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Focus Your Talents and WIN $1,000
Send in your photos for the Indiana Corn and Soybean Review Cover Photo Contest

Sponsored by
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MID-AMERICA

We’re focused on finding some truly stunning magazine-cover-worthy photos. And thanks to Farm Credit Mid-America, you can win up to $1,000 just by showing us your eye for creativity.

1st Prize $1,000  2nd Prize $500

WHEN: Entry Deadline May 31, 2019
HOW: Submit your photo via email to photocontest@indianasoybean.com. One photo per email sent. Each photo must have its own entry form. Download entry forms at https://www.indianasoybean.com/2019-photo-contest
WHAT: We are looking for magazine cover-quality photos. Including people or livestock encouraged, but not required. Photos will be judged on visual appeal, representation of Indiana production agriculture and originality.
FORMAT: Digital photographs must be captured in high-resolution jpeg format, minimum 300 dpi when at a size of a minimum of 7” in either direction, RGB.
JUDGING: Photos will be judged by a panel of ISA staff, ISA and ICGA board members and a representative from Farm Credit Mid-America.
WINNER: Will be announced in the Summer issue of the Indiana Corn and Soybean Review.

An agricultural lending cooperative owned and controlled by their customers, Farm Credit Mid-America is one of the largest associations within the Farm Credit System. With more than 1,100 employees, Farm Credit Mid-America serves nearly 100,000 customers throughout Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Since all their customers are members, they have a voice in how the organization is run. Customers help shape who they are, define the course they take moving forward and decide who will be on the Farm Credit Mid-America Board of Directors.

Go to https://www.indianasoybean.com/2019-photo-contest for a complete set of rules and to submit your entry.
3 Calling All Shutterbugs! Do you consider yourself a photographer? If you think you have what it takes, enter our magazine cover photo contest. You could win a little cash and some bragging rights when your photo ends up on the cover of an upcoming issue of Indiana Corn & Soybean Review!

11 Expanding Rural Broadband Access Scott Rudd, Indiana’s Director of Broadband Opportunities, discusses the work being done to ensure rural areas have access to broadband services that will enhance farmer profitability and productivity.

14 National Corn Yield Contest Honors Indiana Farmers Indiana farmers took home honors in NCGA’s 54th season of the National Corn Yield Contest. The awards were presented during the recent Commodity Classic in Orlando, Florida.

34 IANA Aims to Increase Nutrient Management Practices on Indiana Farms Protecting the state’s natural resources is a top priority for the numerous groups that make up the Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance. Through adoption of best nutrient management practices, Indiana farmers can secure the next generation’s future.

About the cover Speedway® becomes the official convenience store of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Read more about the partnership on pages 20-21. Photo by Dave Blower.

Whether shipping by river, road or rail, the soy checkoff is committed to ensuring America’s infrastructure is a significant advantage for U.S. soybean farmers. We’re looking inside the bean, beyond the bushel and around the world to keep preference for U.S. soy strong. And it’s helping make a valuable impact for soybean farmers like you.

See more ways the soy checkoff is maximizing profit opportunities for soybean farmers at unitedsoybean.org.
Checkoff ROI: Return on Indiana

For every dollar invested, the checkoff returns $4.60 to Hoosier soybean farmers in expanded markets and improved production practices. But ISA checkoff investments do far more than help Hoosier soybean farmers. Soybean checkoff investments help support all of Hoosier agriculture, which in turn provides an economic return across all of Indiana.

STRONG INDIANA AGRICULTURE MAKES A STRONG INDIANA ECONOMY

- Agriculture represents nearly 16% of Indiana’s GDP
- Every $1.00 of GDP generated by IN ag generates another $0.88 in economic activity for other industries in the state
- Indiana agriculture supports more than 107,000 Hoosier jobs
- Corn and soybeans generate 40% of that employment effect
- Every 10 ag jobs generates another 8 IN jobs in other industries

And it’s personal, too. I’m willing to bet the checkoff impacts your family and your community in ways you never even thought about.

Do your kids participate in FFA? The soybean checkoff provides more than $25,000 to national and state FFA every year.

Is your family involved in 4H? ISA funds 4H education programs that help your kids flourish.

Do you drive over rural roads and bridges? ISA checkoff builds road and bridge infrastructure with Indiana corn checkoff dollars.

Do you raise livestock? ISA not only provides funding to help drive meat demand, but also partners with Indiana livestock groups to help expand livestock production in the state.

Have you visited the State Fair? Or have your children gone on a school field trip to the Glass Barn? The soybean checkoff built the Glass Barn to educate consumers about modern production agriculture. Each year about 50,000 fairgoers explore the Glass Barn to learn about your livelihood. And the checkoff invests $20,000 annually for school children to visit the Glass Barn.

These are just a few small examples of how the soybean checkoff makes a difference.

While most of your checkoff funds help expand soybean markets, develop new uses for soybeans and fund research for production improvements, the checkoff also helps fund and support ag (such as funding for our state livestock organizations) and community partners across Indiana. Some of these may surprise you.

Just a very few examples include: Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana FFA, Indiana 4H, Purdue University, Indiana University, The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, Upper White River Watershed Alliance, and the Greater Indiana Clean Cities Coalition. The soybean checkoff makes a tangible, positive impact across Indiana, each and every day. Read more about this issue and visit our website for more information at www.indianasoybean.com.

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Phil Bemery, Shelbyville | D4
Nancy Clark, Kirtland | D1
Archie Strohbehn, Edinburgh | D4
Mike Knecht, Newburg | D4
David Rhodes, Rensselaer | D1
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How Everyone in Rural Areas Can Benefit from Broadband Expansion

When farmers talk about broadband needs in rural areas, we tend to quickly rattle off the agriculture-specific reasons for wanting more capacity. Our wish list of improvements might sound something like this:

Follow markets in real time and make quick decisions. Upload and download production data in the tractor as it happens. Accomplish more from the office without requiring so many trips to town. Accurately scout in the fields and be able to go back to address issues. Maximize use of the precision agriculture features current equipment offers. Maintain call quality to organize and manage the workforce on the farm.

And the list could go on and on. Those are all very tangible ways where broadband could help farmers be more efficient and do a better job. But what else can broadband do?

After hearing Dr. Wally Tyner from Purdue University speak at our Ag Policy Forum in November, I keep coming back to the comparison of broadband expansion today with rural electrification in the 1930s. It will not claim to be a historian of electrification or an expert on broadband technology or infrastructure, so I know the comparison might not be without its caveats.

However, I think it is safe to say that electrification kept many rural areas in the 1930s from being left behind, and I think there is ample potential for broadband to have that very same impact today.

So, I want to challenge farmers to talk about broadband in a broader way (pun intended). When you talk with your state legislator or your county commissioner about opportunities for broadband, speak multiple languages. Tell them how it would make life easier on the farm, but also talk about how it would make life easier as a citizen of a rural community. Here are a few ways that EVERYONE in rural areas can benefit from broadband expansion:

- Healthcare – quicker and more efficient access to medical experts
- Education – increased opportunities to learn and communicate with teachers
- Economic development – more job creation and business investments in well-connected areas
- Consumer savings – save on a variety of purchases and have more dollars to spend locally
- Healthcare – quicker and more efficient access to medical experts
- Business – increased opportunities to learn and communicate with teachers
- Economic development – more job creation and business investments in well-connected areas
- Consumer savings – save on a variety of purchases and have more dollars to spend locally

Regardless of how connected one is to agriculture, there is a story to be told by anyone living in rural areas about how broadband could make things better. Tell the full and complete story whenever you get the chance, and everyone will benefit.
ISA, ICGA Kick Off Coffee Shop Talk Series

Building relationships with elected officials truly rests at the core of the work that Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Indiana Corn Grovers Association (ICGA) do, so in this season of meetings, ISA and ICGA are hard at work executing the annual Coffee Shop Talk events. These gatherings, made possible through funding from First Farmers Bank & Trust, offer the perfect opportunity to bring together legislators and local farmers for small group discussions across the state. Taking place in local coffee shops, diners and bakeries, these meetings provide valuable face-to-face time with elected officials.

Discussions at most of this year’s meetings focus on topics including the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) ratification, China trade negotiations, ethanol support, Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) relief, healthcare, broadband, effects of the government shutdown.

Young Member Program Taking Off

Building an engaged membership base establishes the foundation for our corn and soybean associations to flourish. The secret to cultivating active, informed future leaders is to get them involved early on. To that end, last August, farmer directors on the ISA Membership & Policy Committee and Indiana Corn Growers Association created a new membership program specifically for 18- to 24-year-olds interested in supporting Indiana agriculture.

Made possible by funding support from Bayer, the ISA and ICGA Young Member program has come a long way in a very short time. With more than 90 members already on the roster, this program has the potential to grow at a fast pace.

What’s the secret to this growth?

It’s several things:

1. Keep costs down. Young Member dues are only $20 per year for a joint membership in both our corn and soybean associations (regular farmers’ joint memberships are $150.00) – and if students sign up during one of our special student events, Bayer covers the entire cost.

2. Offer a freebie. Students get a free T-shirt designed especially for them – again, courtesy of Bayer.

3. Create member benefits tailored specifically for them. Young members have their own social networking Facebook group, receive insider information on scholarships and internship opportunities, get opportunities for leadership training, are invited to ISA and ICGA policy events and receive ISA and ICGA newsletters and information.

Young members become part of the Indiana state corn and soy associations but are not members of the American Soybean Association or National Corn Growers Association. National membership benefits are not part of the Young Member program. Interested in becoming a Young Member? Reach out to Lauren Taylor at ltaylor@indianasoybean.com or call 317-644-2863.

Working to make Indiana “Broadband Ready”

By Scott Rudd, Indiana Director of Broadband Opportunities

When Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch asked me last summer to join her Cabinet as the state’s first-ever Director of Broadband Opportunities, I knew from experience that Hoosier farmers would play a significant role in our success.

They did three years ago, when, as town manager of Nashville, I asked sixth-generation farmer Rick Kelley to serve on a task force that led to our town and the surrounding Brown County to become Indiana’s first communities to be certified “Broadband Ready” by the state. Kelley’s vision, articulated so well to fellow farmers and townspeople alike, was clear: in the modern economy, rural broadband is the enabling infrastructure for quality of life and economic opportunity. The strategy that Kelley and the task force developed led to more than $20 million in private broadband investments to expand access to more than 7,500 homes, farms and businesses throughout the county.

Together with my fellow Lt. Governor Cabinet members at the Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the Indiana Department of Agriculture, we’re working now to replicate that success throughout rural communities. We continue to need Indiana’s farmers to be deeply engaged with us as we work to bridge the digital divide that keeps too many Hoosiers living in “internet darkness.”

Indiana is moving forward with initiatives that promise to be game-changing, including the $100 million Next Level Connections commitment made by Gov. Eric Holcomb and Lt. Gov. Crouch toward expanding broadband access in rural Indiana. This important state investment comes at a time of increasing federal resources as national leaders embrace the need for broadband expansion. But a key piece to those investments is making sure communities are ready to move forward by developing their own broadband strategies that put them in the prime position to partner with broadband providers. That’s the origin of the new Broadband Readiness Planning Grant, developed in partnership with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs as a critical piece of the Lt. Governor’s Rural Strategy to support economically-thriving places people want to live, work and grow.

The five pilot grant recipients include Greene, Marshall and Starke counties, along with the Town of Dale and the Town of English, working in partnership with the towns of Marengo and Milltown. Each has received up to $50,000 in specially-designated Community Development Block Grant funds to work with key stakeholders – including local agricultural leaders – to guide them through three critical steps:

1. Assess their current broadband conditions and needs
2. Create a long-term vision of broadband for their communities
3. Identify the options for achieving that vision

The immediate end goal is for these communities to have the strategic framework in place to work with broadband providers to make their vision a reality.

But the benefits of the strong, locally-developed broadband plans extend beyond customized blueprints for working with broadband providers to make their visions come true. These pilot projects are offering valuable insight to other communities, and to the state, for how to move forward. We already know the promise of the return on investment of time and talent in this pursuit: a revealing broadband study, published late 2018 by the Purdue Center for Regional Development, estimates nearly $12 billion in economic benefits if high-speed internet were deployed in the rural areas. The return of nearly $4 to the local economy for every dollar spent on the necessary infrastructure.

The rewards to be reaped include farm income. The study estimates that broadband will enhance productivity and profitability by making it easier to communicate with suppliers and market outdoors and provide quicker access to weather forecasts and other critical information that impact farm-management decisions. Not long ago, the funding resources available for rural broadband were few and far between. Today, Indiana’s rural communities have more resources available than ever, and now is the time to rise to the challenge of closing the digital divide in Indiana.
The Ethanol Industry is Growing. Are You IN?

You live here. You grow here. YOU can help Indiana thrive.

Ethanol is on the rise and in demand, and Indiana corn is a large part of its growth. In fact, 45 percent of the state’s corn crop goes toward the production of ethanol. To keep this momentum moving, a portion of your corn checkoff dollars are dedicated to researching the benefits of ethanol to encourage sales, promoting its new higher-blend pumps and educating Indiana drivers on its high-octane, low-cost formula.

By investing in ethanol, we’re investing in future corn profits and Indiana’s future. Learn more about the important work your Indiana corn checkoff does at incorn.org.

CORN FARMER LEADERS:
Petition Now to Serve on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Corn Marketing Council.

Opportunities for You to Serve.
The Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) is seeking Indiana corn producers interested in serving on its board of directors. The ICMC manages corn checkoff investments and determines promotional, educational and research activities that can strengthen Indiana’s corn industry.

The ICMC board includes 17 voting farmer-directors. Five seats – in Districts 1, 4, 7 and two At-Large – will be filled through the ICMC’s Annual Elections in August 2019.

- **District 1.** One seat up for election – The counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joe, Pulaski, Jasper, White, Benton, and Newton.
- **District 4.** One seat up for election – The counties of Warren, Tippecanoe, Montgomery, Putnam, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Parke, Vermillion, and Fountain.
- **District 7.** One seat up for election – The counties of Sullivan, Greene, Daviess, Martin, Knox, Dubois, Pike, Gibson, Warrick, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Posey.
- **At Large.** Two seats up for election to represent the entire state of Indiana.

Candidates for the ICMC board of directors are required to be registered voters, at least 18 years of age, corn producers in Indiana, and have an assessment on corn during the previous two years. To be a candidate, you need to fill out and sign a petition form. It is available at County Extension offices, at www.incorn.org/elections, or by calling the Indiana Corn office at 1-800-735-0195.

Petitions must be returned to the ICMC office and postmarked before June 30, 2019.

This is an exciting time to become more involved with a dynamic organization as the Indiana Corn Marketing Council continues to move forward to responsibly invest state checkoff in programs that will improve the bottom line for Indiana corn producers. The focus for our organization going forward will be on Grain Marketing, Ethanol, Production and Environment Research, Public Affairs, Livestock, and New Uses. Please call the corn office for additional information, 1-800-735-0195.

Funded with Indiana corn checkoff dollars.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **RESEARCH**
- **PROMOTION**
- **EDUCATION**
Much as the data and ideas generated by contestants leads to advances that benefit all farmers, NCGA’s grassroots efforts join the single voices of members together to create positive change and real opportunities for our industry. 

BRANDON HUNNICUTT
CHAIR OF NCGA’S ENGAGING MEMBERS COMMITTEE

The National Corn Yield Contest wrapped up its 54th season in 2018, and many Hoosier growers earned bragging rights in the process. The contest attracted entries from 120 Indiana farmers across four contest categories, and four finished among the nation’s leaders.

Kevin Kalb of Dubois, Ind., won the AA Non-Irrigated category with an average yield of 388.0654 bushels per acre. Kalb planted hybrid variety DeKalb DKC67-44RIB. Nikia Kalb of Dubois, Ind., finished third at 343.2296 bushels per acre. Both also planted DeKalb seed.

The National Corn Yield Contest remains the NCGA’s most popular program for members.

“The National Corn Yield Contest serves as the first point of contact with NCGA, as entrants join the association,” said Brandon Hunnicutt, chair of NCGA’s Engaging Members Committee. “But, for so many, contest participation is just the first step in a journey. As they discover the breadth of activities NCGA carries out on the behalf of farmers, their involvement and support increases. Much as the data and ideas generated by contestants leads to advances that benefit all farmers, NCGA’s grassroots efforts join the single voices of members together to create positive change and real opportunities for our industry.”

Winners receive national recognition in publications such as the NCVY Corn Yield Guide, as well as cash prizes or other awards for participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. The winners were honored at the Commodity Classic in Orlando, Fla.

“I got involved with the yield contest as an incentive from Pioneer Hi-Bred,” said Indiana Corn Marketing Council Board director Craig Williams, who farms near Oaktown, Ind. “I now have three other seed customers that enter the contest – kind of a ‘contest within the contest’ between myself and good friends that farm nearby.”

Williams finished second in the statewide No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated contest at 293.1125 bushels per acre. He finds the contest valuable after the season, he said. “Many practices and products don’t always pan out, but we’ve found that things that have worked in the past can still work.”

In 2019, the 18 winners across the six categories produced verified yields averaging more than $49 bushels per acre, compared to the projected national average of 178.9 bushels per acre. The contest does not declare an overall winner. Yields from the top three finishers of each category topped out at 477.6877 bushels per acre.

2018 NATIONAL CORN YIELD CONTEST CATEGORIES

Corn growers could enter six categories in last year’s National Corn Yield Contest, but there were only four eligible to Indiana farmers. Due to higher corn production in certain states, the NCGA divided categories into four.

The Non-Irrigated and the No-Till/Strip Till Non-Irrigated contest was split into Class A and Class AA. Class A included growers from states that do not produce much corn. Class AA included growers from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The Non-Irrigated contest invited farms that employed conventional-till, minimum-till, mulch-till and ridge-tillage programs where more than one-third of the row width was disturbed at any point of time from prior year’s harvest through the 2018 harvest. Entries in this class used no artificial means of irrigating.

The No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated Class was open to all corn producers in the continental United States. These entries required the same tillage requirements as listed in the No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated Class. Entries used mechanical or man-made irrigation.

The Irrigated Class was open to all U.S. corn producers. This class was for conventional-till, minimum-till, mulch-till and ridge-till programs where soil was disturbed; more than one-third of the row width was disturbed at any point of time from the 2017 harvest through the 2018 harvest. Entries used mechanical or man-made irrigation.

The challenges of 2018 included the weather, as always,” Williams said. “It was wet early, dry mid-season, and then wet again at harvest. We feel that no-tilling plus cover-crop usage on our farm helped insulate our soils from some of these weather extremes. 2018 was the first year that we included a moisture soil probe and tissue testing on our irrigated entry. This was instrumental in guiding our fertilization and irrigation schedule.”

In addition to the national contest, growers can compete for bragging rights within the state in each category.

In the statewide No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated contest, Taylor Wischmeier of Brownstown, Ind., brought in 297.7348 bushels per acre for first place. Randy and Mary Hardy of Roanoke, Ind., were third at 287.2601 bushels per acre.

In the irrigated category, Brooks Cardinal of Oaktown, Ind., won with 334.1331 bushels per acre, and Brandan Cardinal, also of Oaktown, was second at 330.6409. Glen Apple of Sandborn, Ind., finished third with 328.0985 bushels per acre.

Kevin, Nikia and Shawn Kalb of Dubois, Ind., and Kathy Little of Hebron, Ind., finished third in the statewide yield contest. Little planted Pioneer seed and harvested 322.9830 bushels per acre in the Non-Irrigated category. In the statewide No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated category, Terry Vissing of Marysville, Ind., finished third behind the Kalbs. Vissing planted AgrGold seed and harvested 323.8044 per acre.

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YOUR SOYBEAN CHECKOFF DOLLARS NOW PREVENT POTHOLES.

A revolutionary new soy-based concrete sealer is protecting major roadway projects. Developed with your soybean checkoff dollars – and in partnership with Purdue University — it provides an amazing seven to 10 years of protection against water, salt and freeze-thaw damage. It’s also non-toxic, easy to apply and cost effective. Get up to speed about this new roadway sealer.

To learn more, visit soybasedsealer.com or contact the Indiana Soybean Alliance at (317) 347-3620.

Funded with Indiana soybean checkoff dollars.
Dr. Paul Hodgen loves agriculture. He spent several years after college working with Monsanto as an agronomist, developing technical data on product performance. While the work was interesting, he longed for home. That’s why he and his wife moved back to the family farm in 2012.

The third-generation farmer and his wife, who grew up on a ranch in New Mexico, wanted to raise their four children on the farm with the same values they were taught. The Hodgens now operate a diversified corn, soybean and cattle farm, and are expanding their cow/calf livestock operation. Hodgen likes to find ways to increase the farm’s efficiency through livestock, and grazes cattle on different rotations and works with cover crops to help with grazing.

Cattle has always been part of the Hodgens’ family farm, but when Hodgen and his family moved back in 2012 there were just 12 head of cattle. Since then, he’s grown the operation from within the herd to almost 50 head. “The breeding aspect of cattle farming is an art—there’s a real craftsmanship to it,” said Hodgen. “We started getting calves from our embryo transfer work, which is a great way to go after specific genetics.”

The Indiana Beef Cattle Association (IBCA) recognized Hodgen’s work by awarding him the 2018 Indiana Young Cattleman of the Year. The award is presented to young cattlemen/women in recognition of their efforts to promote Indiana cattle. “The award means a lot to me. We’ve worked really hard to grow our cattle herd, and it’s nice to know our efforts are being recognized,” said Hodgen.

He’s especially grateful for the award after the challenging year he had. His calves suffered several health issues last spring due to cold, wet weather. Fortunately, Hodgen works closely with his vet on a health management program for his cattle, which helped them bounce back quickly from spring illnesses.

Fall presented even more challenges with rain and mud, which made harvest difficult.

In addition to his membership in the IBCA, Hodgen is finishing his first three-year term on the Indiana Corn Marketing Council board. The experience has been educational for him, and he’s enjoyed learning more about finding new uses for corn as well as the work the US Grains Council does on behalf of Indiana farmers.

While Hodgen is looking forward to growing his cow/calf operation in 2019, he’s most excited for his children. His oldest daughter is beginning her first year in 4H and has decided to show llamas. The education she and her siblings will learn in 4H are a reminder of why Paul and his wife chose to move back to the farm and will help preserve the Hodgen’s farm for generations to come.
ICMC sponsors field to wheels theme at ICGA’s annual ethanol summit

The Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) will sponsor the Indiana Corn Growers Association’s (ICGA) annual ethanol meeting featuring this year’s “field to wheels” theme. Dubbed the High Octane Fuel Summit, the meeting intends to encourage Indiana fuel retailers to offer higher blends of ethanol at their gas stations. The event takes place at the Dallara Indycar Factory at 1201 Main St., Speedway, Ind., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 2.

Geoff Cooper, the newly named president and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association, highlights the program as the keynote speaker. In 2018, the U.S. ethanol industry produced a record 16.1 billion gallons of high-octane, clean-burning renewable fuel. In addition, exports of U.S. ethanol accounted for one of every 10 gallons produced. Cooper will cover the state of the industry and its future outlook.

Ron Lambert, senior vice president of the American Coalition for Ethanol, will also speak at the Summit. He plans to encourage fuel retailers to listen to other retailers who have had success with higher blends of ethanol because studies indicate that consumers want the fuel.

The event will also feature fun activities at the Dallara Indycar Factory, as well as access to tour the museum. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, admission is free – but attendees must register. Early sponsorship commitments at the time this article went to press include the American Lung Association, South Bend Ethanol, National Corn Growers Association and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council.

A well-known, Midwestern advocate of ethanol and a supporter of the Indiana Corn Marketing Council recently partnered with The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.

Speedway convenience stores entered a multi-year agreement on Nov. 27 to become the official fuel and convenience store store of the Indianapolis 500 and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS). The announcement was made by Hulman and Co., which owns the 500-mile race, IMS and the IndyCar Series.

Speedway, based in Enon, Ohio, is the nation’s second largest, owner-and-operated convenience store chain with almost 4,000 retail stores across the United States. Speedway also serves as a champion for higher blends of ethanol including E85, which is the fuel that powers the racing cars of the IndyCar Series.

“We are excited about this partnership with the IndyCar Series and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway,” said Tony Kenney, president of Speedway. “The Indianapolis 500 itself is one of the premier events in the world of motorsports, and Speedway has a strong brand presence in the IndyCar race markets, so our relationship will be very complementary. The IndyCar Series is a great way to showcase Speedway’s brand and quality fuel offerings, including the fuel that will power the race cars at each event.”

The Indiana Corn Marketing Council, through its Flex Fuel Pump Program, recently worked with Speedway to install 14 additional E85 pumps in the state. However, Speedway offers E85 widely across its network of convenience stores, which are mostly in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

Speedway is a subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corp., and has stores in 35 states. The IndyCar Series will conduct 11 races in those states in 2019.

“Speedway has a large national footprint along with the desire to establish a partnership with the IndyCar Series and its many events reaching millions of consumers,” said Mark Miles, CEO of Hulman & Co. “Speedway also has a broad reach within the region, ensuring a shared interest in leveraging the Indianapolis 500 as a central element of its retail promotion during the month of May. We believe this will be a beneficial relationship for Speedway, IndyCar and all of our race promoters.”

As the Official Fuel for IndyCar, Speedway will provide the fuel powering every car at every race in the IndyCar Series. The series’ 2019 schedule features 17 races, beginning with the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Fla. on March 10 and concluding with the IndyCar Grand Prix of Monterey, Calif. on Sept. 22. The schedule is anchored by the 103rd Running of the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on May 26.

The agreement calls for Speedway signs at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and Speedway media signs and mentions during NBC Sports’ coverage of the IndyCar Series starting in 2019. Speedway fuel also will power Hulman & Co.’s fleet of trucks and IMS equipment.
The Indiana Soybean Alliance and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council believe developing international relationships pays future dividends for Hoosier growers. In 2018, ISA and ICMC staff and directors traveled to Bogota, Colombia; Manitoba, Canada; Vietnam and more. ISA and ICMC also work with partners such as the US Grains Council (USGC) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to secure the best deals possible.

Earlier this year, select ISA and ICMC staff and directors traveled with ISDA and USGC trade representatives in separate missions to Cartagena and Bogota, Colombia. This South American nation is a major importer of U.S. grain. Colombia imported 200 million bushels of U.S. corn in marketing year 2017-18, which makes it the No. 4 export market for American corn growers. In that same time frame, Colombia imported more than 115,000 metric tons of corn gluten feed and meal. This makes Colombia the seventh-best U.S. market for these products.

Colombia also likes U.S. ethanol. In 2017-18, Colombia imported 37.5 million gallons of ethanol – or the equivalency of 13.3 million bushels of corn – from the United States. Colombia is the No. 10 market for U.S. ethanol. Related to this, Colombia also imported 202,000 metric tons of distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) in 2017-18, which is a major increase. A livestock feed source, DDGS are a byproduct of the ethanol production process.

Coatesville, Ind. farmer Mark Legan, who is also an ISA board director, spoke during a soybean sustainability conference in Colombia. And ICMC board directors Josh Miller, Paul Hodgen and David Ring also participated in USGC trade meetings in Cartagena. Ed Ebert and Andy Tauer, both staff with ISA and ICMC, traveled to Colombia along with ISDA Director Bruce Kettler and staff for tours and trade meetings.

“Members were able to hear from our main customers about their operations in the country and the challenges they have to face to import U.S. ethanol,” Diaz said. “The meetings were a great opportunity to learn about the market perspectives for fuel products including ethanol, and to evidence the high potential Colombia has for U.S. ethanol trade expansion.”
The 2019 Taste of Elegance, hosted by Indiana Pork, was held the evening of Feb. 11 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis. ISA and ICMC were sponsors of the annual pork signature event.

Corporate Chef Brian Pleasant of Crystal Catering earned the Premium Chef Award at the Taste of Elegance. The award was presented by ICMC President Mike Beaud, who also farms near Frankfort, Ind.

Executive Chef Emily Siewers of Crystal Catering put the final garnish on a pork belly recipe during the Taste of Elegance.

Chef Michael Gomez, head chef at Gomez Indy’s Craft Barbeque in Indianapolis, spoons pulled pork onto his Smoked Pulled Pork Bouillabaisse – a recipe he created specifically for the Taste of Elegance.

Executive Chef Emily Siewers of Crystal Catering with Crystal Catering in Indianapolis prepares a dish during the Taste of Elegance. (Left) Executive Chef Abbi Merriss of Bluebeard Restaurant assembled this plate for the judges.

Left) Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant in Indianapolis prepares a dish during the Taste of Elegance. (Left) Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant in Indianapolis prepares a dish during the Taste of Elegance. (Above) Using garden vegetables and rice to complement sliced pork loin, Executive Chef Abbi Merriss of Bluebeard Restaurant assembled this plate for the judges.

(Above) Using garden vegetables and rice to complement sliced pork loin, Executive Chef Abbi Merriss of Bluebeard Restaurant assembled this plate for the judges. (Left) Executive Chef Abbi Merriss with Bluebeard Restaurant in Indianapolis prepares a dish during the Taste of Elegance.

(Above) Featuring pork and several island flavors, this Taco Al Pastor recipe was created by Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant in Indianapolis. (Left) Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant fills samples of his Taco Al Pastor recipe. These tacos include marinated pork shoulder, tomato and pineapple salsa, avocado puree and pineapple vinegar.

(Above) Featuring pork and several island flavors, this Taco Al Pastor recipe was created by Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant in Indianapolis. (Left) Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant fills samples of his Taco Al Pastor recipe. These tacos include marinated pork shoulder, tomato and pineapple salsa, avocado puree and pineapple vinegar.

(Above) With this Pork Pot Pie recipe, Chef Alan Sternberg of Cerulean, Field Brewery and Common House won top honors at the Taste of Elegance. (Left) Alan Sternberg, chef at Cerulean, Field Brewery and Common House won top honors at the Taste of Elegance. (Left) Alan Sternberg, chef at Cerulean, Field Brewery and Common House won top honors at the Taste of Elegance. (Left) Alan Sternberg, chef at Cerulean, Field Brewery and Common House won top honors at the Taste of Elegance. (Left) Chef Gabriel Sanudo of the Black Market Restaurant in Indianapolis prepares a dish during the Taste of Elegance.

(Above) This unique presentation helped Steven Oakley of Oakley’s Bistro win the Superior Chef Award at the Taste of Elegance on Feb. 11. (Left) Steven Oakley of Oakley’s Bistro with ISA Chairman Joe Tuholski, took home the Superior Chef Award from the Taste of Elegance contest.

(Above) This unique presentation helped Steven Oakley of Oakley’s Bistro win the Superior Chef Award at the Taste of Elegance on Feb. 11. (Left) Steven Oakley of Oakley’s Bistro with ISA Chairman Joe Tuholski, took home the Superior Chef Award from the Taste of Elegance contest.
Since it was commercialized in 2012, Indiana soybean farmers have been growing high oleic soybeans. And we continue seeking more food customers and delivery options to grow this #Croppportunity and boost your bottom line. And if you’re wondering how high it can go …

High Oleic Soybeans
Source: United Soybean Board

GROWING A HEALTHIER bottom line FOR YOU

JUST WATCH US

The Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)-Mexico work together to promote U.S. duck meat exports to Mexico, thereby increasing consumption of Indiana-grown soybean meal fed to Indiana-grown ducks. The U.S. is Mexico’s main supplier of duck meat and, while the duck meat market may not be as big as other export markets, the market still has room to grow.

In 2017, U.S. exports of duck meat to Mexico accounted for nearly $4.1 million of the $4.4 million import market. The remainder of Mexico’s duck imports were supplied by Canada. Mexico doesn’t import large volumes of fresh or refrigerated duck, but frozen whole ducks account for more than 90 percent of the total import market by volume. Frozen duck livers and other frozen pieces also ship to Mexico in smaller volumes. Mexico produces roughly 2,000 ducks per year, mainly in the State of Jalisco, and consumption of those ducks is mostly regional.


Mexican chefs use duck as a source of protein in many traditional dishes, and ISA and FAS-Mexico recently hosted an event for the country’s chefs and other foodservice professionals to highlight the versatility of U.S. duck for Mexican fare. More than 140 attendees watched Chef Chris Koetke demonstrate how to infuse U.S. duck into traditional Mexican dishes.

U.S.-based companies Agri West, Eastern Quality Foods and Indiana’s own Maple Leaf Farms, the largest U.S. duck producer, participated in the event, held at the Palacio de Autonomia museum in downtown Mexico City. A local distributor in Mexico City was recognized during the event for more than 40 years of selling US duck in Mexico.

Also in attendance was the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), who held a special event prior to the cooking demonstration that featured U.S. duck. The mission of USAPEEC is to promote global exports of U.S. poultry and eggs. USAPEEC’s event was developed for a local foodservice distributor and promoted U.S. duck meat. Chef Chris Koetke demonstrated to the nearly 40 participants the various uses for duck in foodservice by preparing five separate dishes using almost every part of the duck.

ISA partners with several organizations, including USDA’s FAS, to ensure Indiana is adequately represented in the global soybean market. Indiana soybean exports account for more than half of the state’s total ag exports. USDA FAS provides assistance to buyers and sellers of U.S. agricultural products, and many of their programs provide funding to support consumer promotions, market research, educational seminars and other activities that promote U.S. agriculture exports. ISA’s partnership efforts help sustain a strong international market for Indiana soybeans.
Are you a farmer interested in validating, optimizing and improving your individual in-field management practices?

Learn more about INfield Advantage at www.INfieldAdvantage.org.

"No matter where your operation is located, you can use this program and its powerful tools to build a local data set to see how nutrient management varies in field-specific scenarios."
—INfield Advantage group leader

INfield Advantage is a proactive, collaborative opportunity for farmers to collect and understand personalized, on-farm data to optimize their management to, ultimately, improve their bottom line and benefit the environment.

Funded with Indiana soybean and corn checkoff dollars.

CHECKOFF DOLLARS TO FUEL INTEREST IN SOY BIODIESEL

Biodiesel provides a renewable, sustainable alternative to petroleum diesel and is made from soybeans grown right here in Indiana. Soy biodiesel offers health benefits for consumers, the environment and farmers alike.

**Safer air.** Soy biodiesel adheres to the health effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act and is labeled a Clean Air Choice by the American Lung Association.

**Reduced emissions.** The fuel results in 78.5 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions from its use and production compared with petroleum diesel.

**Increased markets.** By promoting soy biodiesel, the Indiana Soybean Alliance puts farmer checkoff dollars to work to ensure a profitable future for your crop.

Growing soybeans for biodiesel fuel provides a beneficial option for your soybean crop and lets everyone in Indiana breathe a little easier.

INTERESTED? Visit indiana-soybean.com for more information.
Bacon brings Indiana farmers, lawmakers together to talk policy

By Dave Blower

A lided by the aroma of fresh bacon wafting through the Indiana Statehouse halls, the Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and the Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership and Policy Committee (ISA M&P) invited House and Senate lawmakers, staff and agricultural stakeholders to discuss issues and policies that are vital to farmers.

Dubbed as the Bacon Bar and Brunch, this year’s ICA and ISA Legislative Breakfast invited the public on Feb. 12 for bacon, breakfast foods and key conversations. At the event, ICGA and ISA M&P held a legislative breakfast, we highlighted the No. 1 customer of Indiana soybean and corn growers,” said Phil Ramsey, a soybean grower from Shelby County, Ind., and the chair of ICA M&P. “A healthy Indiana livestock sector means healthy Indiana farms and a healthy Indiana economy.”

Pork, beef and poultry production serve as major drivers of the Indiana farm economy, and the farmers who work these operations are key partners of the Hoosier corn and soybean growers who provide their feed. Indiana livestock consumes 95 percent of all soybean meal and 40 percent of all corn produced in the state.

ICGA and ISA M&P rely on sponsors and membership dollars to provide their feed. Indiana livestock consumes 95 percent of all soybean meal and 40 percent of all corn produced in the state.

Dairy Producers, Maple Leaf Farms, and the Indiana soybean and corn checkoffs.

“This breakfast provides a great opportunity for legislators to visit with active farmers from their respective districts,” said Sen. Jean Leising (R-Greenfield). “It met with farmers from five of my seven counties about issues that may impact Indiana agriculture.”

In the advocacy arena, the ICGA and the ISA M&P oppose bills proposed in this year’s Indiana General Assembly that would restrict the livestock sector. These include:

• HB 1044 — This bill expands residential, water supply and reservoir/Lake setback requirements for confined feeding operations (CFO). The bill establishes new residential setbacks for exhaust systems that remove air from a CFO. The bill also reduces hydrogen sulfide, methane, ammonia and particulate matter in the ambient air near a CFO.

• HB 1378 and SB 593 — These bills significantly change CFO regulations. These proposals expand the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM) authority to deny new or modified CFO permits if the CFO would endanger public health or the environment. IDEM would be required to monitor for e-coli and other pathogens.

“This breakfast is a great opportunity for legislators to meet with farmers and discuss important ag-related issues, as well as showcase a variety of foods produced by Hoosier farmers,” said Rep. Don Lehe (R-Brookston).

“As with so few farmers in the legislature, it is important for lawmakers to hear the thoughts and concerns of their constituents in the agriculture industry. The breakfast is always fun and insightful, and I look forward to it each year.”

Non-livestock-related legislation also caught the eye of the ISA M&P and ICGA. The advocacy groups support increased funding for the state’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts through HB 100. The conservation districts help farmers reduce soil and nutrient loss.

Additionally, ICGA and ISA M&P support expanded broadband coverage to all of Indiana. Corn and soybean farmers use advanced technology to boost productivity and sustainability. Expanded broadband coverage aids advanced technology. Several bills, including HB 1395, SB 460, SB 461, SB 521 and SB 617, provide opportunities to expand broadband into rural areas.

“The Bacon Bar and Brunch offered farmers the chance to continue to build important relationships with their legislators,” said ICGA President Sarah Delbecq, Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, left, shares a plate of bacon with ICGA VP Mike Baker during the annual legislative breakfast for the ICGA and ISA.

ICGA board member and Ferdinand, Ind. farmer, speaks with ISA M&P board member Ralph Kauffman, who farms near Ferdinand, Ind., during the Bacon Bar and Brunch legislative breakfast.

More than 50 people enjoyed good food and fruitful conversation during the Bacon Bar and Brunch legislative breakfast on Feb. 12 at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. The goal of the breakfast is to create opportunities for farmers, state lawmakers and other agricultural stakeholders to discuss vital farm policy issues.

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Indiana and ICMC Support Indiana Livestock

By Jenny Watz

Indiana is one of the top livestock-producing states in the country, with nearly 21,200 livestock farms. Indiana’s livestock industry contributes to the state’s economic development through billions of dollars in sales annually and a ripple effect that flows through the economy in the form of jobs, taxes and revenue.

Livestock is corn and soybean farmers’ number one customer – 40 percent of our corn and 95 percent of our bean meal goes to livestock – so it makes sense for Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) to support the industry through the investment of checkoff dollars for practical research, the promotion of new and expanding marketing and education.

To illustrate the importance of livestock production in Indiana, pork producer and grain farmer Dave Rodibaugh of rural Jasper County, Ind., shared his family’s story. Rodibaugh’s father got his start in 1950 when he became a partner raising pigs on a small farm near Rensselaer. “As with many farmers, producing pork was the ticket which allowed me and my three brothers and families to grow the farm, add value to the crops we raised, and educate 21 children (not counting grandchildren) in the local schools,” Rodibaugh explained.

Each December the family delivers pork burgers to neighbors, local businesses and the food pantry. “We enjoy sharing and hope this gesture reminds our friends of the positive impact livestock producers have in our community,” he added.

Although Indiana’s livestock industry is strong, it presents numerous challenges. That’s why ISA and ICMC, along with five other livestock-related state organizations, created Farmers Deliver. Today’s modern farmer doesn’t fit the perception that consumers who are several generations removed from the farm have of them. But farmers know that to be sustainable, they must adapt. That means merging lessons from the past with today’s technologies and solutions to feed a growing population. Consider this: today’s average farmer supplies food for about 155 people, compared with 26 people the average farmer supplied in 1960. And they do it with fewer resources. None of this would be possible without adapting.

The Farmers Deliver campaign helps Indiana’s livestock farmers address these perceptions and challenges by providing them with information they can use to engage with their community on issues impacting agriculture. These issues include new and expanding livestock operations, animal welfare, and environmental concerns.

Indiana livestock farmers are good stewards who take pride in caring for their animals and protecting the environment to preserve the future. The growth of Indiana’s livestock industry is paramount to secure generations to come. Research funded by ISA shows the impact Indiana’s livestock sector has on the economy and makes the argument for the state’s communities to consider animal agriculture a viable option for economic growth and development.

The study looked at beef, dairy, poultry, eggs and pork to determine the ripple effect each has on local economies. A new hog farm, for example, can potentially generate anywhere between $2.72 million and $3.15 million in total sales impacts and support almost 28 new jobs that can add up to $795,000 in household income in each of Indiana’s nine regions. That’s a lot of bacon!

This “Ag Effect” is an important economic indicator for Indiana, and one that should not be overlooked by Indiana communities when pursuing economic growth and development opportunities. “When people in the community have a better understanding of the positive impacts livestock can have on the local economy, they’re more likely to support us,” said Mike Beard, farmer from Frankfort, Ind.

HOW DOES THE AG EFFECT WORK?

Indiana agriculture directly contributes 25.4 BILLION to the state’s GDP

Indiana agriculture supports MORE THAN 103,000 JOBS


FARMERS DELIVER IS:

Indiana Soybean Alliance
Indiana Corn Marketing Council
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Farm Bureau

Indiana Corn & Soybean Review
The initiative’s three main objectives will be accomplished over the course of several years.

1. **Education**
   - This objective will be accomplished by increasing awareness among farmers of the importance of nutrient management and soil health. Through the development of educational materials, IANA will communicate the need for farmers to implement best practices that will aid in minimizing nutrient loss from soil to water.

2. **Collaboration**
   - The 15 groups will collaborate on outreach efforts to maximize awareness of best management practices and work together to find opportunities to share messaging throughout the state.

3. **Research**
   - IANA understands that farmers know what will work best on their individual farms. Through collaborative research efforts, IANA can share what they’ve learned with farmers to help them make decisions on effective best management practices.

IANA AT WORK

One example of IANA at work is the Upper White Cover Crop program. Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA) and Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) partnered with private industry to increase awareness of and education for improvement of soil health and water quality. The program gives farmers the opportunity to explore the impact cover crops can have on their fields while reducing the risk that often comes with experimenting with new practices.

The Upper White Watershed in central Indiana is a priority watershed for Indiana. It’s among the top contributors of nitrogen to the Wabash River, which drains into the Gulf of Mexico and adds to the risk that often comes with environmental practices like the Upper White Cover Crop program, now in its second year, added components including different types of crops and analysis of biomass samples to gauge how much nitrogen is staying on the field instead of running off into the watershed. For its second year, the program increased the number of participants from 21 to 33. One of those participants is Indiana Corn Growers Association member and ex-officio director Mike Buis. He farms with his brother on the family’s 3,000-acre farm, and 40 of those acres are currently using oats and radishes as part of the program.

Buis has seen a significant improvement, including less weed pressure and less erosion, on highly-erodible fields, and he encourages other farmers to try the program. The signs Buis puts up in his fields that are part of the program elicit questions from other farmers. “It’s a good pilot program to increase awareness of the benefits of cover crops,” said Buis.

**GET INVOLVED**

Indiana is proactive with its nutrient management and soil health practices, and IANA is dedicated to making sure that continues to ensure farm viability and reduce nutrient loss to water. Through its educational, collaborative and research efforts, IANA aims to ensure all of Indiana’s farmers have nutrient best management practices in place by 2025 to protect the state’s natural resources.

“We’re at a unique place and a unique time currently, and we have the opportunity to figure out what works well on our farms to make us as efficient with our fertilizer and manure use as possible,” said Wicker.

“The strategies that will lead us to success have to make sense on the farm. IANA provides the opportunity for organizations to come together to make sure farmers can continue to operate successfully.”

For information on IANA or the Upper White Cover Crop program, contact Aly Wells, ISA and ICMC director of production and environmental programs, at 317-644-1313 or via email at awells@indianasoybean.com.

**WHO IS IANA?**


**WHAT THE YEAR 2025 LOOKS LIKE**

These objectives support IANA’s ambitious goals for farmers by the year 2025.

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT**

- **100% of farmers**
  - perform regular soil sampling
  - and have nutrient management plans in place in their farms

**SOIL HEALTH**

- **40% of Indiana cropland**
  - utilizes living green cover

- **75% of Indiana cropland**
  - utilizes minimum tillage

**APPLICATION TIMING**

- **100% of farmers only apply nutrients to frozen or snow-covered ground as a last resort**

- **75% of farmers apply nutrients to crops at time of planting or post-emergence**

**SPRING 2019 | INDIANA CORN & SOYBEAN REVIEW | SPRING 2019**

By Jenny Watz

Indian Agriculture Nutrient Alliance promotes ag partnerships

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partially funded by ISA and ICMC, the Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA) is working across the state to preserve Indiana’s natural resources. The year-old initiative was borne from a need for a more formal approach to conservation efforts by state commodity groups. Individually, these groups worked to promote soil health and water quality, but, together, they realized they could accomplish so much more. Through IANA, these groups spread awareness of proactive, effective on-farm best management practices to protect Indiana’s resources.

**OVERCOMING BARRIERS**

Best Wicker, IANA’s Executive Director, explained that IANA’s goals are aimed at addressing current barriers that impede adoption of nutrient management practices on the farm. “IANA members are working together to identify what the barriers are to adoption of best nutrient management and soil health practices so we can address and overcome them,” Wicker said.

Those barriers are lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of nutrient management and soil health, risk of prohibitive rules and regulations, economic and agronomic factors, and fear of implementation or early adoption of new practices. IANA’s objectives include tactics to address each of these obstacles to maximize adoption.

Upper White Cover Crop Program

Indian Agriculture Nutrient Alliance promotes ag partnerships

By Jenny Watz

Indian Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA) is a need for a more formal approach to conservation efforts by state

**SPRING 2019 | INDIANA CORN & SOYBEAN REVIEW | 35**
Bud Light’s Super Bowl ad brings corn syrup into public debate

A Super Bowl commercial apparently backfired on the makers of Bud Light beer. Using its medieval motif, Bud Light claimed in the commercial that it is healthier than Miller Lite and Coors Light in the Super Bowl commercial that it is healthier than Miller Lite and Coors Light.

Kevin Ross, first vice president of the NCGA, said the ad “implied that (corn syrup) was an inferior source from America’s heartland.”

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Critic’s also pointed out that other AB-InBev beers brew with corn syrup, including Busch and Natural Light.

MillerCoors, the owner of Miller Lite and Coors Light, thanked Bud Light for pointing out to such a large audience that their beer is brewed with corn syrup.

Organizations such as the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA) work best and are most influential with strong and healthy grassroots. As part of these federated organizations, the Indiana Soybean Alliance Membership and Policy Committee (ISA) and the Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) work diligently to cultivate deep grassroots strength at the state level through the new Farmer Action Network, or FAN, Group.

The FAN Group program, launched in 2018 and made possible through sponsorship by Corteva Agriscience, aims to surface, hone and provide support for members or potential members of ISA and ICGA. These groups seek the most passionate and engaged stakeholders in issues advocacy, policy development and personal relationship building with elected officials.

The program’s two-fold mission brings corn syrup into public debate.

The next tier of priorities contained the familiar concerns of supporting the livestock industry, growing biodiesel opportunities, addressing regulation and – new to the ISA/ICGA priority list – the availability of affordable healthcare for farmers, their families and employees.

While most of these topics seem like common sense for ICGA and ISA, the exercise yielded beneficial discussions that have been leveraged. During policy development meetings preparing for Commodity Classic, where the ASA and NCGA host annual policy-setting sessions, ISA and ICGA delegates discussed how to best incorporate these grassroots issues into policy resolutions for the national organizations.

As a result of the findings from November’s FAN meeting, ISA’s Resolutions Committee submitted three resolutions for approval by the ASA delegate body: maintenance of rural railroad rights of way and drainage ditches, the use of soy-based concrete sealers by the US Department of Transportation, and the opposition of mandatory regulated overtime for farm workers.

ICGA’s Committee submitted one resolution for consideration at NCGA’s Corn Congress, which was a proposed resolution on the permanent exemption of farm vehicles from the impending e-log requirements.


Indiana’s FAN Group helps develop farm policy priorities

By Cory Harris

The Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and Indiana Soybean Association Membership & Policy (ISA M&P) committee thank their Premier Partners for their generous and continued support. These Premier Partners provide at least $10,000 or greater in annual funding to ICGA and ISA M&P.

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The program’s two-fold mission includes strengthening the voice of the ISA and ICGA and developing and shaping the policy priorities for NCGA and ASA through policy development from the ground up. With these goals in mind, last fall the FAN Group participated in a workshop that identified the top issues impacting the stability, profitability and growth of Indiana farms. The workshop produced a grid of short- and long-term policy improvements that ranked the importance of several issues.

The most important policy priorities according to the FAN Group include:

1. Trade
2. Ethanol
3. Farm Policy

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N
itrogen (N) fertilizer and seed together represent nearly 50% of the variable production costs for corn in Indiana. Consequently, it is important for growers to identify rates of both inputs that maximize their respective marginal rates of returns. With respect to fertilizer N, avoiding the use of unnecessarily high rates will minimize the risks of excessive losses of soil N to the environment.

Field scale research helps us accurately estimate corn yield response to both N fertilizer rates and seeding rates. Since 2006, we have completed about 250 N trials, the majority of which are on-farm trials. We have also evaluated corn yield response to plant populations since 2008, with nearly 90 field scale trials to date.

These field scale trials have been partially supported by funds provided by the Indiana Corn Marketing Council. Results and interpretations of those practical field scale trials are regularly updated and published online (Cambesso & Nielsen, 2017; Nielsen et al., 2017).

ECONOMIC VS. AGRONOMIC OPTIMUM RATES

Yield responds similarly to N fertilizer rates and plant populations in that the responses are not linear from low to high input rates. Yield response for both inputs is more curvilinear. As yield nears its maximum with respect to either N rates or population (i.e., agronomic optimum rates), further yield response to additional N or population decreases and eventually plateaus, such that additional N or seed adds no more yield.

With respect to plant population, yield may actually decrease once populations exceed the agronomic optimum. Consequently, the last few bushels of response to either N or seed “cost” a lot of money. Because of this, growers cannot economically afford to aim for maximum yield with regard to either N fertilizer rates or seeding rates.

YIELD RESPONSE TO FERTILIZER N RATES

Our N trial database is large enough that we can identify regional guidelines for economical optimum N fertilizer rates. Economical optimum rates for either N fertilizer or seeding rates depend on expected market price for the grain and the cost per unit applied for N or seed.

Based on $272 UAN 28-0-0 fertilizer and $3.50 corn, economic optimum N rates for corn following soybean vary around the state from 170 to 214 lbs. actual N per acre. Based on results at five Purdue locations where we conducted paired trials of rotation corn and continuous corn in 2007-2010, the average optimum N rates for continuous corn are 40 to 50 lbs. actual N per acre greater than for rotation corn.

YIELD RESPONSE TO SEEDING RATES

Our field scale research suggests that maximum yield for productive soils occurs within a range between 28,000 and 35,000 PLANTS per acre. However, the marginal dollar return to seed is greatest at much lower populations. For $3.50 corn and $3.40 seed corn, the economic optimum population is closer to 26,000 PLANTS per acre at harvest, or a seeding rate of 27,500 to 29,000 SEEDS per acre.

Corn grown under drought-prone conditions maximizes yield at even lower populations, perhaps as low as 21,000 ppa under truly severe growing conditions (e.g., actual drought, non-irrigated center pivot corners, non-irrigated sandy fields with minimal rainfall). There is little evidence for consistent differences among hybrids, even if rated differently for responsiveness. Furthermore, there is not much evidence that variable rate seeding is beneficial in the majority of fields in Indiana.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Even though we have quite a few of these trials “under our belt”, we welcome more field scale on-farm trials to further delineate regional or soil-based differences for optimum rates of fertilizer N or seeding rates. If you would like to collaborate with us in conducting on-farm trials with either project, contact me.

RL (Bob) Nielsen
Agroonomy Department
Purdue University
mnielsen@purdue.edu
www.kingcorn.org/cura

Choose Corn Nitrogen & Seeding Rates Wisely

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DOING WHAT’S RIGHT FOR FARMERS. AT OUR CORE, THAT’S WHO WE ARE.

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