

COLLABORATING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS



MissouriCorn

PLANTING OPPORTUNITY

MISSOURI CORN
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

MISSOURI CORN
MERCHANDISING COUNCIL

**SUMMER 2023
MIDSEASON
REPORT**





You're busy farming. And raising a family. So we're at the table when you can't be. And bringing more and more people to that table. From families to consumers, policymakers, farmers and more. But like you, we can't do it alone. Our strength is in our members. Our strength is in you.

We're at the table. And we're saving you a seat.

Join us. Become a member at mocorn.org



3118 Emerald Lane • Jefferson City, MO 65109

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Text COB to 52886 to join our advocacy efforts.



45 YEARS
PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

**COLLABORATING
FOR
CONTINUED
SUCCESS**



For the Missouri Corn Growers Association (MCGA), advocacy is not just a buzzword; it's the backbone of our industry and our association. Throughout MCGA's rich 45-year history, a volunteer board of directors, dedicated staff, strong partners, and engaged members have helped our industry overcome challenges and build a brighter future for the next generation.

Missouri corn farmers are not passive observers; we actively engage with lawmakers, policymakers, and regulatory officials to share our insights and concerns. We fight to ensure we have a seat at the table and a voice in shaping policies and regulations that directly impact our farms. In the last year, we've led the charge to hold Mexico accountable on our trade deal, battled against the EPA to revise their flawed atrazine assessment, and pushed back to ensure a level playing field for ethanol. It's a remarkable feeling to know that our voices are being heard and making a difference. But, like farming, there is always more work to be done. That is why MCGA exists.

Looking ahead, we must stay engaged in farm bill discussions, grow industry and political support for the Next Generation Fuels Act, and continue educating others on the economic, environmental, and energy benefits of Missouri-made ethanol. These are not easy lifts, but we've done hard things in the past and are up for the challenge.

Our organization has worked tirelessly in the interest of today's corn industry and will strive to continue to do so for another 45 years. If you are a former board member, we hope you take great pride in the organization you helped lead. If you are an industry partner or elected official, thank you for standing with corn growers. If you are a member, we could not do what we do without your help and support. It is through these partnerships and collaborative, grassroots efforts that we ensure a thriving future for our farms, our families, and Missouri's corn industry. Let's keep the positive momentum going.

Left-Right: Clint Stephens - MCGA President;
Dylan Rosier - MCGA Secretary/Treasurer,
Brian Lehman - MCGA Vice President.



In April, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule titled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles." This extreme vehicle rule would provide tightening regulations on light- and medium-duty passenger vehicles – the vehicles most drivers use daily.

Targeting model years 2027-2032, the rule tightens the emissions from vehicle tailpipes, decreasing the ability of automobile manufacturers to produce internal combustion engines; therefore, increasing the requirement to produce zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) – primarily battery electric vehicles. Specifically, this rule would require 67% of light-duty vehicles (Cars, SUVs, etc.) to be ZEVs while requiring 50% of medium-duty vehicles (pickups) to be ZEVs.

Adding fuel to the fire, EPA's illogical proposed rule does not account for, or meet the needs of, rural America or Missouri's corn farmers. Concerns around electric vehicle

charging, vehicle range, vehicle weight, and vehicle costs are just some of the issues Missouri farmers would face due to this rule. The daily duties of Missouri farmers do not allow for issues around range anxiety, extensive recharging times, or excessive vehicle weight. This rule would also adversely affect the price of both new and used internal combustion engines, vehicle parts, and fuel prices.

Recognizing the needs of Missouri's corn farmers, MCGA immediately went to work combatting EPA's overreach. Through calls to action, member comments at events, and written comments to EPA, MCGA members told EPA this rule does not work for Missouri.

Working collectively, corn growers are pushing back, asking EPA to consider a low-carbon, technology-neutral approach that includes reducing regulatory burdens for ethanol to meet the needs of automobile manufacturers and rural America.

Politico Feature – "6 Ways to Strengthen America's Clean Energy Future"



OUR PATH

FORWARD

Smart policy – like the *Next Generation Fuels Act* – provides a pathway forward that allows automobile manufacturers to meet the regulations that currently limit higher blends of ethanol in motor vehicle fuel. This much-needed federal legislation would harmonize vehicle engines and fuel to run as a single system, increasing efficiency, increasing horsepower, and providing opportunities for lower-cost ethanol to be blended into the nation's fuel supply.

The *Next Generation Fuels Act* provides a pathway to decarbonize the nation's transportation fleet while providing for the needs of rural America and increasing our nation's energy independence. Because of these reasons, MCGA has made the *Next*

Generation Fuels Act our top legislative priority to ensure Missouri's corn farmers have consistent, longstanding markets for their corn.

MCGA has led the charge on this front. Working to activate our congressional delegation to openly support the *Next Generation Fuels Act* while expanding the ever-growing list of industry stakeholders. Your voice counts! Look for opportunities at MCGA membership events – and through calls to action – to let your congressional members know the *Next Generation Fuels Act* is a much-needed, practical legislative solution that meets the needs of Missouri's corn farmers and the American people.

National Sponsors – A growing list of more than 35 Missouri agribusiness and industry partners have also signed on in support of NGFA. If your company or organization wants to stand with corn farmers on this important effort, please contact Missouri Corn Director of Public Policy Darrick Steen at dsteen@mocom.org.



Helping educate leaders and influencers in our country's capital, the National Corn Growers Association, thanks to the generous support of the Missouri Corn checkoff, launched a targeted ethanol education campaign in Washington, D.C. The goal was to share the positive impacts of corn-based ethanol with policymakers, key government officials, energy influencers, and members of the media.

The campaign was launched in December and ran through May, resulting in **more than 32 million impressions** across the following platforms:

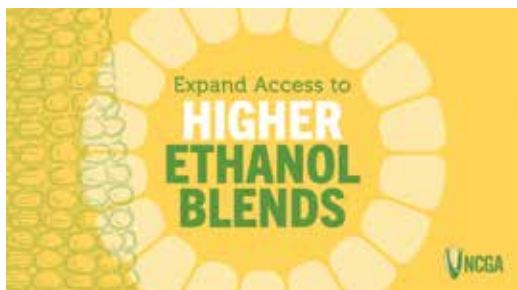
- Op-Eds – positive commentary in the Washington Examiner, Fox Business, RealClearEnergy, Chicago Sun Times, and the Columbus Dispatch.
- Sponsored Content – native articles, newsletter sponsorships, and energy homepage ads.
- Politico Feature – “6 Ways to Strengthen America's Clean Energy Future” garnered 7 million impressions on the widely read political platform.

- Mobile Display – geotargeting Capitol Hill during key events and Politico Energy Summit
- Video Pre-Roll, YouTube, and Mid-Article story ads – utilizing educational videos.
- TV segment – discussing ethanol's impact on gas prices aired 70 times on 48 stations across the country.
- Social Media – strategic messages shared on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Throughout the educational efforts, key messaging focused on advancing our nation's long-term clean energy goals along with the environmental, economic, and energy-security benefits of corn-based ethanol, not to mention the price-saving benefits of higher blends. In addition to building a stronger base, these efforts aid in rebutting negative media attention with additional educational content designed to set the record straight. Learn more at www.ncga.com/octane.



These digital ads are from the NCGA's targeted campaign in Washington, D.C.



FARM BILL PRIORITIES

Growers know firsthand the high-risk nature of agriculture, facing challenges from natural disasters, market volatility, and disruptions. Up for renewal every five years, the farm bill plays a critical role in helping navigate these threats. MCGA's recommendations seek to make existing USDA programs more effective, efficient, and responsive through strategic investments and policy enhancements that will protect and bolster America's top crop.

1. Protect Crop Insurance

As the most important program and title of the farm bill for corn growers, **crop insurance must be protected** and strengthened as the cornerstone of the federal safety net.

2. Bolster Market Development

Support enhanced investments in USDA trade programs designed to boost U.S. agricultural exports.

Specifically:

- The Market Access Program (MAP) helps producers, trade groups, private companies, and other organizations finance promotional activities for agricultural products from the United States.
- Foreign Market Development (FMD) is a joint government and agri-industry effort to develop markets by acquainting potential foreign customers with U.S. farm products.

Concerns surrounding increasing market uncertainty make it imperative Congress pass a new farm bill before the current bill expires Sept. 30. America's food supply depends on a secure safety net that maintains a robust crop insurance program and strong funding for the MAP and FMD programs. Please share this message with your member of Congress at any and every opportunity.



HARD-FOUGHT **LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES** IN JEFFERSON CITY

The Missouri Corn Growers Association worked diligently this past state legislative session to deliver on the organization's priorities. Although there were several controversial topics dominating conversations in the State Capitol, legislators were able to find common ground by passing an agriculture omnibus bill. Several key priorities growers advocated for at the MCGA annual meeting in January and during "Corn in the Capitol" visits were included in the final legislation.

One of the most notable wins was the passage of a beginning farmer program to help support Missouri's next generation of farmers. This new program offers a tax incentive to any individual who enters a land sale, lease, or sharecrop agreement with a beginning farmer or qualified family member.

In addition to encouraging the sale and lease of land to farmers starting out, the program eases the capital gains tax burden retiring farmers face when selling farmland that has increased significantly in value. This program is the first big step for Missouri in helping overcome the many obstacles young farmers face today when acquiring land.

Also included in the ag omnibus was a one-year extension to the updated pesticide applicator program the Missouri Department of Agriculture designed to meet new EPA requirements. Initially, this program had an implementation date of Jan. 1, 2024. However, the new implementation date is Jan. 1, 2025. This grants farmers an additional year under the old program to renew their license before newer guidelines take effect.



Lastly, the agriculture package had a focus on better managing state water resources with the creation of a Missouri River Flood Resiliency Fund. This fund is designated for areas along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries which the Department of Natural Resources determines are at high risk for flooding. The money in this fund will be used to help invest in long-term flood impact mitigation projects that many corn farmers will directly benefit from. On top of flood resiliency, river navigation was another priority with the creation of the Waterways and Ports Trust Fund. This fund will be utilized as a state match to proceeds from private and federal sources to invest in Missouri's public ports improving waterborne commerce.

Below: Growers from across the state traveled to Jefferson City in January for the MCGA annual meeting, where they talked with legislators about today's corn industry and the need to support beginning farmers.

MCGA is thankful for the many legislators who were able to put Missouri agriculture first by supporting each of these priorities. Additionally, a big thank you to all the members who helped advocate for these policies during the legislative session. These collective efforts make the difference in passing these legislative priorities.



Above: (left to right) MCGA board members Brent Hoerr and Jay Schutte talk with Rep. Kent Hayden during one of the Corn in the Capital meetings.



SUPPORT YOU

This spring and early summer have been challenging for the agriculture industry with severe drought impacting crops and livestock across our state. However, Missouri farmers are resilient, and corn growers across the state are pressing on in spite of challenging conditions. This perseverance is a testament to the determination of Missouri farmers that makes agriculture our state's leading industry.

Over the course of this spring, the Missouri Corn Growers Association was active in the legislative session. Board members and growers advocated for farm families and the corn and ethanol industries. This participation was vital, and sharing your first-hand perspectives as farmers had a significant impact on legislators and the policies they set.

As first-generation farmers, Claudia and I are well aware of the importance of agriculture and commodity groups who work on behalf of growers and producers. Last year, I was

honored to receive the endorsement of the MCGA and its members in our campaign for governor in 2024. Missouri's next governor must be an experienced leader with agriculture experience who is ready to govern on day one. Missouri agriculture is headed in the right direction, and as your governor, I will keep this momentum going. Claudia and I proudly stand with hard-working corn growers to expand agriculture's reach in Missouri, and we are ready to lead.

I want Missouri farmers to know that, with me, you always have a friend in the Capitol, and I will continue working hard for you to make our state the best in the country for agriculture. Thank you for your confidence in me, and thank you for your efforts in the fields to feed and fuel our world.



Mike Kehoe
Lieutenant Governor



UNITED WE STAND FOR USMCA

In June, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) requested dispute settlement consultations against Mexico over its decree banning biotech white corn used for human consumption. This major announcement came after months of intense advocacy by MCGA, NCGA, and corn growers across the country in calling for action.

The concern from U.S. farmers stems from a 2020 decree by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that sought to ban imports of biotech corn beginning in January 2024. Mexico issued a revised decree in February of this year that banned biotech white corn for human consumption, effective immediately, leaving the door open for a future ban on all biotech corn.

MONTHS OF CORN
GROWER ADVOCACY
LEADS TO ACTION ON
MEXICO'S CORN BAN

Since Mexico is a top market for corn, a coalition of corn growers sounded the alarm. MCGA, alongside NCGA and other state corn organizations, worked with congressional delegates, state and national media, and officials at USTR and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to hold Mexico accountable for its commitments under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).





Biotech White Corn: Mexico issued a decree in February 2023 that immediately banned the importing of biotech white corn for human consumption.

Now, thanks to USTR's actions, if initial consultations don't yield a successful outcome, a group of objective experts will be empaneled to hear the case and make a final determination based on the commitments both parties signed as part of USMCA. While the formation of a dispute panel by USTR is a crucial milestone, the entire process could take more than a year to resolve, adding uncertainty in the corn market for the 2024 planting season.

Missouri corn growers didn't ask to be at the forefront of a trade dispute, but we didn't back down in leading the charge in raising awareness and calling for action in a significant market. MCGA will continue working closely with Missouri's political leaders, industry partners, USDA, and USTR to reach an expedited conclusion.

IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH WHILE

REDUCING INPUTS

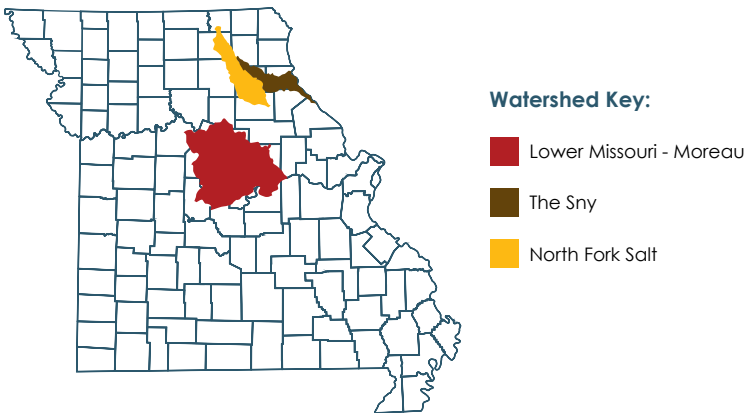
Through the investment of the Missouri Corn and Missouri Soybean Merchandising Councils, the Edge of Field (EoF) Water Quality Research Program was a farmer-driven collaboration conducted from 2017 through 2022. The goals of this five-year research were to (1) quantify the effectiveness of on-farm practices, (2) demonstrate the benefits of voluntary agricultural conservation, and (3) support water quality efforts aimed at meeting state soil and water stewardship goals. While these results may not be applicable to all fields and conditions in Missouri, they represent typical farming practices that are transferable to most conventional farms.

FIVE-YEAR RESEARCH
PROJECT HELPS
GROWERS EVALUATE
OPTIONS



Monitoring Sites

Site	Watershed	Crop	Runoff (ac)	Monitoring Station Location
1	Lower Missouri - Moreau	Corn-Soybean Rotation	14	Grassed Waterway
2	Lower Missouri - Moreau	Corn-Soybean Rotation	11	Terrace Tile Outlet
3	Lower Missouri - Moreau	Corn-Soybean Rotation	31	Grassed Waterway
4	Lower Missouri - Moreau	Corn-Soybean Rotation	15	Field Edge
5	The Sny	Corn-Soybean Rotation	15	Grassed Waterway
6	The Sny	Corn-Soybean Rotation	10	Field Edge
7	North Fork Salt	Corn-Soybean Rotation	12	Terrace Tile Outlet
8	North Fork Salt	Corn-Soybean Rotation	12	Terrace Tile Outlet





Grassed Waterways with Conventional Terracing

When researching the annual runoff and loads leaving the grassed waterway and control plot, values leaving the grassed waterway were found to be significantly lower in all years. The research results from the EoF monitoring study demonstrate and confirm the ability of grassed waterways to reduce runoff, decrease soil erosion, and improve water quality. The **average percent reductions** were as follows:

Runoff	50%
Nitrate (No3-N)	67%
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	45%
Total Phosphorus (TP)	57%
Total Suspended Solids (TSS or sediment)	64%

Grassed Waterways with Cover Crops

Examining the annual runoff and loads leaving the treatment and control plots, values leaving the grassed waterway and cover crop combination were significantly lower in all years. The grassed waterway was effective at reducing nutrient loading compared to a terraced field with sheet and rill erosion. The **average percent reductions** were as follows:

Runoff	22%
Nitrate (No3-N)	64%
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	77%
Total Phosphorus (TP)	54%
Total Suspended Solids (TSS or sediment)	99%

Cover Crop Versus Non-Cover Crop on Surface Tile-Drained Field

Comparing the annual runoff and loads leaving the cover crop and control plot, values leaving the cover crop were found to be significantly lower in most years, with average yearly reductions ranging from 12-25%. Overall, results demonstrated the consistent effectiveness of cover crops in reducing runoff, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. The **average percent reductions** were as follows:

Runoff	12%
Nitrate (No3-N)	25%
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	19%
Total Phosphorus (TP)	19%
Total Suspended Solids (TSS or sediment)	20%



Planning for the Future

If growers want to implement additional conservation practices, now is the time to utilize a variety of state and federal programs available. The results from the EoF monitoring study demonstrate and confirm the ability of conservation practices to reduce nutrient runoff, decrease soil erosion, and improve water quality. With five years of data, there is still more to be learned. The results of this collaborative research – and future projects – can help give farmers the resources to make on-farm management decisions while improving productivity, profitability, and water quality.

See how this research is benefiting Missouri growers and soil health.



Partners

This comprehensive research program was made possible with the support of the following organizations:



New Program Now Available

The Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop and Livestock (CRCL) Project is accepting applications July 19 through Aug. 31 for Missouri growers interested in implementing cover crops with four different practice areas. Learn more and apply at <https://cra.missouri.edu/mo-crcl>.





3118 Emerald Lane • Jefferson City, MO 65109



MISSOURI CORN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following volunteer board of directors oversees the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council (MCMC) and the Missouri Corn Growers Association (MCGA). Established in 1978, MCGA is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the rights of members, building new markets, and increasing

opportunities for Missouri corn farmers through sound public policy. MCMC was formed in 1984 to strengthen investments in the development and expansion of corn markets, educate customers, and explore new research opportunities.

DISTRICT 1

Ryan Meyerkorth • Rock Port
MCMC Secretary
USGC Value Added



DISTRICT 1

Dylan Rosier • Mound City
MCGA Secretary/Treasurer
USGC Western Hemisphere

DISTRICT 2

Matt Lambert • Laclede
MCMC Vice Chairman
NCGA Market Development



DISTRICT 2

Adam Casner • Carrollton

DISTRICT 3

Jay Schutte • Benton City
NCGA Risk Management & Transportation
USGC Asia



DISTRICT 3

Brent Hoerr • Palmyra
MCMC Chairman
NCGA Sustainable Ag Research
USGC Innovation and Sustainability

DISTRICT 4

Brice Fischer • Rich Hill



DISTRICT 4

Greg Bertz • Mayview

DISTRICT 5

Brandon Thiel • Marshall



DISTRICT 5

Brian Lehman • Versailles
MCGA Vice President
NCGA Member & Consumer Engagement
USGC Middle East/Africa

DISTRICT 6

Jim Boerding • St. Charles



DISTRICT 6

Dan Kuenzel • Washington

DISTRICT 7

Clint Stephens • Advance
MCGA President
NCGA Production Technology Access



DISTRICT 7

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