

IV. Building a solid future for tomorrow's farmers

We support an active research and education commitment by all segments of the corn industry and government.

- A. Research and Commercialization
- B. Structure and the Marketplace
- C. Precision Farming
- D. Communication, Cooperation and Education
- E. Information Programs—Livestock/Poultry

NCGA Position

Title: Research and Commercialization

Position Number: IV-A

The Research focus at NCGA is to apply scientific knowledge to ensure ever increasing opportunities for corn growers, a profitable corn industry, and a thriving rural economy.

Resolution/Position:

1. We support corn genome sequencing and functionality research and we will pursue action to increase the annual funding for the plant genome initiative with continued leadership through the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other agencies. TBR 2012
2. NCGA should develop an aggressive strategic plan for public research in functional genomics and translational genetics of corn and focus policy and research dollars to that end. TBR 2014
3. Work with state affiliates, government, university and industry representatives to execute a comprehensive, national corn research and commercialization strategy based on a stage gate model to expand the utilization of corn and corn products. TBR 2014
4. Support research and development to increase the production efficiency of ethanol. NCGA will support federal funding for the operation of the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center. TBR 2012
5. Continue the maize trait development program with the goal of developing commercially important genetic traits in corn for the producer TBR 2014
6. Support the development and acceptance of scientifically proven biotechnology products in production agriculture and the processing of agricultural products. TBR 2012
7. Germplasm Protection: Urge Congress to explore ways to adequately fund USDA's National Seed Storage Laboratory to help maintain the genetic diversity of corn and other crop seed stock important to agricultural production. TBR 2012
8. Support research into the use of the value-added products generated by the corn industry for livestock and poultry feeding, aquaculture and other new uses. TBR 2012
9. Support Biobased Products: TBR 2012
 - a) All agencies purchase biobased products identified by USDA as long as the price is not unreasonable, performs as needed, and is available for use.
 - b) Establish an equal footing of validation of biobased products with petrochemical based products by reducing the Building for Environmental and Economic Stability (BEES) and other unreasonable requirements;
 - c) Establish a pathway for approval of intermediate chemicals/feedstocks thus reducing the burden of proof on individual items;
 - d) Strengthen compliance through reducing loophole provisions
10. Facilitate a forum for state/national research representatives to share/explore current and future research opportunities. TBR 2012
11. Encourage the USDA and DOE to target research dollars toward the development of new uses for corn and corn products. TBR 2012

12. Direct the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to consider corn/maize in their project funding matrix. TBR 2014
13. Support increased funding for food and agricultural research. TBR 2012
14. Support legislation that would create a federal tax incentive for businesses and individuals who invest in renewable energy related research and demonstration projects that benefit corn producers. TBR 2014
15. We support funding for federal granting agencies' RFP and funded projects that benefit the corn industry. TBR 2014
16. We urge Congress to appropriate significant additional funds to support ag research for corn and other crops of economic significance. TBR 2012
17. We support funding for collaborative research efforts between public and private researchers. TBR 2012
18. Support Germ Enhancement Maize (GEM) program to increase the genetic diversity and reduce the genetic vulnerability of commercial hybrids. TBR 2013
19. Support public applied corn breeding efforts to develop unique germplasm and train the next generation of plant breeders. TBR 2013
20. We support the modification of research and intellectual property agreements with research institutions to give checkoff funded organizations the right to jointly set license fees and royalty rates with the institution. TBR 2014

NCGA Position

Title: Structure and the Marketplace

Position Number: IV-B

Background: A competitive agricultural supply industry is essential to a profitable corn industry that allows the American farmer to be the world's most efficient producer. It assures producers, in the long run, of better products and lower input prices. Similarly, competition among merchandisers and/or end users is vital. Without adequate competition, fair compensation to producers fails to exist.

Resolution/Position:

1. Support a review of anti-trust laws as they pertain to agriculture. TBR 2012
2. Encourage the federal government to help ensure competitive business practices among agricultural suppliers. TBR 2012
3. Support policies which encourage the availability of additional supplies of fertilizer, such as removing import tariffs on fertilizer. TBR 2012
4. Support investigation by proper agencies as to whether the concentration in agriculture is harmful to grain and livestock/poultry producers' profitability. TBR 2012
5. Urge the Secretary of Agriculture and the Department of Justice to investigate all major transactions which have the potential to adversely affect agriculture's profitability. TBR 2012
6. Support increased review within the Department of Justice and/or other appropriate agencies to focus on agricultural mergers, acquisitions, vertical integration and price transparency. TBR 2012
7. Support equitable agricultural contract negotiation law. TBR 2012
8. Encourage manufacturers and suppliers of farm inputs to price their products worldwide in a way that does not put U.S. producers at an unfair disadvantage. TBR 2012
9. Encourage a statistical examination of US grain and livestock/poultry pricing methods. Ag Commodity associations such as ASA, NPPC, USB, NCBA and Farm Bureau should assist in this national effort. TBR 2012
10. Support state warehousing and grain dealer laws. We do not support any federal regulation that would jeopardize state grain indemnity funds and/or state merchandising regulations. Farmers should have adequate notification of any proposed changes in federal warehousing and merchandising regulations before changes are enacted in statute or regulation. TBR 2012
11. Strongly encourage state warehouses and grain dealers, when given the choice between a state grain indemnity fund and a federal warehouse fund, to participate in that program which best serves its producers. TBR 2012
12. Requests USDA to improve the accuracy of supply reports. TBR 2012
13. Recommend that NCGA support legislation to require USDA monthly crop reports (August, September, October, November) be published or released by the 6th business day of the month. TBR 2012

14. NCGA will oppose an increase in daily trade limits on all commodity exchanges, conduct a review of daily trading limits and cost of options . TBR 2012
15. We support construction of a new Alaska natural gas pipeline. TBR 2012
16. NCGA should investigate options to protect farmers prepayment of crop inputs. TBR 2012

NCGA Position

Title: Precision Farming

Position Number: IV-C

Resolution/Position:

1. Information gathered by precision farming practices should remain the sole property of the farm operator excluding any other contractual arrangement. This information should not be used, released, or sold without their consent. TBR 2012
2. Encourage designers of precision farming equipment to use communication standards to make their products compatible with other brands of software and hardware. TBR 2012

NCGA Position

Title: Communication, Cooperation and Education

Position Number: IV-D

Background: U.S. corn growers will positively position the value of corn and corn production.

Resolution/Position:

1. Accountability TBR 2012
 - a) Emphasize the value of NCGA membership.
 - b) Communicate how checkoff dollars are invested to benefit all corn producers.
 - c) Encourage members to participate in the development and evaluation of NCGA programs.
2. Political Involvement TBR 2012
 - a) Encourage individual corn producers to be more politically active.
 - b) Encourage the promotion of the Corn Political Action Committee.
3. Education TBR 2012
 - a) Encourage cooperation of agricultural groups for the development of academic standard based agricultural classroom materials and review of educational materials for agricultural accuracy.
 - b) Support the continued education of farmers on current and emerging issues.
 - c) Support the coordination of education programs with Extension, FFA and 4-H.
4. Farmer Image TBR 2012
 - a) Broaden communications to consumers regarding corn and its value-added products.
 - b) Encourage and work with agribusiness companies and organizations to improve and promote the positive image of production agriculture by:
 - i) Being more selective of advertising markets.
 - ii) Using advertisements that portray agriculture as a modern, efficient, and environmentally responsible business.
 - iii) Focusing more on the environmental concern and stewardship of producers and their ability to produce for a global market.
5. Communication Infrastructure TBR 2012
 - a) Support efforts to provide high-speed data, voice and video technologies to corn growers.
 - b) Encourage competition to provide increased access and affordable service.
6. Corn Checkoffs TBR 2013
 - a) Support state checkoffs on all marketable corn, to expand and enhance the use, marketing and efficient production of corn.
 - b) Speciality corn grown under contract should be subject to state corn checkoff assessment programs.
7. Work with farm organizations, checkoff boards and commodity groups in the interest of U.S. corn farmers. TBR 2013

NCGA Position

Title: Information Programs-Livestock/Poultry

Position Number: IV-E

Resolution/Position:

1. NCGA, in conjunction with member states, shall implement a comprehensive program to educate potential users of corn and its co-products as a livestock/poultry feed. TBR 2012
2. Farm Animal Welfare TBR 2014
 - a) Assure the public, through education, that American animal agriculture is humane.
 - b) Support responsible livestock/poultry production and oppose restrictive legislation. Recognize the importance of proper animal care, rather than animal rights.
 - c) Support educational efforts that enhance consumer understanding of the economic value of responsible livestock/poultry producers to rural communities.
 - d) Recognize the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA), Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), Dairy Quality Assurance (DQA), and NCC Animal Welfare Guidelines and Audit Checklist by the National Chicken Council as programs that will "Maximize consumer confidence in, and acceptance of, pork, beef and poultry by focusing the producers attention to DAILY PRODUCTION PRACTICES that influence the safety, wholesomeness, and quality of pork, beef and poultry products through the use of science, research, and education initiatives."
 - e) Support the Humane Slaughter Act as regulated by the USDA and the Meat Packing Industry.
 - f) Changes to animal well-being guidelines should be based on sound data, expert analysis and economic feasibility.
 - g) Encourage National Corn Growers Association and State corn organizations to work with their livestock organizations to develop Animal Welfare Coalitions.
3. Encourage livestock/poultry producers to give priority to maintaining high quality water, soil, air and vegetation as they locate new production facilities or enhance current structures. TBR 2012
4. Support grazing as a part of the multiple use of federal lands. TBR 2012
5. Urge the Federal and state governments, when determining siting requirements for CAFOs, to establish reverse separation distances between CAFOs, homes and businesses. TBR 2012
6. NCGA supports a national effort to develop systems to address environmental concerns related to CAFOs. TBR 2014
7. Livestock producers should not be required to implement husbandry practices that increase the death rate of their animals, increase the incidence and severity of injury of their animals, increase public health risk from consumption of their products and cannot be shown to improve the well-being of their animals. TBR 2012
8. NCGA should engage with member states to defeat the efforts of radical animal rights groups such as the Humane Society of the United States and others which seek to end modern agriculture production in the United States. TBR 2013