better place. Tom stated, “As an organization, you need to keep focused on how you are responding and what you are doing.”

Tom noted that while serving on ICMB he always tried to be cognizant of whose money he was spending. He was dealing with money from his neighbors and corn growers across the state, so he tried to put himself in the place of a neighbor and be able to answer some of their questions. The biggest issue was the challenge every time you had to make a decision.

Another big issue the board dealt with was trying to come to terms with all the different state issues. Tom noted, “You need to try to understand others’ priorities in addition to explaining your priorities and come to a place where you move the whole organization forward. A lot of times you see a state issue that can become rather polarizing, because some people have pet projects, and it is always difficult to work through that. For example, a project may be good for your state, but not for everyone.”

Dealing with ethanol was an ongoing area and during Tom's term on the board, there was a lot of work done on giving grants to a lot of developing ethanol plants. The board reviewed the grants to make sure the right people were in place to put a viable company together. As Tom stated,

"This was not easy, and we had to depend on staff to help us through this process, meaning we had to educate ourselves." These plants were actually ramping up and going and if Tom remembers right, the board gave out 10-15 grants which really helped jump start some of these plants, in addition to helping them get other grant monies.

Tom had the good fortune to go on a memorable USMEF mission to Asia, South Korea and Japan along with Ken Greene. He also thought George Obernagel went on that mission. Tom had never been to Asia, and he was especially impressed by Seoul, Korea, and the number of people they have living in one small area. It was interesting to note that Korea is a country close to their roots and how dependent they were on the U.S. and others. Japan, being one of our major partners, was much more of a modern city and a more mature market. USMEF showed how they promote our meat products and how they related to the population there.

Another mission Tom participated in was with IFB to Brazil and Argentina. Steve Ruh also went on this mission. It was very interesting, because these countries are huge producers of our same products. They established a good relationship and were able to get a firsthand review of how their farmers operated and dealt with a large ethanol industry and promoted it. Their products were promoted by their government, and it was interesting how that worked. Of course, their ethanol was made from sugar cane rather than corn.

According to Tom, "It was good to participate in the missions because you became more comfortable with traveling and doing and seeing things. You not only learned from specific agricultural logistics but saw the traditions of other countries and how much they are dependent upon the U.S." Hopefully, he brought something back to the board to help them make good decisions on promoting our agricultural products to other countries. Tom had previously traveled but not this extensively. As he noted, "These missions are not just what you learn from a specific agricultural area, but it also gives you experiences in traveling and expanding your horizons. It is hard to get your hands on just what you are bringing back."

One thing Tom wanted to point out is that people need to realize how much of a commitment and how dedicated the board members are. You get some really good people on these volunteer boards, and those out in the countryside take them for granted and don't see how dedicated and important those people are. Some producers hear about the trips and some of the limited work the board does, but they don't see how dedicated they are and how much time they spend away from home. It is especially hard when you have young kids, and this is one reason Tom didn't jump at the opportunity when he was first asked to become involved.

As Tom stated, "There is no doubt the organizations have great staff who work hard at their jobs and that makes it easy for board members." Tom has served on a lot of boards and a lot of organizations, and he truly believes Illinois Corn has the most professionally run board than other organizations he has dealt with. He further stated, "Not only corn growers but the entire state is indebted to staff for that."



Pictured on Tom Martin's farm are Tom, Ken Greene, Martin Barbre, Ken Hartman, Wendell Shauman

Through serving on the ICMB, Tom made a lot of good friends and relationships that he still has to this day. He noted, “You find out that the agricultural business in the State of Illinois is all interconnected. All of us have to fight for one another to help move the ball forward for the whole industry and you are just a small cog in that, but that involvement makes a big difference.”

2004-2005

New board policy adopted was a stipend to cover communication costs for directors.

Board members experienced a couple of unique programs at meetings during this year. At the March meeting a livestock program was featured with presentations given by: Peter Goldsmith who noted that by solving the odor problem, everything else went away; Meadowbrook Farm where a unique part of the discussion was about the cooperative structure and how it was so rigid; Dan Voorhis who talked about business plans. At the June meeting, the board participated with ICGA in a China Symposium and had the following speakers: Todd Meyer, Sr. Director in China for USGC; James Simpson, Prof. of International Agriculture, Faculty of Intercultural Communication, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan; an Industry Panel which included Alan Willits, V.P. and Commercial Lender for Cargill, Inc, Curt Clausen, Regional Business Director for Asia for Pioneer; Doug Schemmer, Global Director of Industry Affairs for Monsanto; and Bill Hudson, President of ProExporter Network. Board members learned they needed to become better educated on the valuation of Chinese currency, the ethanol issue from their standpoint, and the need to understand the grain flows and shipping. Everyone enjoyed a menu of Chinese food to complete their Chinese experience.

A new form of transportation, containers, was becoming a bigger and bigger option for shipping grain overseas. Funding was appropriated toward development of the rail loading program and what it meant to Illinois farmers. This was covered in the ICGA section in 2005, although it should be noted that most of the funding for the program came from ICMB. Some of the programs funded later by ICMB in 2007 included an American Inland Ports LLC project and a

grant to Access Ag's container loading in cooperation with IDA. Donna Jeschke attended the IFB Transportation Seminar and noted that 1.8 million containers come into California, with 25 percent of those coming to Chicago. The Burlington Northern loaded 60 percent of those.

Research - The board approved moving forward with the USDA Eastern Research Lab CRADA. Another project the board funded was from a company called AgVantage, Inc. which was for converting DDG's into composite materials to be used for signs along the highways. In 2006, these signs were being used in northern Illinois, and it was reported in 2007 that this was a successful project.

2005-2006



ICMB officers Donna Jeschke, Ron Gray, Bryan Fogerson and Wendell Shauman

With the new board structure, the committee agendas were changed and included budget figures. This new structure did not allow for the Executive Programs and Communications and Educations Programs which funded certain programs each year. Therefore, it was decided to develop a budget for these areas.

Under the Grain Insurance Fund, it was noted that fund had reached \$6 million and therefore producer contributions would end unless there were elevator failures in the next few months.

The board had a discussion regarding the FSA taking checkoff on corn going under loan, and it was voted to continue to support that.

Farm Bill – The board appropriated funding to investigate farm bill options relative to WTO compliance and profitability to Illinois farmers. This authorized a task force to go ahead and study the different scenarios.

A new project approved for funding was an agricultural exhibit at the Children's Discovery Museum in Bloomington/Normal.

Funding of this project did set a precedent, and the board later funded similar projects in Rockford (2009), Springfield (2012) and Peoria (2013).



Exhibits at Bloomington-Normal
Children's Discovery Museum

Livestock - The beef market in Japan officially opened this year. The board appropriated funding to USAPEEC for providing education on Avian influenza. It was noted that ILDG was now in good hands with the hiring of Nic Anderson as their coordinator. Funding was approved to work to bring dairy farms to Illinois, contingent on matching funds from Soybeans and possibly the dairy industry.

Research - A chromatography project with Dr. Cheryan was funded, noting that commercializing the chromatography technology would probably take up to four years. It was recommended that the board license the technology in order to protect it once it was developed. A Corn Zone Measurement Study was approved for funding to be done by Pro Exporter.

The board voted to actively participate in negotiations to develop and secure a more trade friendly sugar program.

With the new NCGA structure and the election of people to serve on the NCGA Corn Board, it was decided to try to get to know the candidates better. Therefore, the board began the practice of having the candidates complete one of Illinois' policy surveys which were sent out to the membership prior to the state policy session. This would give them some idea on where these candidates stood in regard to issues Illinois producers were concerned with. In addition, it became the practice to schedule a breakfast caucus at the July NCGA Corn Congress meeting to have a discussion prior to voting on candidates for the NCGA Corn Board.

Highlights from Leon Corzine

Len first got involved with the ICGA because of his kids' involvement in 4-H. His wife Suzie and he had farmed with his dad, and they got involved in 4-H when his son was ten years old. At the local county fair, Len met Joe Hampton who encouraged him to get involved with the corn organization. At the time Len was serving on the local school board which had just passed a consolidation of schools, which was a huge effort to provide better education for their kids. This experience gave him a good background to get involved with the corn board. ICGA and ICMB were discussed, and Len was pretty much unaware of what these boards did. Joe invited him to attend a meeting, and Len attended an ICGA meeting when Scott Durbin was president. Scott was a neighbor of Len's and was going off the ICGA Board. While attending the meeting, he was really struck by the work getting done, the insight and knowledge base of the folks on the board of directors and wondered just how those guys knew all of this. At the first dinner he attended, Governor Edgar was there sitting at the head table. Len thought these people really knew how to get things done. Because of Joe's encouragement, Len decided to get on the ICGA Board. His biggest concern was being able to get up to speed on the issues. He felt that everyone knew what they were talking about and had a good background. He was in awe of what the farmers like him knew about all of these issues and that they were working on all of them. His statement was, "How do they do that and how do they make things happen?"



Leon Corzine

Len learned that the board of directors, who were farmers, had a commitment because of the foundation laid by the founders of ICMB and their insight to bring everything along and do it themselves. The original board made a huge commitment, both in time and financially. That was really something special. As Len stated, "When it came to the point where there was a question about whether it was going to be a voluntary, state by state checkoff or a national mandatory checkoff, folks like Joe Hampton were really part of that to keep it a state checkoff. This led to the strength of ICMB and ICGA and their ability to do what needs to be done for farmers in Illinois and around the country, because in the beginning ICMB kept us grassroots, local voluntary checkoff. We have a system that you can't say enough about in regard to empowering growers. We have been blessed with great staff, who I like to call partners, to be empowered with the knowledge base so that we would have confidence whether going to DC, Moscow, Tokyo, or Brussels to talk about us and what's important to us and correct a lot of misconceptions promoted by extremist groups that do not like agriculture very well. Being an organization that deals specifically with corn issues was important too, because the organization was structured to be nimble with a commitment of growers and empowerment of farmers. The corn organization doesn't have to deal with all the issues in agriculture but can be corn specific. With this type of structure, when there is a need, you can move rather quickly and don't have to deal with all other issues like insurance, etc. that farm bureau and others have to do. Being a strong state organization allows you to be nimbler than a national organization. In today's world, it has been shown that you have to be nimble to make things happen when they need to happen."

Both organizations have literally changed Len's life and his family's life. Prior to his involvement with Illinois Corn, he was involved locally in church and school board issues but other than going to the U of I and being involved in FFA, Len was not involved much outside his own region. He lost his dad in 1987 and had to really focus on the farm and had not looked beyond his borders. The Illinois Corn organizations helped him to do that, as well as helping him to see how diverse an issue corn is. As noted by Len, "For example, growing conditions are different in central Illinois, southern Illinois and northern Illinois. Going beyond the state boundaries, you see what needs to happen to help the people we represent on a national level to promote our products." That really helped Len as far as a vision and seeing a bigger picture as far as the world is concerned. Being involved helped him to get up to speed with those issues and made him more committed. The background and information provided from the team, folks employed by ICMB and ICGA, enabled him to go wherever he needed to go – Springfield, DC, Brussels, Belgium, or other places around the world to tell our message. This helped him to gain confidence and to see the impact we were having, which in turn helped him know that we really could make a difference. As Len reiterated, "All board members are involved for a common goal, even though they don't always agree as a board. However, that is healthy and important, as it is good to have lively discussions. If you always want a unanimous vote on things, you only need a board of one. In order to represent all parts of Illinois, a key element is getting diverse ideas."

Len further stated, "When I was involved on a national level, my children were in the right spot, especially my son Craig who was back on the farm. This showed Craig he could go ahead and do things on the farm. My son was empowered to make decisions on all the farming operations, and the family learned that they could do it. If something happened to me or if I was called away, the operation could go on. That would never have happened if not for my involvement with corn growers."

Learning to deal with things on a national basis helped Len gain respect and helped him to speak from his perspective. As he noted, "On the delegate floor of the national organizations, whether NCGA, USGC, USMEF, or Illinois, Illinois folks have always been strong in the discussions for setting direction for national organizations as well. What helped the Illinois guys in the debates during the sessions at national, was the fact that we had already engaged in a strong debate on these same issues when Illinois was developing their policies. Illinois' structure really helped us prepare our farm leaders to do things on a national level—recognition of what is important and what is correct to do. The experiences on the state level gave me a great ability to become a national officer. It was certainly a huge time and financial commitment, but it was very rewarding to see the impact of what a grassroots organization and founders of ICMB were able to do. When I look back on my accomplishments, I hope the guys who have gone before me will be looking down to see what has been done to help Illinois agriculture."

The entire time Len served on the Illinois boards were spent in dealing with transportation issues and river issues - locks and dams. As Len noted, "This has been very frustrating, but the board has been resolute in continuing to push the issue."



Visit with Cong John Shimkus with Len on the left and Martin Barbre on the right



Len participating in an event

Len felt he was in the right spot in the leadership of ICGA when biotechnology came along. As he said, “This is part of the empowerment of being in grassroots, as I was involved at a key time. Biotechnology was important from the state level all the way to the national level. The State of Illinois is unique because of the processing industry we have, specifically with ADM and Staley. More of our crop and products from our crops go overseas than most of the other states, making it necessary for us to look at the world market and what was going to happen with exports in the early years of biotechnology. We had to get involved in the regulatory process to try and help address consumer concerns as well as help the industry (biotech providers) to understand they not only had a great product but had to make sure they were going through the regulatory work and protecting worldwide markets. We were effective in walking a fine line along the way to bring new products forward and lower the environmental footprint to make it work. Not only did we have to do that, but we had to get regulatory things in place in DC, help them get in place around the world, and work on consumer acceptance so that we could look the customer in the eye and say we were doing a better job on the farm with these new tools and giving a higher quality product that was safe and wholesome for the consumer. With increased production, we had to decide what we were going to do with all the corn. There was a need for a lot of government help growing for the farm instead of the marketplace, and we needed new production.”

In the early years, ICMB and ICGA participated in ethanol discussions. Len was National president when the first energy bill with the RFS was passed, and in Len’s words, “That was the key game changer for agriculture around the world and for all of society. Ethanol was an issue that has made a difference. A huge key to getting this passed was that we had people in the right place in DC with Speaker Hastert and Congressman Shimkus, who happened to be my congressperson and on the right committee and they both did a huge amount of work. Also, we had Senator Durbin on the leadership side in the Democratic isle to help with ethanol. Ethanol was an issue we could look to and say ‘Wow, we have won’.”

In an environmental way, biotechnology and new technology helped bring along a new investment in agriculture, because we grow for the marketplace. Private industry developed

equipment to farm with less tillage and made an investment in technology to help the environment with site specific agriculture, such as site-specific seed placement. We would never have gotten that investment if we hadn't had a need, and dollars created for agriculture and potential dollars by ethanol for agriculture.

The year Len served as National president was the passage of CAFTA, and he noted that we got true credit for this legislation. This trade deal was important in lot of ways. Those in exports thought ethanol was the only focus, but corn was also given credit by everyone from the Administration to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to Ford Motor Co, to pharmaceuticals, to Caterpillar. Passage of CAFTA took a lot of time and a lot of work. In summary, the issues which took a lot of time while Len served as NCGA President were ethanol, biotechnology, trade issues and the passage of CAFTA.

One of the more recent issues of ICMB involvement was being in the driver seat in the area of crop insurance and the development of the yield trend adjustment product. Len made the transition from ICGA to ICMB when he was a national officer. He became a national officer when he was going off the grower board but thought he needed to maintain a connection with his roots with the state. So in order to be available for the Illinois guys to have access to him, Len became a member of ICMB. One of the differences Len noted with being on the ICMB Board was the need to think more about how to spend the dollars most effectively and the need to send the message to the people supporting you. It is a huge credit to ICMB that they have a very low refund rate. This stays low because ICMB stays in touch with the grassroots, and that's very important. The yield trend adjustment was specifically an investment of the individual farmer's contribution. It had to be something like 100-1 just to lower the crop insurance cost and/or at the same time increase crop insurance coverage. So, this recent issue was important for anyone that grows corn in the State of Illinois. For that tiny contribution they make to the checkoff, they have saved thousands just in this one issue that we don't think of as one of our top priorities. That shows the impact ICMB has had.

As chairperson of the NCGA Biotech Working Group and while NCGA president, Len had the opportunity to make annual tours through Europe talking with government officials, consumer groups, farmer groups, and the press about biotechnology. There were a group of six to eight people involved in these tours, and they did that for seven years in a row. They would visit several sections of a country and were in very high-level meetings, working in conjunction with NCGA and USGC. They did receive matching funds from the federal government for these tours, but Illinois checkoff dollars and ICMB supported NCGA and USGC in those efforts. Len felt the dollars were really well spent. As he stated, "Our group was the only one to be allowed to go into Parliament while in France. The effort was made to talk to some of their folks to try to help open some technology barriers there around biotechnology."

On the ICMB side, one of the state issues was a China mission with Trader's Group working on dried distillers grains (DDGS) and getting into new areas of the interior of China. This was done primarily in the pork growing areas of China, but also beef, and actually got studies started to introduce DDGS for their swine and beef industries.

Len noted he thought it was great that we are working on a historical document for the Illinois Corn organizations, because we need this historical perspective. A lot of the founders are getting on in years, and unfortunately, we have already lost a number of those folks. Len stated, "What ICMB has done is a shining example of how a group of people, in this case farmers that really cared about something, had a vision and made a commitment to do something about issues important to them and to their future and the next generation's future. They did it right and have set the foundation to keep the grassroots involvement and keep the checkoff on the local level. Sometimes, it drives the national organizations crazy, to maintain grassroots involvement. We are a cut above other organizations because of that, because we have the empowerment of the growers and it all started with ICMB because they were the primary driver in keeping it a state voluntary checkoff in the day when there were challenges to try to change it."

Len is very thankful for the opportunity he had to serve. To quote him, "It has definitely changed my life in many ways, and it was from the support of the team. As a national officer I had the opportunity to work with teams (staff) of all of the state corn organizations, and they are all great people. But the Illinois folks empowered growers better, have had a vision, and really helped the knowledge base with their encouragement in allowing folks to make mistakes by sometimes putting them outside of their comfort zone. All of that made a difference and made the organizations successful. All successes really need to be recorded and remembered."

2006-2007



Officers Donna Jeschke,
Wendell Shauman,
Jim Rapp

In August of 2007, new board policy was adopted to cover the premium for directors for Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance for \$100,000 of coverage. This was a group plan offered through Illinois Farm Bureau. In addition, the board voted to cover the cost of health insurance abroad for members going on a mission.

Beginning with this year, the Commodity Classic included wheat, corn and soybeans.

With the passage of the checkoff increase, the board voted to request the FSA stop taking checkoff on corn going under loan.

Farm Bill – A proposal was presented to the Farm Bill Task Force by Bruce Sherrick and Gary Schnitkey from the U of I. Part of the project that was put in place was the piece at the Risk Management Agency to fix the problem with the current safety net. The board voted to explore crop insurance options.

Funding was granted for a three-year project called “Truth About Trade Program” to educate the public on the importance of trade. The board continued to fund this project up to the present time.

DDGS – Funding was approved for the NCGA portfolio project “Standardization of DDGS Test Methods”. ICMB also created a subgroup to collaborate with Illinois Pork Producers to assess needed DDGS projects. Funding was approved to work with pork producers on co-products and research including sitting at the table with the National Pork Consortium. Funding was also approved to work with the Illinois Beef Association on DDGS.

Research – A three-year project called “Facilitating Rapid-Response Research” was funded through the Department of ACES at the U of I. This project was to put in place a tool to be used to determine the economic impact on different issues which might come up during the year, such as the governor’s proposed Gross Receipts Tax.

2007-2008

It was decided that committee goals should be reviewed each year.

In regard to the checkoff, some problems were experienced with Illinois corn being sold in Indiana and being doubly checked off. By consensus, the board approved sending a letter to the first purchaser, Cargill, authorizing them to take the Indiana checkoff.

A Corn Summit meeting was held in St. Louis with fourteen states participating plus representatives from USMEF, USGC and NCGA. Discussion centered on the next steps the industry should take toward the visioning process. A second meeting was held at the Commodity Classic in Nashville with twenty-two of the possible twenty-eight states in attendance. States identified issues they saw down the road and the challenges the industry was facing. The board approved funding to NCGA for the Corn Industry Strategic Plan.

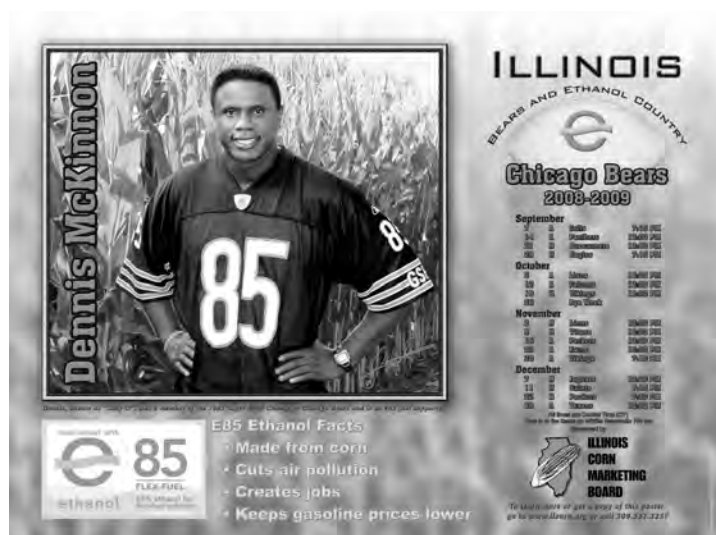
A group for “Vision for Illinois Agriculture” was organized with participants being ICGA, IDA, U of I, ISA and ICMB. This was a strategic planning session to develop a long-term plan to improve the business climate in Illinois. This was also noted in the ICGA section. In 2009, Rod Weinzierl summarized that four different opinions on the condition of the state budget had been identified. One fact he noted was that to balance the current budget a little more than an 18 percent across the board cut would be needed. A working group composed of IFB, ICGA, ISA, IBA, and IPPA was formed to try to come up with a proposal from the Ag sector on what they would like to see as a fair and equitable fix across the board. The board continued to fund this group through 2010.

An educational and sellback program called “Educational Program on Profitability of Corn Production” was developed. This project related to what was going on in the countryside with the high cost of corn and soybean inputs, pointing out profitability and encouraging production of more corn.

Communication – A new avenue for educating consumers was identified this year, and that was the use of “YouTube” on the Internet. Because this method of communication was popular with the younger generation, it was decided to hire summer interns to create videos. Interns continued to be hired each year up through 2013. Many of the videos they created were used in a later project that came about in 2009, with ICMB becoming involved with a minor league baseball team. A couple of other unique forms of communicating with consumers was done this year including a poster promotion at the Rose Bowl and a sponsorship of Bears Radio 780.



Example of poster used at the Rose Bowl



Example of poster for the Bears Sponsorship

It was during this year that the CBOT developed a new fertilizer contract entitled, “Margin Credit Swap”. ICMB was proactive in educating the farmers about these new and redesigned contracts and committed funding toward regional meetings, webinars and educational materials. How to change the contracts so that the delivery mechanism worked with interior delivery points was also investigated.

Livestock – A hearing was held in JoDaviess County in regard to a family from California trying to bring in a livestock operation. The name of this group was BOS Dairy, and they worked for several years trying the meet the rules and getting the proper permits for locating their industry in Illinois. Finally, in 2012, BOS Diary decided to leave the state. The board granted funding for a couple of pork programs: 1)IPPA’s Food Bank Program in which hog producers donated hogs, the processing plants donated their slaughter costs, IPPA covered processing costs, and hundreds of pounds of ground pork were given to food banks in Illinois to supplement their protein supplies; 2) Illinois Pork Food Pantry program, specifically targeting the Chicago area. In addition, the board approved funding for the USAPEEC Webinar program in an effort to resolve barriers to the export trade in poultry and egg products.

Several research projects were funded in 2008 in relation to the livestock industry and DDGS, and those included: 1) a project with the Maschoffs Farm to establish the maximum possible inclusion level in commercial swine diets of a fractionated corn product; 2) a project through the U of I to evaluate procedures to feed co-products from the fuel ethanol industry to pigs without reducing the fat quality of the pigs; 3) a project through the U of I to test if the concentration of furosine in DDGS could be used to predict the digestibility of lysine in DDGS; 4) a large cooperative project between United Egg Producers, NCGA and USDA to look at the impact of DDGS used in the layers diet on reduced emissions of ammonia; 5) a grant through ICO for a Feasibility Assessment of locating a commercial dairy in Champaign County to help support the Dairy Department at the U of I; 6) another project through Maschoffs on “Evaluation of the Effect of a Major Fractionated Corn Co-product on the Growth Performance of Wean-to-Finish Pigs and on Carcass and Pork Quality Characteristics” ; 7) a project on “Sulfur Concentration in DDGS for Pig Performance” which was co-funded with the National Pork Board.

Crop insurance - The board approved funding for Gary Schnitkey and Bruce Sherrick to continue working on ways to improve crop insurance.

USGC - With a change in CEO's, the Council developed a transition plan. The board approved funding toward that plan.

Highlights from Donna Jeschke

Donna got involved with ICMB when the previous district director, Doug Foss, was ready to retire from the board. He asked Donna to consider submitting her application for his unexpired term and following a board telephone interview, Donna was selected to fill out Doug's term. After that, she was elected for three full terms and served a total of ten years.

By serving on the ICMB, Donna felt she had the opportunity to collaborate with farmers around the state on issues confronting corn farmers. The greatest joy in this, as Donna learned, was that they were all as passionate about agriculture as she and her husband were. Serving on the ICMB helped Donna see and understand some of the bigger and more complex issues affecting farmers, not only on a state level but on a national and international level as well.



Donna Jeschke

As Donna reiterated, “It was hard to choose the biggest issue experienced during my years of service, because there were many varied issues.” When Donna started her term on the ICMB, she noted she was fairly confident that she understood the how and why that the three focus areas for the board were research, market development and communications. What she didn't expect was that funding “research” would change from funding “corn usage research” (such as ethanol development projects) to funding more “economic research” (such as the land usage/economic impact research projects). Also Donna noted that she didn't realize that communications funding would involve spending as much or more on “communicating and educating” the non-farm consumer. She especially never expected to be in a social media class sponsored by ICMB.



Donna Jeschke, Art Bunting, Scott Stirling in front of the Capitol on a DC visit



Donna Jeschke is pictured at the Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington, IL



Donna giving ICMB report at the ICGA Annual Meeting

One of the many experiences Donna had while serving on the ICMB Board was the opportunity to go on a USMEF overseas mission. She noted, “This was an excellent opportunity to meet our customers in Taiwan and Japan.” The other official mission Donna participated in was to Panama with farmers from Illinois and Iowa. In Donna’s words, “It was most impressive to see what was happening with the Panama Canal and realize the opportunities such a project means to the demand for our Ag products.” In addition to these missions, Donna and her husband were invited to travel to Sweden, China and Argentina to meet with farmers and Ag groups and potential customers.

In summary, Donna noted, “Just being on the ICMB opened up awesome opportunities! We have had the opportunity to host numerous national Ag groups and international trade teams on our farm. My husband and I hosted one team from China for five days! They were part of a USDA agricultural scientific program. We had potential buyers of corn and corn products sit at our kitchen table asking to purchase product. We have spoken to many international groups visiting the Chicago Board of Trade. The past two years we have been involved in the Illinois Farm Families program and served as a host farm to twenty-five Chicago-area Moms. This program presents an opportunity for farmers and non-farmers to have conversation about what is happening on the farm today.”

In regard to national groups, Donna noted she did have the opportunity to serve on the NCGA’s Ethanol Committee and Biotech/Trade Policy Team.

2008-09



Officers Jim Rapp, Donna Jeschke, Scott Stirling, Jim Robbins

An opportunity for a new communication program surfaced when the town of Normal proposed the idea for a new minor league baseball team with the stadium location to be at Heartland Junior College. With the name of the team, being the CornBelters, it was felt there were some synergies with Illinois Corn, since their state office was in the local area. By signing a two-year contract, the board would get naming rights for the stadium. After much discussion, the major reason the board decided to get involved was to gain another avenue for communicating their message to consumers attending the games as well as the opportunity for eight hours of advertising on a digital billboard to be located along Interstate 55, near the intersection of Interstate 39. It took a couple of years before the billboard was actually installed because of some state regulations, but the picture below shows the finished product.



Donna Jeschke speaking at announcement of the Corn Crib for the Normal baseball team



Billboard visible from Interstate 55 and 39

In addition, the plan for the stadium was to have other events scheduled in addition to baseball. The board approved signing a two- year contract with the Normal CornBelters Baseball Team, and the stadium was named the Corn Crib. Other sponsors that came on board and helped to lower ICMB's financial commitment were Pioneer, Syngenta, Prairie Farms, IBA and IPPA. Our



Donna Jeschke and Jim Rapp pictured with "Corny" (mascot for the Normal CornBelters)



Pictured are staff Phil Thornton, Jim Tarmann and Tricia Braid at the Corn Crib announcement

sponsorship also included a suite, and board members were allowed to use this space. The first year that the stadium opened, the board retirement event was held at the Corn Crib. Jim Rapp, who was serving as chairman on opening night of the stadium, got to throw out the first pitch. This has proved to be a successful way of communicating corn's message to non-farm families, and the board continues to be a sponsor.

Following the food and fuel debate in 2008, a new group called "Project Restore" worked to upgrade our image in the DC area, and Mark Lambert became the coordinator. This group was formed by ten state corn checkoff boards and NCGA with the purpose to provide the truth to influencers in the Washington, DC area. After the program got fully organized, the name was changed to the Corn Farmer's Coalition. In addition to granting funding to NCGA for this program each year, in 2011 the board funded a statewide media buy in print and radio to place the new CFC ads during the August congressional recess. To do this, the CFC continues to work in the DC area with more ads featuring farmer faces, more station domination tactics in the DC metro stations near the Hill, and Corn Fact Books were printed for ICGA to use here in Illinois.

DDGS - Research trials were conducted on DDGS for ruminants and monogastrics, and funding was approved through the Traders Group for getting two containers of DDGS to China for a feeding trial.



Fact Book cover



Print material stating corn export fact

In addition, the board funded several research projects on the digestibility in DDGS fed to pigs, one through NCERC in collaboration with Mashoffs, a couple through NCERC, one at the U of I, one through ISU, another one through Maschoff, LLC, and one on fiber feeding trials with collaboration of Iowa State and Hans Stein at the U of I. To help with promoting DDGS with Illinois beef producers, funding was approved to help with a major beef conference.

Livestock – Cooperative projects with the IPPA approved for funding included the Food and Pantry Program which was expanded from Chicago to other areas of the state, the Pork Power program and a coupon program in Chicago. The Pork Power program continued to be funded up through 2013. Also funded through the National Science Academy in cooperation with Nebraska and the National Pork Board was a project on “Updating the National Resource Council’s Nutrient Requirements for Swine”. On the beef side, a research project was funded to be coordinated through WIU and NCERC. Funding was also approved to work with ILDG on a grant program which would provide a grant per producer towards the cost of a professional engineering plan for a new or expanding livestock facility. (insert pictures – Chapter Five Pictures/Chicago Food Bank event2: Pork Power donation)



Picture of group involved with the Pork Power donation with Leon Corzine in the blue shirt, second from left in second row and fourth person in that row with green shirt is Lyle Roberts from IL Soybeans



Picture taken at the Chicago Food Bank event

In order to stimulate interest in academic programs that would produce more corn breeders and geneticists with a focus on corn traits which add value, the U of I developed a fellowship directed at corn research and the board approved funding for two years. In 2011, another three-year project was funded for two scholarships per year for valued added corn plant breeding research. This program was run under Rita Mum at the U of I, and scholarship receivers did give reports to the Industrial Committee. The program proved to be successful but because of the shortage of funds with the drought in 2012, funding for future grants was suspended but started again in 2013.

During this year, Ohio was gearing up for the issue of the Humane Society of the U.S. who was going after livestock. It was believed this would be a big battle over the next twelve months in Ohio. The board had discussion about this issue, as it could move to Illinois in the future.

USGC - To help with educating elevator managers about their individual end uses, the board decided to invite some of them to participate in the USGC meeting. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the USGC, and the board granted funding toward a celebration of this momentous occasion.

2009-2010

A new change in board policy was adopted to offer an additional allowance for communication reimbursement for directors having the ability to send and receive emails on their cell phone. With changes in IRS rules in regard to the 990 Income Tax Form, the board adopted policy for the Audit Committee to review the organization's Federal 990 Income Tax Exempt Form each year while providing copies to all board members. This change also brought about the need to adopt the "whistleblower policy" and a "conflict of interest policy" which are signed by board members.

A project to improve perceptions of influencers in Illinois was identified through IFB. This effort was to try to determine the correct words to use in promoting our business as well as the words to avoid. Along with IFB, other commodity organizations working with this program were ISA, IBA, ICGA, ICMB and IPPA. As the program was further developed, it became the "Farmer Image Program". To help with the program, the board approved funding to support new Ag programming on WTVF in Peoria and for Pam Fretwell in syndicated radio programs which were designed to reach farm audiences while allowing messaging in other programs. In 2011, the name for the Farmer Image Program became "Illinois Farm Families". ICMB approved funding for developing brochures as a recruitment tool to get those interested involved in being a spokesperson for agriculture. Morgan and Meyer were an outside source working out the details of the program. Donna Jeschke participated in this program, and the field moms visited her farm.



ICMB officers Larry Hasheider, Kent Kleinschmidt, Scott Stirling, Bill Christ in front of the sign at the Corn Crib



Picture of the Field Moms visiting Donna and Paul Jeschke's farm. Paul and Donna are pictured in the back row, second and third from the right.

Another program funded in 2011 was called “Bridging the Gap between Consumers & the Farm” which was a six-month sponsorship with Farm Journal Media. The Corn Ag Mag was completed, for the first time being functional on Smart Board technology. In 2011, Illinois Farm Families began taking applications from moms interested in taking farm tours with the intent for them to go back and write about their experience on their blog. By educating these non-farm moms, they could be talking about what they had learned through this program. Another program initiated was called “Farmers Feed Us” in which consumers could sign up on the web site for free groceries by answering some trivia questions. Results of this program indicated about 15,000 consumers had subscribed to get more information and about 75,000 signed up for free groceries.

As noted in the ICGA section of this document, a new form of communication, called social media, came on the scene at this point in time. ICMB approved funding for social media customized training with Michelle Payn-Knoper. This training was for Illinois Corn staff to identify and build social media tools to expand the awareness of Illinois Corn contributions among key influencers. In subsequent years, social media interns were hired each semester, with one being a video intern who worked in the office and others working in the field. In 2011, the results revealed that the social media interns working in the field had quite a following with one person having 17,021 fans and another 12,009 followers and 4,000 fans. This was a good indication that consumers were now getting their information from Facebook instead of reading their newspapers. Results in 2013 showed a total of 62+ interns had been hired over the life of the program. This program continued to be funded up through the present time with the same type of results.

Another project to which the board committed funding was in regard to what was called the food deserts of Chicago – a community identified that consumed only ½ pound of vegetables per year. This project was called the “Urban Fresh Produce” project which was to produce and supply fresh vegetables from spring 2010 through fall 2010. Monsanto provided funding to cover critical expenses for production of fresh produce, and ICMB funded the cost for four interns to manage the vegetable plots day to day. Kineo, a public relations firm who had done a lot of work for Monsanto, was currently developing a communication program to target key stakeholders. The program had to be put on hold in 2011 but continued again in 2012 with two new partners which were faith related organizations that could help with distribution of the food.



Picture of the food deserts project

The number one hot topic noted at this time was cap and trade. The Supreme Court decision giving EPA the right to regulate CO₂ was driving this issue, and it was indicated it was not likely we would see any cap-and-trade legislation in 2010. Staff put together a one-page information sheet, as there was a need to make producers understand why it was important we were at the table to negotiate a Climate Change Bill.

Farm Bill - The board approved funding for a group from the U of I called iFAR for Phase One, Two and Three on their project “Farm Bill 2012: Preparing Illinois Corn Growers for Evaluating Alternatives”.

Livestock - Funding was approved to produce an “Illinois Competitive Advantage Beef” brochure, a Classroom Livestock Care Ag Mag, and for creating a Corn Ag Mag with a similar digital format. It was also approved to upgrade the Nutritional Manual for Beef Cattle through the National Academy of Science. Some projects funded in the DDGS area included coordination of a DDGS Workshop for Illinois agriculture and the Illinois ethanol industry, a project to focus on higher value DDGS from fractionation technologies through the U of I in cooperation with the National Pork Board, and a project to screen for mycotoxins in DDGS through NCERC.

The Past Director event this year was held for the first time at the Corn Crib.

USGC - A new CEO was hired following the retirement of Ken Hobbie.



Pictured are Tim Lenz and Stephanie and Rob Elliott with the baseball field in the background

A tent was set up near the entrance for hosting the Past Director event

Highlights from Jim Rapp

Jim received a letter from the state office announcing an opening in the ICGA District 4 and happened to be outside and saw his neighbor Denny Denton putting up a Pioneer sign. Denny encouraged him to get involved. He had to complete petitions because he couldn't make it to the meeting but is so glad, he took the chance. In Jim's words, "It has been a tremendous opportunity for me to serve on both boards."

After completing two terms on the ICGA, an opportunity became available for him to get involved in the ICMB when the director from his district stepped down in the middle of his term. Jim felt the ICMB suited his nature better and applied and was appointed to the opening. As far as personal growth, being involved in the Illinois Corn organizations has opened his eyes and his



Jim Rapp



Jim at an event in DC in 2013

world up immensely. He stated, “You learn about what is going on in agriculture, many of those things that the average farmer doesn’t have a clue as to what is going on in the world.” Jim likes to think he has a better handle on it now.

Ethanol came into the forefront and Jim believes this was the greatest rural development thing in the Midwest in fifty years. As Jim stated, “It has certainly made a difference in the income position of farmers and the amount of corn used. The production and use of ethanol has opened up corn farming and agriculture by leaps and bounds. When Jim was a young farmer and first heard about ICGA, a neighbor of his by the name of Bill Fordham got him to sell memberships. Then for quite a while he was not involved. He went to the Ethanol Rally in Peoria in 1992.

Jim has participated in three or four overseas missions which have been very educational. During one mission, Illinois and Iowa Corn did a joint venture and put together a company called NOVECTA to do work for identity preserved crops. They thought this would be a good way to keep GMO and non-GMO corn separated. So, they made a trip to Japan and that was a long flight. Besides himself, there were two people from Iowa and another from Illinois, with a total of six going. Then from involvement with USGC, Jim got to go to Morocco and Egypt. As Jim noted, “Dr. Solomon was developing markets for corn in feeding water buffalo, and that was a real eye opener to see what the world is like, especially in Egypt. It is a shame Egypt is in such chaos now.”

Another special project that came along during Jim’s term in office came about because a group in Bloomington-Normal wanted to get a minor league baseball team in the community. The name selected for the team was the CornBelts because the area is in the middle of the Corn Belt. They came to Corn Growers to see if they would be interested in participating. As Jim stated, “This sounds like a long shot, but ICMB had done some work on farmer imaging and realized there were a lot of people right in this area that didn’t have a good understanding about agriculture. So the board thought it would be a good opportunity to educate the community as to what farmers are like. Signage was put up to get the message out both during the games and on a billboard out by the highway.” This all began while Jim was chairman of ICMB, and he had the opportunity

to throw out the first pitch at the first game. Even though the moment was a little embarrassing because the ball bounced before it hit home plate, this is something that he will never forget.

Because of his involvement with the Illinois Corn organizations,, Jim has met so many great people across Illinois and made so many good friends on a national level. He feels very fortunate in having a lot of people that he can call his friend. As he noted, "All the way around, this has been a great experience." Jim was fortunate to have many trade teams visit his farm and that has always been fun, even though his boys might not have been happy that they had to clean up things to get ready. Jim stated that he thinks the Illinois Corn staff is the best there is, all the way around.



Jim speaking at announcement of the Corn Crib for the Normal baseball team



Jim throwing out the first pitch at opening night for the Normal CornBelters

2010-11



Board members with a couple of staff: back row: Tom Mueller, Jim Raben, Jim Robbins, Jim Rapp, Leon Corzine, Kent Kleinschmidt, Ron Gray, Larry Hasheider; front row: Rodney Weinzierl, John Shore, Donna Jeschke, Bill Christ, Scott Stirling, Gary Schmalshof, Lou Lamoreux, Ann Hodgson

Both the ICMB and ICGA boards voted to adopt one logo for the organizations, using the new ICMB logo.

During this year, it was noted that carryout stocks were tight so there would more than likely be a lot of talk about food prices and whether there was enough corn. A cooperative program funded with ISA and other commodity organizations was a program called Farmers Feed Us Campaign.

In addition, a project to evaluate the proposed regulations on agriculture, as well as the cost should the regulations move forward, was funded. This proposal would look at a broad spectrum to determine what the cost would be to Illinois corn farmers.

Communication - A media outreach program was funded with Jim Pendergast to improve our knowledge about talking with the correct people to better position a story. In addition, funding was committed for a profile series on the Discovery Channel and Bravo. This was a one-time shot, but the board was able to create their own footage to get their message out. Another project approved was a one-time commitment to the Communications Endowed Chair at the U of I. A new kind of innovative exhibit, designed as an attention grabber to bring people into your display, was developed. This exhibit was a free standing 54" x 47" plexiglass display that included a projector to show a video. This new exhibit was first used at the Farm Progress Show.

Crop Insurance - Finally, by 2011 our yield trend endorsement product had been accepted and was available for the 2012 crop year. Also, RMA finished their actuarial table and started making some adjustments on their base rates. In 2012 the RMA came out with a change in the rating methodology and the base rates for corn and soybeans were to go down in Illinois. It was pointed out that the Yield Trend Endorsement was based on a county yield, not an individual farm yield. Funding was committed to educate Illinois and U.S. farmers about the new crop insurance options (yield trend endorsement product). A post card was sent out as well as placing a number of ads in *FarmWeek*, *IL Agri-News*, and *Iowa Farm and World* on the yield trend endorsement product. The foresight of the ICGA and ICMB boards in developing this product marked a huge success for Illinois Corn.

DDGS - Marquis Energy signed a memorandum of understanding on DDG's and is shipping them by water, noting that with low ethanol prices, shipping DDGS would help keep the plant afloat.

Research - Funding was approved for a proposal to co-locate the U of I Processing Facility into the Agricultural Bioprocess Laboratory Pilot-Plant with the stipulation that the funding be used on research for corn. This was to enable re-equipment for the bioprocess lab to move corn to an advanced biofuel. Another project funded through NCERC was called "Quality of Eggs Impacted by Feeding DDGS to Layers" and it was noted that if the hypotheses could actually be documented, then we would have a real argument on the food versus feed issue. Other states committing funding were Georgia, Iowa and Indiana.

National Cooperators - NCGA and USGC began to share an office building in DC during this year. Associated with that move were some extra costs, and the board approved additional funding to both USGC and NCGA to help with those costs for co-locating.

Funding was committed for a leadership training program designed especially for officers but available to the entire board with the intent to also offer it to ICGA. Donna Jeschke and Marla Hasheider participated in the leadership training program and felt it was worthwhile.

2011-12

Changes for the election process to the board relative to the date petitions are made available and the number of signatures which are required to get a name on the ballot again came up for discussion. It was noted that these changes would have to be done by a referendum following the same procedures that we had just gone through with increasing the rate. The board had previously voted to change the petition availability date from March 1 to November 15-April 1, but in 2012 it was decided not to press the issue. In the past few years, the IDA had worked with us and began getting the petitions to incumbents in time for using at winter meetings. In regard to signatures on the petition, the board voted against changing the requirement from 200 or 2 percent of the eligible producers in the district to 50 or 2 percent, whichever was less. It was the feeling of the board that keeping the number of signatures at the present level yielded better qualified board members.

In June of 2012, the board had voted to increase their reserve to \$1 million. However, because of the drought experienced that year, it was later decided to move the board reserve back to \$500,000. Because of the drought experienced during 2012, the board had some budget dilemmas to solve with less income, especially since they had allowed for additional funding to be created by the increased checkoff rate. Therefore, to be fiscally responsible, the board decided they needed to cut their funding to national cooperators and ICGA.

A bridge infrastructure study was done by the state and in reviewing that study, Phil Thornton and Jim Tarmann identified thirteen bridges they wanted to look at for determining further action steps. They indicated they would try to narrow this down to five or six to start working with legislators for a fix.

Livestock – Additional funding was committed toward cooperator groups for programs as follows: USMEF for an additional program promoting new cuts of US meat in Japan, USAPEEC for an additional program in the South Pacific region promoting U.S. poultry, and production of turkey and pork brochures to promote investment and expansion in those industries in Illinois, similar to the beef brochure. Because DDG's were changing, a project on monitoring DDGS for fat, protein, moisture and fiber was funded to assist livestock farmers to continue to feed DDGS in the most economical manner. A new program in which the board partnered with IPPA was a "Da Burger" pork promotion, which was done at the Corn Crib Stadium in Normal. Now "Da Burger" is a regular staple at the stadium and has proved to be a good promotion. For the 2014 year, a special fall retail promotion was funded to be done in the Chicagoland area.

Farm Bill - There was a 50-50 chance of having a farm bill in 2012 but should one pass, it was likely it would be a farm bill without direct payments. It was noted that an effort would be made to try to build on the ARC or the ARRM proposals in moving forward toward negotiating a bill. As of the end of 2013, there was still no farm bill to come out of Congress.

Crop insurance - It was noted that we were working with Congressman Schilling to insert an amendment to give RMA the authority to approve a farmer savings account if it's justified within their system. Because of the drought in 2012, a lot of problems surfaced with aflatoxin in some areas. A great deal of time was spent on crop insurance. In Illinois, about 20 percent of the acres were not insured, 20 percent were under insured, and the remaining 60 percent were equally insured. With a

drought comes the obvious issues with food and fuel, and we saw a push on the RFS II which really heated up in the beginning of 2014. This brought up the question whether RMA would institute the balance of the re-ratings that we were promised.

2012-2013



Board members - front row: Tom Mueller, Jim Raben, Kent Kleinschmidt, Bill Long, Jim Rapp, Scott Stirling; back row: Don Murphy, Paul Jeschke, John Shore, Lou Lamoreux, Don Duvall, Glenn Ginder, Gary Schmalshof, Bill Christ

Yet another new communication tool for which the board approved funding was running ads at movie theaters which helped to promote trust between farmers and the consumers of Illinois. This program had a 14-week run in the Chicago area and a 14-day run in some downstate theaters. Instead of being a television spot, these ads were more like digital photos with a voice over. We got 1.3 million impressions from the ads. A new set of ads started on July 26, which included some additional movie theaters for the same cost.

To fulfill the commitment made during the referendum campaign in 2012 to improve the farmer image, ICMB approved funding for a Chicago and Springfield-based advertising campaign. This program was to improve the relationship between farmers, both corn and livestock, and influential customers.

IL Farm Families – An update on this program, which ICMB continued to fund, noted in 2013 the program included a group of thirty Chicago moms. In addition, an invitation for the farm tours was issued to some high-profile moms who work in TV or radio. Paul Taylor and Donna Jeschke were to be involved in the farm tours to be moderators and help answer questions. However, the tour to Paul Taylor's farm in June got shut down by Del Monte Corporation. Therefore, Paul worked on some other avenues through Del Monte. The next tour was held on July 27 at the Drindle Dairy Farm. In addition, funding was approved to support a food bank donation by Chicago-area moms in recognition of the value of an acre of corn raised in the Illinois Farm Families Mom's Acre program.

Trade Agreements – It was noted that the new term for trade agreements was Transpacific Partnership. It was expected that negotiations would take place throughout 2013 with final approval into 2014. This probably won't happen until after mid-term elections in November of 2014.

Farm Bill - The Task Force, being chaired by Bill Christ began meeting again with other members from ICMB being Lou Lamoreux, Tom Mueller and Bill Long. A senator from Arizona and one from Tennessee suggested going back to the 2002 farm bill levels on crop insurance. It was noted that crop insurance participation was not very good until 2002, but right now there seemed to be more targeting of crop insurance. FARMDOC, as well as FarmWeek, showed crop payments for a lot of counties that got above \$1,000. It was noted the loss ratio in Illinois for corn would probably end up at over 3.0, making crop insurance a bigger and bigger target. It was further noted that crop insurance is permanent law so unless a change happened in 2013, direct payments would most likely come in October.

Work with existing cooperators and customers - Following a meeting with the Port of Charleston in South Carolina, Phil Thornton shared their goals of building an inland port and servicing several new states that hadn't typically used the Port of Charleston. This represents a new market opportunity for Illinois.

Livestock - Nic Anderson from ILDG reported that ILDG was very upbeat about the cattle industry in the state of Illinois with a lot of profit potential coming from new barns being constructed. A lot of the expansion in the cattle industry was under the 300 head limit, meaning they didn't qualify under CAFO. The cattle feeding industry seemed to be moving back to where corn and DDG's were being produced, and the Illinois climate seemed to be more conducive for people from California to get back into Illinois. It also seemed to be apparent that Illinois had the best milk prices in the nation. A couple of projects that were approved for funding included a 2014 ILDG grant to help smaller livestock farmers with engineering plans and an IBA Nutrient Requirements project for beef cattle and youth programming. A new livestock program funded was for the Illinois Milk Producers Association (IMPA) Dairy Days-2014.

Safety on the Farm - Phil Thornton identified the need for developing a web-based resource to identify where the grain tube rescue tubes were located. This would be a GPS based system so that local safety professionals could easily find the closest tube. In addition, it was hoped to do more safety training with local fire departments and other emergency personnel. To help with this effort, funding was approved for grain tube location resources and other training to improve grain bin safety on the farm.

DDGS - The WIU Website hosted information about the nutritional content of DDGS from various ethanol plants around the state. NCERC does the testing, and WIU hosts the website. NCERC proposed changing the program so that they would host the site in the future, reincorporating it into their newly designed site. ICMB's investment would help to cover the cost of the testing of DDGS.

Costs of Regulations - ICMB committed funding to verify work done by RCF Consulting on the costs of regulations to growers. To make farmers aware of the information learned in regard to these costs, a full-page ad was run in FarmWeek, as well as sending out a postcard to farmers.

NCGA - Genome Mapping was a project through NCGA using the Los Alamos method for genotyping, which was much faster than the Monsanto and Pioneer methods. It was noted this method would be a public program that smaller companies could utilize as well. NCGA would have the exclusive license for the technology. The program was going to be non-profit, except for the arm of the company that was making and selling kits.



Board members - front row: Jim Raben, Tom Mueller, Larry Hasheider, Kent Kleinschmidt, Jim Rapp, Lou Lamoreux;
back row: Don Duvall, Glenn Ginder, Paul Jeschke, Don Murphy, Bill Long, Bill Christ, Roger Sy, Dan Cole

TRADE MISSIONS - The ICMB Board funded a number of trade missions during this decade. Following is a list of some of the missions and those who participated in them.

2004	Paid for Richard Guebert (V.P. of IFB) John Sharp (IA GIPSA Administrator) Ken Kindler Jim Rapp and Larry Keene (Growmark) Jim Robbins	USMEF Asian Market Expo - Tokyo, Beijing and Japan Japanese Value Enhanced Conference IFB Market Study Mission to Japan Japan USGC GEM mission
2005	Rod Weinzierl Ron Gray, Tim Seifert, Steve Ruh, Bryan Fogerson, Jim Rapp, Phil Thornton & Charlyn Fargo (media)	USGC, USMEF & USAEPEEC - State Exec Director Mission to Europe (Amsterdam, Brussels, Poland and Switzerland) West Texas

Pictured are Ron Gray, Steve Ruh, Jim Rapp,
and Bryan Fogerson who participated in the
Texas mission



2006	Scott Stirling Tim Seifert & Phil Thornton 10 elevator representatives Ron Gray & Phil Thornton	Mission to Morocco and Egypt Guadalajara, Mexico
2007	Donna Jeschke & Kent Kleinschmidt Donna Jeschke	Tokyo Trader's Group to China
2008	Larry Hasheider, & Scott Stirling	Brazil



Pictured in Brazil are Larry Hasheider, Jim Tarmann, person from Brazil, Ken Greene and Scott Stirling

	Jim Tarmann, & Ken Greene Gary Schmalshof, Jim Rapp & Phil Thornton	Trader's Group to Vietnam
2009	Donna and Paul Jeschke Scott Stirling, Dan Cole (ICGA) Phil Thornton Bill Christ, Phil Thornton, Paul Taylor & Mark Degler Larry Hasheider & Len Corzine	Sweden Mission on biofuels Texas - (with IL, IA, NE) Virginia (with IL, OH, IN) Panama (with IL and IA) Trader's Group to China
2010	Jim Rapp & Kent Kleinschmidt Rod Weinzierl	Mexico (with NE and IA) State Exec Director Mission to Ukraine
2011	Larry Hasheider	Japan and Taiwan
2012	Jim Raben, Lou Lamoreux, Don Duvall, & Paul Taylor Phil Thornton, Bill Long, Kent Kleinschmidt, Glenn Ginder & Richard Gates Jim Rapp & Eric Kunzeman Lou Lamoreux	Panama Texas
2013	Paul Jeschke & Glenn Ginder	EU - Netherlands, Germany, and Hungary USMEF Mission to Seoul, Korea USGC Mission to Japan and Korea



Overseas mission with Gary Schmalshof in center of front row



Gary Schmalshof pictured second from left on an overseas mission



Ron Gray on a mission in China



Pictured are Glenn Ginder, Richard Gates, Kent Kleinschmidt, Lindsay Mitchell



Behind the sign are Glenn Ginder, Richard Gates, two unidentified people, Kent Kleinschmidt