



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Cover Photo
Lester Farms, Gracey, KY



Letter from the Chairman of the Kentucky Corn Promotion Council

I recognize this year has brought its fair share of challenges and curveballs to our corn farmers. We've seen big swings in our weather, with lots of rainfall in the spring, making planting difficult, and drought in late summer, affecting millions of acres of crops in the Commonwealth. Farm inputs are higher than ever, with fertilizer costs rising while the price of corn is falling. Along with the market changes and shifting corn demand this year has also brought us, I know that many of your farms are feeling the strain and the stress.

One of our main programs to elevate Kentucky corn in the eye of the public and bring awareness to our farmers and the hard work their families do, day in and day out, was a new communications campaign that aired during the State Fair season. That campaign, Kentucky Strong, heavily targeted urban areas while their hearts and minds were turned towards the farm, during the Kentucky State Fair. This campaign was also accompanied by a consumer-facing website, FarmersFeedKY.com, which is a great resource for our promotional materials that will be useful and "evergreen" for years to come. It's important to corn growers that those in urban centers are constantly reminded of their rural counterparts, the farmers who are putting food on all our tables, and stewarding Kentucky's farmland.

The Kentucky Corn Promotion Council (KYCPC) also facilitated multiple visits this year from other nations to promote the utility of American corn in foreign markets and increase the value proposition of our commodities in new markets. We hosted the Japanese Trade Delegation as well as industry professionals from Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. These visits establish corn as a quality product for these foreign markets, continuing to open and strengthen foreign corn markets, and promoting free trade of our corn commodity.

Another major arm of the KYCPC responsibilities is the funding of research and of new opportunities that expand the use of corn. KYCPC had the opportunity to further corn options this year with the investment in companies that are prepared to pursue new and exciting uses for corn and corn-derived products. These companies were identified during the Radicle Corn Value Chain Challenge and offer ways to increase demand for corn through plant-based fuel and chemical replacements. I'm excited to see where these investments in sustainable corn demand and agriculture take us.

Amidst turbulent markets and uncertain times, KY Corn is here to promote and protect the interests of corn farmers, whatever may come. My sights are always set on furthering our Kentucky corn farmers and bringing the message of the families and individuals who center their life around the farm, the seasons, and the weather, to bring food to our plates. KY Corn is working harder than ever to help corn farmers swing for the fences when we see these curveballs come our way.



Ray Allan Mackey
Chairman, Kentucky Corn Promotion Council

Letter from the President of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association

Policy changes and trade changes this year have certainly taken us all for a ride, but I am optimistic about the work the Kentucky Corn Growers Association (KYCGA) did this year and the advocacy we were able to provide for Kentucky farmers. Our goal is to keep corn farmers top of mind for policymakers, and I'm happy to share the ways we accomplished that in 2025 in this report. We addressed important concerns from many policy perspectives, including farmer interests in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) initiative, year-round E15, and beyond.

KY Corn, working together with many other agricultural organizations like NCGA and other state-led corn associations, led efforts to keep corn issues in front of our representatives and policymakers. Throughout 2025, we have pushed for legislation allowing year-round E15 fuel, which could increase corn demand by billions of bushels a year, and save consumers cash on every gallon purchased. We called for the renewal of the USMCA, a vital market agreement for Kentucky farmers, along with 120+ other signers. We stood up for farmers' time-tested tools, defending essential pesticide technology when MAHA questioned its safety. We sent a letter to Washington with NCGA and 24 other state-led corn associations pledging to work with government officials to help address concerns with input costs, implement new trade deals, and remove trade barriers. It has been a big year for shifting agreements, and KYCGA has made sure farmers do not go unnoticed in these conversations.

This summer's Corn Congress in Washington, D.C. saw KYCGA meeting with policymakers on Capitol Hill, raising concerns of Kentucky corn growers, educating on agricultural issues, and speaking up for the corn grower. KYCGA met with Congressman Guthrie, Congressman Comer, Congressman Rogers, Congressman Barr, Congressman McGarvey, Senator McConnell, Senator Paul, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Growers also participated in meetings at the White House with Trump Administration officials, the USDA, the U.S. Trade Representative's office, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

We also are proud that Brandon Hunt of Herndon, Kentucky was elected to the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Board of Directors, the first Kentuckian to serve on the national board. Brandon will also serve on the NCGA Input Cost Task Force to address the drastic disparity between farm input costs and price that corn currently commands per bushel. Kentucky farmers are more frequently joining the national stage of ag policy and priorities, and we wish Brandon the best of luck in representing Kentucky corn growers, as well as the entirety of the corn industry.

With these collaborative efforts at the national and state level, we are making sure our corn farmers are not forgotten. There is always more work to be done, and I'm glad to get to be a part of that advocacy. As our world changes, we have to be ready to fight for our industry, fight for Kentucky agriculture, and fight for the corn grower. Thank you, as always, for joining me on this journey of support and community.



Josh Lancaster
President, Kentucky Corn Growers Association



STANDING UP FOR KENTUCKY'S CORN FARMERS

Kentucky Corn worked on multiple fronts to protect farmers' tools, export markets, and to make sure grower voices were heard. Whether defending access to herbicides, safeguarding trade with top export markets, or helping place a Kentucky farmer on the national board, these efforts showed our commitment to keeping policy decisions rooted in real-world farming and sound science.

Defending Farmer Tools in Response to MAHA Report

When the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission released a report casting doubt on the safety of proven herbicides like atrazine and glyphosate, Kentucky Corn took swift action to defend the tools farmers depend on. Working alongside NCGA and other state partners, Kentucky Corn pushed back against misleading claims with science-based facts and firsthand farmer perspectives.

Through engagement with policymakers, media outreach, and grassroots advocacy, corn grower leaders emphasized that these herbicides are among the most thoroughly studied and regulated tools, and are

Unified farmer voices shifted policy and preserved vital farm tools. critical to farm sustainability and food affordability. Kentucky Corn also reinforced that prohibiting these tools would drive up costs, reduce yields, and roll back decades of progress in soil conservation and sustainability.

As a result of coordinated advocacy and communication, the final MAHA report dropped much of its earlier alarmist language, acknowledged the role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in regulating crop inputs, and added soil health and precision agriculture as key priorities. This marked a significant policy win for farmers and reinforced the power of unified farmer voices.

Brandon Hunt Elected to National Corn Board

Brandon Hunt of Herndon was elected to the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Board of Directors, becoming the first Kentucky farmer to serve in this national leadership role.

A long-time advocate for Kentucky agriculture and a multi-generational row crop farmer, Hunt brings years of experience and commitment to advancing the interests of corn growers. His election marked a significant milestone in ensuring Kentucky's priorities, including profitability, innovation, and farmer-led policy, are represented on the national stage. Hunt will serve a three-year term.



Brandon Hunt and his family alongside Kentucky Corn leaders at Commodity Classic in Denver, Colorado.

Protecting Market Access to Mexico

In a major win for corn growers, a United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) dispute panel ruled that Mexico's ban on genetically modified (GM) corn violated trade agreements. Kentucky Corn, joining with NCGA and other state corn organizations, advocated for the U.S. Trade Representative to challenge Mexico's decree.

After a year-long effort, the final ruling protected access to the top U.S. export market, showcasing the value of farmer voices in driving policy change and protecting Kentucky's agricultural economy. Kentucky Corn remains engaged with NCGA and federal partners to ensure the decision is enforced and that future trade barriers are addressed swiftly.



"Kentucky corn farmers take pride in growing safe, sustainable food for our communities and the world."

Josh Lancaster
President, Kentucky Corn Growers Association



EXPANDING ETHANOL

The push to grow demand for corn-based ethanol is gaining momentum. Whether it's through advancing higher blends, unlocking new fuel markets, or strengthening state and national partnerships, Kentucky corn growers are helping shape a more sustainable, corn-fueled future.

▲ **Investing to Put Corn in Tractor Tanks**
 NCGA's Biofuels Action Team has partnered with New Century FS to provide a fuel trailer supplying E98/ethanol for limited fall field demonstrations of John Deere's prototype ethanol-powered tractor. This early-stage collaboration is part of NCGA's broader effort to explore the technical feasibility and potential of ethanol as a fuel source in agricultural equipment, with the long-term goal of assessing opportunities for future market development for corn-based ethanol.

“A complete shift from E10, which is currently utilized in almost every gallon of retail gasoline, to E15 would create an additional 2.3 billion bushels of corn demand.”

Adam Andrews
 Programs Director, Kentucky Corn

NCGA's Lane Howard: Driving Demand for Corn-Based Biofuels



Lane Howard,
 Director of Biofuels

It's an honor to serve corn farmers from across the country as Director of Biofuels for the National Corn Growers Association. In this role, I work to develop markets for corn-based biofuels that will increase domestic demand for US corn. Opportunities for corn-based ethanol are abundant – on-road applications (E15 to high octane), off-road (agriculture and construction), aviation fuel, new uses, and the opportunities go on.

My agriculture journey started on a small livestock operation in Southern Missouri. 4-H and FFA were staples growing up and led to me choosing to pursue a career teaching high school agriculture and FFA. While that work was certainly fulfilling, I decided to shift my career into a more technical and streamlined position at the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council and Missouri Corn Growers Association. In that role, I built stakeholder

partnerships and engaged with the broader corn and ethanol industries. Over the couple of years there, I grew my knowledge – and my passion – for grinding corn through biofuels.

Fast forward to 2025, opportunities began to open that I felt would allow me to leverage the relationships I built as well as apply other skills to help expand corn demand for all growers who use corn in their crop rotation. Joining the National Corn Growers Association has been an exciting opportunity for me to apply my skills to make your farm better. My goal is to always be a resource for state corn organizations and our members. Valuable partnerships – like our partnership with KY Corn – are critical to advancing all our goals.

We are truly a well-oiled, highly functional team. Our effectiveness to make a better business for farmers is built on trust between state and national staff and volunteer leaders, purpose and passion for service to the corn industry, and competence in a very technical field.

Lane Howard
 Director of Biofuels, NCGA

Strong Advocacy for Pathways to Higher Ethanol Blends

Regulatory relief within EPA to allow year-round marketing of E15 has been a long-held priority for our market development efforts. We know the importance of the ethanol market to farmer profitability, with one-third of all corn produced nationally tied to ethanol demand.

It's a complicated issue, both technically and politically. Although the most immediate opportunity for more ethanol is regulatory, a 2021 court ruling means it now requires a legislative solution. We must pass an RVP waiver for blends above E10 through Congress within the Clean Air Act.

KY Corn participated in an NCGA-led national campaign to show Congress that farmers understand the importance of this issue through a written petition. In just three weeks, 9,000 farmers signed a letter to House and Senate leadership – 551 from Kentucky.

The goal was to encourage inclusion of the Big Beautiful Bill Act. Although that didn't happen, the letter can still be repurposed as the next opportunity to hitch a ride on must-pass legislation.



Nine thousand signatures clearly explained to Congress and the White House that this issue is a big deal for farmers. Over the course of 2026, in the second half of the 119th Congress, it will be very impactful as an alternative mechanism to carry pending RVP legislation.

To the 551 Kentucky farmers who signed: Thank you! Your effort will not be in vain. Despite how obvious and simple this regulatory adjustment seems, the political realities make it a heavy lift. We will keep at it in 2026.

SUPPORTING NEW DEMAND THROUGH INNOVATION

Kentucky Corn is investing in innovation to grow long-term demand for corn beyond traditional markets. As a funding partner, the Kentucky Corn Promotion Council joined the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and state organizations in supporting new technologies that use corn to replace fossil fuel-derived materials.



“Driving market innovation in corn farming is just as essential as growing the crop itself.”

Ray Allan Mackey
Kentucky Corn Promotion Council

Identifying Breakthrough New Uses for Corn

This year, Kentucky Corn evaluated multiple initiatives for new corn uses. Investments and other awards were granted to the most worthwhile endeavors. This funding to innovative companies will facilitate the development of breakthrough uses for corn. These efforts help ensure that as growers continue to produce more corn on fewer acres, new markets exist to meet that supply. Below are some of the investments that came from Kentucky Corn checkoff funding:

New Iridium - Sustainable Acetic Acid

New Iridium’s photocatalysis platform enables the production of acetic acid and other essential chemicals from corn ethanol and carbon dioxide. Their process replaces petroleum-based inputs with a renewable feedstock and has wide application across industries like pharmaceuticals, plastics, and agrochemicals. Funding for New Iridium was awarded through the Radicle Corn Value Chain Challenge.

Catalyxx - Renewable Industrial Alcohols

Catalyxx is converting corn ethanol into long-chain linear alcohols, key components in the production of biodegradable chemicals and materials. This green chemistry approach supports the

decarbonization of industrial supply chains. Funding for Catalyxx was awarded through NCGA’s Consider Corn Challenge.

Acetic Acid and Vinyl Acetate Monomer (VAM) - Renewable Industrial Inputs

Kentucky Corn is also supporting research to develop corn-based materials for two high-demand industrial chemicals: acetic acid and vinyl acetate monomer (VAM). These compounds are essential ingredients in products like footwear foams, adhesives, textiles, paints, and packaging materials. Together, the global markets for VAM and acetic acid represent the potential for over 2 billion bushels of corn demand annually.

Låkril Potentially Unlocks New Markets for Bio-Based Acrylics

Låkril’s catalyst technology converts corn ethanol into bio-based acrylic acid, a renewable alternative to petroleum-derived ingredients used in paints, coatings, adhesives, and diapers. This solution reduces carbon emissions and opens new opportunities in the sustainable chemicals market.

Funding for Låkril was awarded through the Radicle Corn Value Chain Challenge in addition to direct Kentucky Corn investments for equity. Låkril was named one of the top 10 startups to watch by *Chemical and Engineering News*.



Låkril Technologies Co-Founder and President Chris Nichols.

WORKING FOR KENTUCKY CORN FARMERS



Kentucky Corn is more than just a board. It's a farmer-led organization representing the interests of more than 6,000 corn farmers throughout Kentucky. While you focus on growing corn, your checkoff dollars are working behind the scenes to expand markets, fund research, educate consumers, and engage policymakers.

Through your .0025 checkoff, combined with other grower contributions, we make a collective impact – generating corn demand, improving profitability, and ensuring the future of corn farming in our state.

This is how we work for Kentucky corn farmers.



INVESTING IN RESEARCH

From on-farm innovation to university partnerships, Kentucky Corn is advancing research that improves farmers' profitability and sustainability. This includes investments in cutting-edge ethanol technologies that expand the use of corn and its role in a low-carbon future.

Research Projects Supported by Kentucky Corn

The following is a sampling of research projects funded by Kentucky Corn. To find more information about innovative corn research, visit kycorn.org/checkoff/research/.

- Continuing to Evaluate Italian Ryegrass Control in Corn
- Ground-Truthing Drone Fungicide Efficacy
- Herbicide-Resistant Weeds Rapid Screening With Molecular Markers in Kentucky
- How Long Do No-Tillage Systems Benefit Kentucky Corn Growers in Sequestering Carbon in Soil?
- Innovative Technology for Assessing Soil Bulk Density Variability to Enhance Corn Production in Kentucky
- Split/Delayed N: How Late and Still Maintain Maximum Yield Potential?
- Understanding Sulfur Deficiencies in Kentucky Corn Production
- Using Barley and Legume Cover Crops to Reduce the Nitrogen Penalty to Corn: Year 2

Fueling Innovation in Hybrid and Heavy-Duty Engines with Ethanol

Spark ignition engine applications present a major opportunity to meet emissions standards for heavy-duty engines (HDE) through alcohol combustion—opening a promising new market for ethanol and corn farmers. For nearly a decade, KYCPC has partnered with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), focusing on ethanol's octane value to enhance internal combustion engines in the passenger vehicle fleet. That work has influenced platform upgrades across all major automakers.

Building on that success, KYCPC recently partnered with the International Center for Automotive Research (ICAR) at



Clemson University, investing checkoff funds as a cost-share with the U.S. Department of Energy. This three-year project, launched in 2025, aims to demonstrate strong support for ethanol combustion among manufacturers, suppliers, universities, and national labs. It will showcase ethanol's viability in hybrid engines as a sustainable, consumer-friendly alternative to electric vehicles—without major infrastructure changes.

The HDE component focuses on proving ethanol's ability to lower total cost of ownership while enhancing performance, echoing earlier ORNL research that helped usher in turbocharged direct injection for better efficiency and reduced emissions in passenger cars.

Partnering for Profitability Through Practical Research

Being a corn farmer is challenging in this economic cycle. While prices have only slightly dipped in the last couple of years since 2023, and the weather in this region has complicated corn yields, profitability has severely eroded. Overall prices of inputs have sharply risen to cause negative margins for the third year in a row for 2025; these days, farmers experience the highest ever cost of production in relation to crop prices. It is not feasible to expect farmers to make up that difference with prices and yields, so Kentucky

Corn invests in research to empower them with information that evaluates if expenditures have value and a favorable ROI.

Kentucky is in a unique region, and on-farm decision-making must reflect that. Our planting dates are on par with the Midwest, but our soils only hold about one-third the water. Management of weeds and common diseases here spans widely to reflect both the Midwest and the Southeast. Kentucky's margin for error is much smaller, and our demand for excellent management is much higher. Knowledge is power, and research is one key to how farmers can overcome these challenges.



Kentucky corn farmer Richard Preston (center) was presented the 2025 UK Grain Crops Science Service Award.

Honoring a Kentucky Corn Leader in Research

Hardin County farmer and longtime Kentucky corn leader Richard Preston was honored with the 2025 UK Grain Crops Science Service Award for his decades of collaboration with the University of Kentucky. From cover crop trials to precision ag testing, Preston's curiosity and conservation mindset drive practical, on-farm innovations that benefit farmers across the state.

Some of that research has helped optimize N, P, K, and Zn rates to use in corn. Some of that research has helped determine the best ways to manage the most problematic weeds and diseases. Other Kentucky Corn research investments in UK Ag include studies on new technologies like drones and applicator uniformity, and studies focused on improving soils. Kentucky Corn relies on the efforts of a research committee for direction; every investment decision they make is keenly focused on practical information for farmers.



COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION & CONNECTING WITH CONSUMERS

Kentucky Corn is investing in programs that deliver value on the farm and beyond it. From expanding conservation tools that help farmers improve profitability and soil health, to building stronger connections between consumers and Kentucky agriculture.



“PCM combines one-on-one technical support with detailed financial analysis, giving farmers the tools to make confident management decisions that improve efficiency, protect natural resources, and strengthen long-term farm profitability.”

Daniel Carpenter
Conservation Specialist

Partnering for Profitability Through Conservation Success

Kentucky Corn invests checkoff dollars in programs that directly support farmers and their bottom line. A key partnership in recent years has been with Precision Conservation Management (PCM), a free, farmer-led program that uses field data to help growers identify their most profitable and sustainable practices.

In 2025, Kentucky Corn expanded this partnership by launching a new PCM region serving Central Kentucky's Bourbon Region. With support from Kentucky Corn and the Kentucky Distillers' Association, the new region gives more farmers access to the insights they need to stay competitive.

To support farmers in this region, PCM welcomed Daniel Carpenter as its first Conservation Specialist. Daniel brings years of experience working alongside producers as an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent and is passionate about helping farmers improve both profitability and soil health. He provides enrolled farmers with individualized reports showing how tillage, nitrogen management, and cover crops impact their bottom line.

This investment demonstrates how checkoff dollars bring valuable data and trusted expertise directly to the farm, helping Kentucky's corn farmers remain resilient and profitable for generations.

Continuation of Consistent Communication Strategy

Serving as Communications Director for the Kentucky Corn Growers Association has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my life. Together, we built a communications program—strengthening how we reach our members, amplifying the strong voices you already carry into state and federal policy conversations, and making sure the story of Kentucky corn was heard well beyond our fields.



Kate Pride, former Communications Director

Leaving is bittersweet. I'm returning home to become a full-time, third-generation row crop farmer alongside my dad on Windimere Farms in Henderson County, where this work feels more personal than ever. Thank you for trusting me to help tell our story. I look forward to seeing the communications efforts continue to grow under the leadership of your new Communications Director, Camryn Manion. I'm confident great things are ahead!

Kate Pride
Former Communications Director, Kentucky Corn & Small Grains

Connecting Consumers to Kentucky Agriculture

Kentucky Corn spearheaded a collaborative effort among Kentucky's commodity organizations to launch FarmersFeedKY.com, a consumer-focused website designed to build trust and understanding between Kentucky's farm families and the general public.

As the lead organization behind the project, Kentucky Corn worked to bring together commodity partners, media, and messaging to create a platform that highlights who Kentucky farmers are, what they do, and why it matters. The site features high-quality videos showcasing real farmer stories, and easy-to-understand content on animal care, sustainability, food security,



and the role farm families play in their local communities and economies. The website also served as a landing page for a series of “Kentucky Strong” commercials that aired on local television during the Kentucky State Fair, further amplifying consumer reach.

This initiative connected Kentucky consumers with the values and commitments of the people who grow their food and steward the land, and showcased how farmers across the Commonwealth are “Kentucky Strong.”

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL MARKETS

Kentucky corn farmers and partners stepped up to showcase the reliability, sustainability, and quality of U.S. corn. Through on-farm visits, open dialogue, and collaboration, trade missions strengthened market access, reinforced sustainability claims, and helped ensure U.S. corn remains a trusted global commodity in an increasingly competitive global market.



Demonstrating Sustainability to Japanese Corn Buyers

Kentucky Corn partnered with the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) to host a delegation of Japanese corn buyers from the starch milling industry interested in how American farmers are decarbonizing the corn they import. Throughout their visit, Kentucky farmers demonstrated the practices and partnerships that make American corn a trusted, sustainable choice.

Buyers toured Lester Farms in Cadiz, where Micah Lester presented practices like no-till, strip-till, cover crops, and controlled traffic. At Hunt Farms in Herndon, participants observed wheat harvest and soybean planting. At Peterson Farms in Loretto, Scott Ebelhar, Bernard Peterson, and Grant Ziliak shared how they grow corn to meet the needs of end users in the distilling industry. At Double R Farms in Adairville, Brandon and Lauren Robey demonstrated the future of sustainable agriculture as a young, first-generation farm family. Buyers also met with USDA and NRCS officials to learn how conservation compliance is integrated into farm programs.

At each stop, farmers reinforced our sustainability claims on imported corn. The delegation also received a briefing on the Corn Sustainability Assurance Protocol (CSAP), a tool managed by USGC that documents sustainability practices to provide proof and transparency to international buyers.



Japanese corn buyers tour Kentucky farms to see sustainable practices in action.

Building Global Demand for DDGS

Following the U.S. Grains Council's (USGC) Export Exchange, Kentucky Corn welcomed international grain and feed buyers from Central America, South America, and the Caribbean to tour key agricultural and ethanol sites across Kentucky and Tennessee. The mission focused on showcasing the availability, quality, and reliability of U.S. dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS).

Participants toured the ethanol plant in Obion, Lowry Farms, Tosh Farms Feed Mill, and Hopkinsville Elevator's riverport facility to get a full view of the corn supply chain. They observed how corn is processed into ethanol and feed products, and saw firsthand on farm visits how precision equipment, sustainability practices, and grain storage systems define modern U.S. corn production. Guests also visited with Keith Lowry, Josh Lancaster, and Curtis and Steve Weatherford. They experienced corn harvest in action and deepened buyers' confidence in Kentucky's corn industry while strengthening international relationships.



Latin American buyers tour a DDGS storage facility during U.S. corn supply chain visit.

NCGA's Nancy Martinez: The Importance of Trade for Kentucky Corn Farmers



Nancy Martinez, Director of Public Policy, Trade and Biotechnology

As the Director of Public Policy for Trade and Biotechnology at the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), I have a unique perspective on

trade policy and its implications for corn growers across the United States. My role is to advance trade policies that preserve, support, and secure new global market access opportunities to make American corn farmers more successful.

I grew up in central Indiana and have spent many days on farms and in the livestock show ring. I'm a ten-year veteran of Capitol Hill, having served Senator Todd Young of Indiana, where I managed his agriculture and trade portfolio. That experience taught me how to build strong relationships and maximize advocacy effectiveness in Washington, D.C.

While complex and highly political, farmers must recognize the major impact trade has on profitability. Federal policy always influences trade, but 2025 was particularly significant. Amid the noise, we advanced policies to ease access barriers for growers in India, Vietnam, and Kenya—nations with rising protein demand and a growing need for

U.S. corn for feed. We also used USMCA to overcome a biotech ban, and as that agreement comes up for renewal, we're advocating for a full 16-year extension.

Trade policy also affects more than market demand. With input costs top of mind, NCGA endorsed legislation to examine concentration in the fertilizer market and formed an Inputs Task Force. We sent letters to the Administration and released reports spotlighting how high input costs are affecting farmers. In November, the Administration exempted fertilizer imports from tariffs, and we continue to push for relief on other duties driving up prices.

Having grown up in agriculture and spent years working in trade policy, I remain dedicated to advocating for policies that support the long-term growth and stability of our industry. NCGA's continued efforts to secure favorable agreements and address challenges are critical to our success. By staying active in trade and policy discussions, we can ensure a stronger future for American farmers.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment as we work together to make our voices heard and provide a brighter future for American farmers.

Nancy Martinez
Director of Public Policy for Trade and Biotechnology, NCGA

OUR VISION IS TO SUSTAINABLY FEED AND FUEL A GROWING WORLD

About KYCGA

The Kentucky Corn Growers Association is a dues-based, grassroots organization founded in 1982 to represent the interests of corn farmers. Its governance is a Board of Directors from six districts, with two elected directors from each district. Additionally, four regional corn growers' associations each send a representative. Three directors are elected from agri-business entities. One representative from the UK cooperative extension is elected as well.

About KYCPC

The Kentucky Corn Promotion Council was established in 1994 by KRS 247.6027. The Council's governance is of four members appointed by the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, plus two members appointed by the Kentucky Farm Bureau and one member appointed by the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. Its purpose is to direct funds collected through a state checkoff of one-quarter of one percent of the price of corn sold in Kentucky. The organization's goal is to create an economic environment to maximize on-farm profitability through market development, education, research, and promotion.

FINANCIAL REPORT September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025

Income

Net Checkoff Income	\$2,446,645
Management Fees	\$40,000
Interest Income	\$380,438
Total Income	\$2,867,083

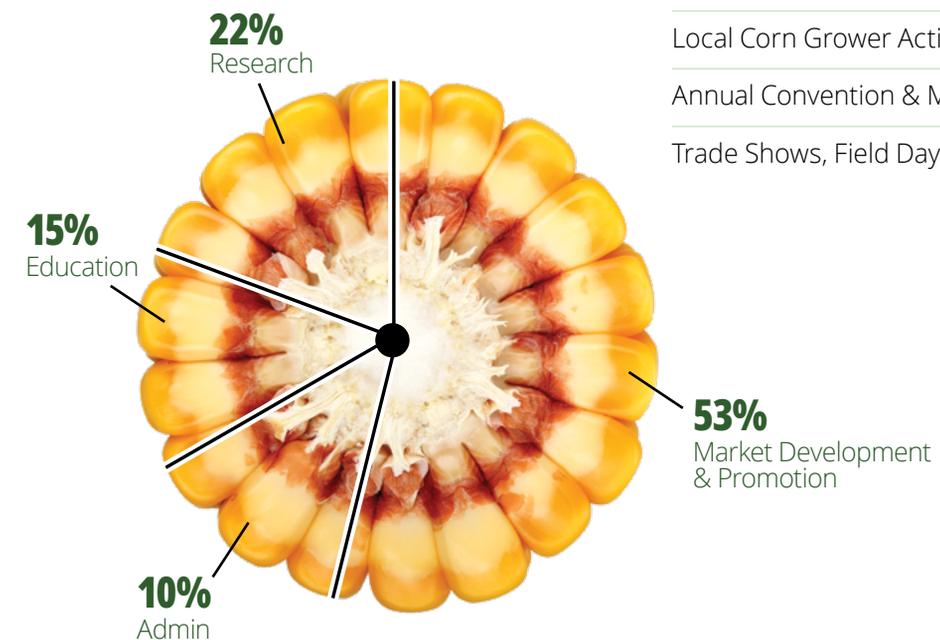
Expenses

Operating Expenses	\$537,357
Project Expenses	\$1,661,119
Total Expenses	\$2,198,476
Carryover	\$668,607

Project Expenditures

U.S. Grains Council	\$359,666
U.S. Meat Export Federation	\$120,000
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council	\$30,000
Promotion & Consumer Communications	\$80,938
National Corn Growers	
Base Funding	\$239,000
Biofuels Action Team	\$40,000
Communication & Education Action Team	\$40,000
Production & Sustainability Action Team	\$40,000
Trade/Transportation/Animal Ag Action Team	\$40,000
Waterways Council	\$2,348
Research Projects	\$309,701
Ethanol Programs	\$151,995
Education	\$31,443
Environmental Projects	\$33,720
Member & Media Communications	\$57,233
Kentucky Livestock Coalition	\$1,500
Local Corn Grower Activities	\$3,450
Annual Convention & Meetings	\$3,161
Trade Shows, Field Days & Displays	\$46,317

Distribution of Expenditures



KENTUCKY CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Josh Lancaster

President
Webster County

Micah Lester

Vice President
Christian County

Scott Ebelhar

Secretary
Nelson County

Brandon Hunt

Treasurer
Christian County

District 1

Brandon Wilson
Carlisle County
Steve Weatherford
Hickman County

District 2

Micah Lester
Christian County
Brandon Hunt
Christian County

District 3

Josh Lancaster
Webster County
Bob McIndoo
Henderson County

District 4

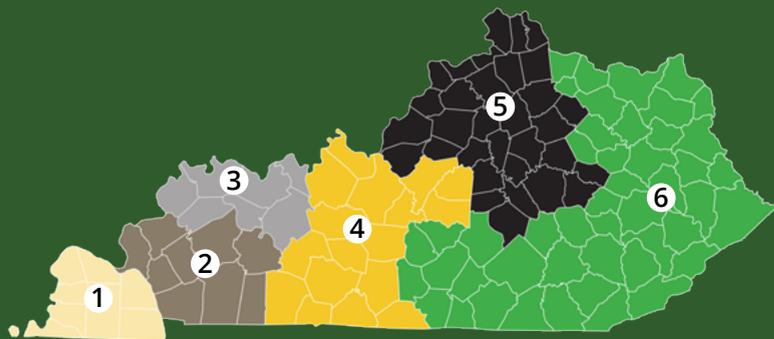
Scott Ebelhar
Nelson County
Brandon Robey
Logan County

District 5

John Mahan
Bourbon County
Lee Welty
Boyle County

District 6

Steven Bach
Bath County
Jonathan Gaskins
Pulaski County



LOCAL CORN GROWER ASSOCIATIONS

Redmond Greenwell Union County

Terry Wimp Lincoln Trail

Tyson Sanderfur Green River

Alan Hubble Pulaski County

INDUSTRY

Mike Chalfant Bayer

Ronan Cummins Agronomy One

John Danesi Agri-Industry Executive,
Retired

EXTENSION

Clint Hardy Daviess County

NCGA ACTION TEAM MEMBERS

Brandon Hunt

- Biofuels Committee
- Input Cost Task Force

Brandon Robey

- Communications & Education Committee

Josh Lancaster

- Trade, Transportation & Animal Ag Committee

Mark Roberts

- Production & Sustainability Committee, Vice Chair
- Resolutions Committee
- Nominating Committee

STAFF



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CAMRYN MANION

Communications Director
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KENTUCKY CORN PROMOTION COUNCIL

Ray Allan Mackey

Chairman
Hardin County

Russel Schwenke

Vice Chairman
Boone County

Joseph Sisk

Financial Agent
Christian County

Josh Lancaster

KY Corn Grower Board
Appointed Member
Webster County

Philip McCoun

KY Department of Agriculture
Appointed Member
Shelby County

Victor Rexroat

KY Farm Bureau Appointed
Member
Russell County



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