

LOOKING AT THE BACK←40

As the Nebraska corn checkoff reaches its 40th year, Nebraska corn farmers are looking back with pride.

And looking ahead to what's next.

Scott Spohn of Friend is one of the 23,000 Nebraska corn farmers investing in the Nebraska corn checkoff.

WINTER 2018
CornsTalk
A publication of the Nebraska Corn Board

The Nebraska Corn Checkoff

Created by corn farmers, for corn farmers.

In 1978, the Nebraska Legislature established the Nebraska corn checkoff. In fact, it was the first corn checkoff in the nation to be approved.

But it was corn farmers who led the charge.

Forty years ago, visionary members of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association saw the writing on the wall. They knew that, in order to take more ownership in their industry, they needed a program to invest in their future.

The initial corn checkoff was set at one-tenth of one cent per bushel, with those funds being used for research, market development, promotion and education. While the specific uses of those funds have evolved over the years, the overarching goal has not: **to add value to every bushel of Nebraska corn.**

The checkoff is an investment that Nebraska corn farmers make in themselves and the sustained success of their industry. **It's their money**—and they determine how it should be used.

Since 1978, that self-generated investment has paid big dividends not only for Nebraska corn farmers, but for our entire state.

Who serves on the Nebraska Corn Board?

The Nebraska Corn Board is comprised of nine farmers. Eight farmer-directors representing their districts are appointed by the Governor. A ninth at-large director is appointed by the eight board members.

How do farmers pay the checkoff?

Nebraska farmers currently pay the mandatory one-half cent per bushel to the checkoff when their corn is first sold to a buyer. That “first purchaser” could be a grain elevator, feedlot, ethanol plant or cooperative. Those first purchasers play an important role by assessing the checkoff at the time of purchase and submitting those funds to the Nebraska Corn Board.

TOTAL CORN FARMER CHECKOFF INVESTMENT SINCE 1978

Over the 40 years of the corn checkoff in Nebraska, farmers have invested a cumulative total of just over 10 cents per bushel to create new markets for their product. Even though Nebraska is the nation's third largest corn producing state, the current corn checkoff rate is the lowest in the country (tied with four other states).

YEAR	CHECKOFF RATE/BUSHEL	YEAR	CHECKOFF RATE/BUSHEL
FY1978-79	10/100¢	FY1999-2000	25/100¢
FY1979-80	10/100¢	FY2000-01	25/100¢
FY1980-81	10/100¢	FY2001-02	25/100¢
FY1981-82	10/100¢	FY2002-03	25/100¢
FY1982-83	10/100¢	FY2003-04	25/100¢
FY1983-84	10/100¢	FY2004-05	25/100¢
FY1984-85	15/100¢	FY2005-06	25/100¢
FY1985-86	15/100¢	FY2006-07	25/100¢
FY1986-87	15/100¢	FY2007-08	25/100¢
FY1987-88	15/100¢	FY2008-09	25/100¢
FY1988-89	25/100¢	FY2009-10	25/100¢
FY1989-90	25/100¢	FY2010-11	25/100¢
FY1990-91	25/100¢	FY2011-12	25/100¢
FY1991-92	25/100¢	FY2012-13	50/100¢
FY1992-93	25/100¢	FY2013-14	50/100¢
FY1993-94	25/100¢	FY2014-15	50/100¢
FY1994-95	25/100¢	FY2015-16	50/100¢
FY1995-96	25/100¢	FY2016-17	50/100¢
FY1996-97	25/100¢	FY2017-18	50/100¢
FY1997-98	25/100¢		
FY1998-99	25/100¢		
		TOTAL	10.20¢

40 key achievements since 1978 [in no particular order!]

1. Led a campaign to help Nebraska corn farmers recoup their losses from the Starlink recall, which brought some \$11.4 million back to the state

2. Hosted media reporters from around the world to learn more about corn production and biotechnology



3. Participated in continual discussions with the auto industry regarding utilizing higher blend ethanol fuels

4. Published *CornsTALK*, a consumer-facing publication that appears in every Nebraska newspaper three to four times a year

5. Through the National Corn Growers Association, worked to expand interest and farmer involvement in the Soil Health Partnership

6. Worked with Indy 500 champ Tom Sneva to promote ethanol



7. Hosted scores of international trade teams in Nebraska

8. Leveraged Corn Congress in Washington, D.C. as an educational tool for LEAD, FFA and 4-H

9. Helped sponsor a beef mission to Japan following the earthquake and tsunami in 2011

10. Engaged in all trade agreements including GATT, NAFTA, WTO, CAFTA and more

11. Celebrated the 50 Billionth Bushel of Nebraska corn exported (1993)



12. Established an annual award to recognize industry and ag media leaders in Nebraska

13. Partnered on research with UNL including the release of the Decide NOW marketing app, Nebraska Corn Checkoff Presidential Chair and canopy sensor research for improved nitrogen fertilizer use efficiency

14. Was a member of a partnership that was awarded a \$1.5 million federal grant to continue to increase the ethanol fueling infrastructure across the state

15. Helped establish the Industrial Ag Products Center at UNL

16. Showcased Nebraska farm families in a “Sustaining Innovation” campaign, including billboards on delivery trucks in Nebraska and in subway stations in Washington, D.C.

17. Organized a multi-commodity Farm Bill Task Force in 1993



18. Developed a Cattle Industry Forum to help promote beef

19. Organized the first Nebraska corn and beef Washington, D.C. Leadership Team

20. Supported key UNL education and communication initiatives including the Food Industry Building, Beadle Center, Veterinary Diagnostic Center, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (Curtis) and Raising Nebraska on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds

21. Sponsored Japanese researchers to study industrial uses for corn starch

22. Tested corn plastics with the City of Lincoln

23. Continued to promote the responsible expansion of our livestock industry through the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN)

24. Battled media attacks such as “King Corn,” “Food, Inc.” and “Frankenfoods” – and helped promote “Farmland,” a documentary film released in 2014

25. Coordinated a corn farmer call-to-action for the Renewable Fuel Standard

26. Launched the updated American Ethanol branding campaign on pump labels as an extension of the corn industry’s partnership with NASCAR



27. Helped fund the Grow Nebraska Dairy initiative, which is targeting new dairy processing in the state

28. Supported student internships with major cooperators, including an international internship—providing the next generation of leaders an opportunity to network and increase understanding of the corn industry



29. Helped fund *Market Journal*, the weekly farmer-focused television program produced by UNL’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

30. Showcased the term “Nebraska’s Golden Triangle” highlighting the economic foundation that Nebraska’s corn, livestock and ethanol industries provide the state



31. Assisted in partnership with NASCAR to promote the usage of E15 to more than 80 million race fans

32. Received more than \$1.5 million in federal grants to work on addressing phosphorus, increasing distillers grains usage, developing relationships with Mexican grain buyers and promoting Nebraska beef internationally

33. Partnered with the Nebraska Soybean Board and UNL to create and release the *Nebraska Soybean & Corn Pocket Field Guide*

34. Joined Field to Market to engage in the topic of ag sustainability across the entire supply chain

35. Partnered with the American Lung Association to promote the clean air and human health benefits of ethanol blended fuels

36. Collaborated with three other corn states to undertake market development missions to assess competitiveness in global grain markets

37. Coordinated campaigns to solicit public comment on proposed Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and atrazine restrictions to protect farmers from regulatory overreach and from losing valuable crop protection chemistries

38. Secured Olympic gold medalist and Nebraska native Curt Tomasevicz as the official spokesperson for Nebraska Corn



39. Spearheaded a “reverse trade mission” bringing Mexican grain buyers to Nebraska to discuss the importance of NAFTA

40. Engaged in the Husker Food Connection initiative on UNL’s City Campus to improve ag literacy and awareness among students

EXPORTS & TRADE

In 1978, exports were primarily in the form of raw whole corn—the very definition of a low-margin “commodity.” Since its inception in 1978, the Nebraska Corn Board has invested in adding value to every bushel, especially via exports of red meat and ethanol.

- The Nebraska Corn Board was an early member of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), which has steadily built a huge global demand for U.S. beef and pork—creating worldwide customers for Nebraska livestock producers and the corn farmers who supply their feed.
- The Nebraska Corn Board has been a long-time supporter of the U.S. Grains Council (USGC), which has offices around the world to promote exports of corn, sorghum and barley. The Council has also expanded its efforts to include corn products such as distillers grains, ethanol and gluten feed.
- Over the years, the Nebraska Corn Board has hosted dozens of international trade teams, showcasing Nebraska agriculture to customers, media and policy makers in an effort to build confidence, understanding and relationships that lead to acceptance of Nebraska corn and corn products.
- Exports aren't just about sending Nebraska corn and co-products out of the country. The Nebraska Corn Board has led efforts to increase corn and distillers grain demand in California dairy and poultry operations, feedlots in Colorado and Texas, and other domestic markets.

1. A Japanese meat buyer samples corn-fed Nebraska beef during a tasting and educational seminar in Tokyo. The event was sponsored by the U.S. Meat Export Federation, with support from the Nebraska Corn Board.
2. As the nation's second largest ethanol producer, Nebraska benefits from increasing exports of this clean-burning renewable fuel.
3. Exports of bulk corn and corn co-products continue to drive demand with checkoff support of the U.S. Grains Council.



> What's ahead...

With 96% of the world's population living outside the U.S., the growing market for Nebraska agriculture is clearly not here at home. But as worldwide competition heats up—from nations such as Brazil, Argentina, Australia and Ukraine—the U.S. needs to redouble its efforts to preserve and grow market share.

- As trade agreements are negotiated (or renegotiated!) with other nations, checkoff funds will continue to ensure policy makers understand the positive impact agriculture has on America's balance of trade—and just how important access to global markets is to the farmers and ranchers in Nebraska and the nation.
- As the world's middle class grows, their appetite for protein will grow as well. Through its support of the U.S. Meat Export Federation and U.S. Grains Council, the Nebraska Corn Board will assist in identifying emerging markets for Nebraska ag products.
- International exports of ethanol are on the rise as China, India and other nations battle air pollution and move toward renewable fuels. Through its support of the U.S. Grains Council, the Nebraska Corn Board is helping build global demand for ethanol—and that helps Nebraska ethanol producers and the corn farmers who supply them.



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Tom Sleight Over the decades, exports have evolved from bulk corn to value-added products such as gluten feed, distillers grains and ethanol. Corn checkoff funds from Nebraska are helping the U.S. Grains Council work to build relationships and identify emerging markets that offer potential for trade—and profitability—for Nebraska corn farmers. Some 96% of the world's population lives outside the U.S. and that's where demand is growing. With their checkoff and the high quality corn they grow, Nebraska corn farmers are positioning themselves to capitalize on that opportunity.

— President & CEO / U.S. Grains Council

RESEARCH NEW USES

Investing in new uses for corn has been a priority of the corn checkoff since it began in 1978. New uses spur increased demand as farmers continue to grow more corn. A primary focus has been on the usage of value-added corn products and the use of corn (especially starch) as a renewable replacement for petroleum.

- Research funded by the Nebraska Corn Board helped prove that beef cattle would thrive on distillers grains, a co-product of ethanol production. The ability to market a high-quality feed gave ethanol plants a second revenue stream—and gave Nebraska’s cattle producers a tremendous product to profitably feed their animals.
- Nebraska checkoff dollars helped fund the Corn Genome Project which has provided the scientific foundation for high-performing corn hybrids with desirable traits such as insect resistance, drought resistance and use-specific characteristics.
- The Nebraska Corn Board tested the use of corn-based plastics in an initiative with the City of Lincoln, focused particularly on the use of biodegradable trash bags.

1. Cattle in a Nebraska feedlot eagerly await their ration which contains distillers grains, a high-value feed produced at ethanol plants.
2. Wiper fluid is just one of the scores of products in which petroleum-based products can be replaced with alternatives derived from corn.
3. Checkoff funds support research at the University of Nebraska focused on finding innovative uses for corn and helping farmers reduce their costs.
4. The Nebraska Corn Board funds research on irrigation monitoring and other strategies to make the most of our precious water supply.



> What's ahead...

With yields on the rise, the emphasis of checkoff-funded research has shifted to increasing corn demand and lowering input costs. Current research projects are focused on:

- Reducing the amount of irrigation water applied without sacrificing yield.
- Improving the efficiency of inputs in order to reduce environmental impact and reduce costs of production.
- Continuing partnerships with the University of Nebraska will help ensure that essential research focused on Nebraska corn priorities can be funded.
- Discovering new uses for corn that would replace petroleum-based products in plastics, chemicals, clothing, packaging and other applications.
- Establishing an endowed faculty position at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln focused solely on research and development of new uses for corn.



Ronnie Green When the Nebraska Corn Board elected to fund the endowed chair in corn research at UNL, we expected them to invest in agronomic practices or yield enhancement—typical “corn research” initiatives. But to their credit, the Board has taken a more visionary position. They want to investigate potential uses of corn and corn byproducts—uses we don’t even know about today. The value of that approach to research in terms of the long-term sustainability of Nebraska’s corn industry cannot be underestimated.

— Chancellor / University of Nebraska–Lincoln

BIOFUELS

The growth of the ethanol industry is one of the most significant achievements in the corn industry over the past 40 years—and Nebraska Corn Board investments helped spur the research, development and promotion that have created a huge market for Nebraska corn farmers.

- Nebraska corn checkoff funds were invested early on in the development of the ethanol industry in the state. Nebraska ethanol plants now consume more than 700 million bushels of corn annually, helping sustain demand and support corn prices.
- Using its authority to influence legislation at the federal level, the Nebraska Corn Board helped develop—and continues to protect—the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The RFS outlines a national strategy for the incorporation of biofuels into the nation's fuel supply.
- Over the decades, the Nebraska Corn Board has funded scores of consumer outreach initiatives including at-the-pump promotions, advertising campaigns and special events to promote the benefits of ethanol-blended fuels.



CLEANER AIR FOR NEBRASKA

1. Governor Pete Ricketts helps a consumer fill up her car with American Ethanol-blended fuel during a pump promotion in Omaha.
2. The KAAPA Ethanol Plant in Minden is one of more than two dozen ethanol production facilities across the state. Nebraska is the nation's second largest ethanol producer.
3. Corn checkoff funds are being leveraged to install flex fuel pumps across the state which provide a wide range of American Ethanol blends for greater consumer choice.
4. Nebraska is one of five states funding a new television campaign on the Big Ten Network promoting the use of E15.



> What's ahead...

Ethanol has established a strong foothold in the U.S., but pushback from petroleum interests requires constant vigilance and investment to protect and grow the biofuels industry. At the same time, there is great promise as biofuels establish themselves around the world.

- Checkoff funds are being invested in new fuel pumps across the state and nation that dispense higher blends of ethanol, including E85 for flex fuel vehicles and E15, which can be used by virtually every vehicle on the road today.
- The Nebraska Corn Board is working in cooperation with other corn states to implement regional and national consumer outreach programs to increase awareness and use of E15. With 15% ethanol, every gallon of E15 sold increases ethanol usage by 50% over E10.
- The Nebraska Corn Board is participating with the Ag, Auto, Ethanol Working Group (AAE) to develop new high octane, low carbon (HOLC) engines that can run on E25 to E30 as a standard fuel.



Paul Kenney Corn checkoff investments made by Nebraska corn farmers helped create the ethanol industry in this state. It gave corn farmers a new value-added market for their product. And it created opportunities for corn farmers to invest in ethanol production such as our KAAPA plant in Minden. The growth of the ethanol industry is a shining example of how the corn checkoff has changed the economic landscape of Nebraska and spurred growth, jobs and vitality in rural areas of the state—and continues to do so.

— Chairman, KAAPA Ethanol

LEADERSHIP & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

It was corn farmer leaders who helped create the Nebraska corn checkoff 40 years ago. And it has been corn farmer leaders who have managed the checkoff for four decades. Over that time, the Nebraska Corn Board has invested in the next generation of farmer-leaders in a number of ways.

- Nebraska was the first corn state to fund student internships with major cooperators including the U.S. Grains Council (Washington, D.C. and an international office), the U.S. Meat Export Federation (Denver) and the National Corn Growers Association (St. Louis and Washington, D.C.).
- For years, Nebraska Corn Board has provided a flex fuel van for use by the Nebraska FFA state officers as they make their visits to chapters and events across the state.
- Corn checkoff funds have supported a wide range of youth and leadership development programs including LEAD, the Corn and Soy Collegiate Ambassador Program, FCCLA, Nebraska Ag Youth Institute (NAYI), 4-H and FFA.
- Several farmer-directors on the Nebraska Corn Board have ascended to leadership positions at the national level with the National Corn Growers Association, U.S. Grains Council and U.S. Meat Export Federation.

1. Joel McAfee, a farmer from Wakefield, Nebraska, addresses other participants from across the country during the NCGA DuPont New Leaders program.
2. Members of the Corn and Soy Collegiate Ambassador Program visit a dairy farm as part of their exposure to the scope of agriculture in Nebraska.
3. David Schuler, a UNL animal science major from Bridgeport, reviews reports during his checkoff-funded internship with the U.S. Grains Council office in Washington, D.C.



DEVELOPMENT



> What's ahead...

With fewer farms and fewer young people being raised on farms, we need to draw from young people without farm backgrounds to help fill the ag employment pipeline in the years ahead. Additionally, more and more farmers will need to step up into leadership and advocacy roles to help educate consumers, policy makers and other stakeholders.

- Continued support of internships which match highly qualified college students with top agricultural organizations to help them learn more about the scope and breadth of agriculture—and help them become advocates for the industry as they enter their careers.
- The Nebraska Corn Board continues to support the leadership development efforts of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) including Leadership at Its Best, Advanced Leadership and Young Leaders Program.
- Young Nebraska farmer leaders head to Washington, D.C. each year as part of the Nebraska Corn Board's D.C. Leadership program. In addition to attending NCGA's Corn Congress, the young farmers visit with policy makers, regulatory agencies and ag organizations on Capitol Hill.



Morgan Zumpfe I served as an intern with the Nebraska Corn Board when I was a college sophomore, which gave me great experiences for an entire year. That internship helped convince me that a career in agriculture was right for me. I appreciate that the Nebraska Corn Board invests in the next generation of agricultural leaders and advocates. Young people crave opportunities to prove themselves and gain confidence in applying their unique skills and talents. Through these internships, Nebraska corn farmers are looking forward and nurturing those of us who are going to take the reins in agriculture's future.

— Business Management Associate, Cargill Animal Nutrition

POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In Nebraska, agriculture is economic development. Nebraska's "Golden Triangle" of corn, livestock and ethanol creates incredible economic potential. At the same time, policy and regulations can have a dramatic effect on our ability to capitalize on that opportunity. Nebraska corn checkoff funds have worked for decades to protect the interests of Nebraska agriculture and transform our strength in corn production into economic vitality all across the state.

- The Nebraska Corn Board was an early supporter of AFAN, the Nebraska organization focused on building robust, sustainable and responsible livestock agriculture in the state. Economic models prove that Nebraska counties with livestock production tend to have higher per capita incomes compared to those without animal agriculture.
- While the Nebraska Corn Board is prohibited by law from lobbying at the state level, the Board has been engaged on the federal level on various Farm Bills, crop insurance, regulatory issues and other federal actions that directly affect the profitability of Nebraska corn farmers.
- Through its long-time support of the National Corn Growers Association, the Nebraska Corn Board has engaged in a wide range of federal policy initiatives, national biofuels programs, and innovative coalitions that have advanced the cause of corn farmers and agriculture across America.

1. Steve Ebke, a Nebraska Corn Growers Association farmer-leader from Daykin, Nebraska, addresses delegates at Corn Congress, the policy making body of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). The Nebraska Corn Board provides funds to NCGA for its policy work on the federal level as well as for other national programs.
2. Nebraska corn checkoff dollars are helping support Grow Nebraska Dairy, a coalition of organizations focused on attracting dairy processing and dairy production to the state.
3. Through its support of AFAN, the Nebraska Corn Board was involved in the effort to attract the Costco poultry processing plant to northeast Nebraska. The plant will provide opportunities for farmers to add poultry production as a way to diversify their operations.



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> What's ahead...

Nebraska's agricultural economy is driven to a great extent by federal farm policy. While Nebraska corn farmers continue to grow more with less, the fact remains that people who have never stepped foot on a Nebraska corn farm are making decisions and leading initiatives that affect growers' profitability and freedom to farm.

- As Congress considers the next Farm Bill, Nebraska corn checkoff funds will be leveraged to advocate on Capitol Hill and help craft programs and regulations that preserve the freedom to farm responsibly and profitably.
- While Nebraska is known as The Beef State, the Nebraska Corn Board is also supporting efforts to diversify the state's livestock portfolio in pork, dairy and poultry production. All of these species rely on corn in some form—and all generate jobs, tax revenue and economic activity all across the state.
- Animal agriculture is continually under attack from special interest groups. The Nebraska Corn Board will continue to tell the story of how Nebraska livestock producers care for their animals in a responsible and humane manner—and how the nation and the world depend on sustainable livestock production for safe, nutritious food.



Kristen Hassebrook Livestock production is a powerful economic engine for Nebraska—and to a great degree, that engine is fueled by corn. Through their checkoff, Nebraska corn farmers are helping promote the development of responsible livestock production across the state. They understand that feeding corn and distillers grains to animals adds value to their product. And they know that livestock production provides opportunities for farmers to diversify their operations and bring young people back to the farm. By supporting a thriving livestock industry, Nebraska corn farmers are building a stronger economic future for all Nebraskans.

— Executive Director / Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN)

EDUCATION & CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

For decades, farmers pretty much focused on growing corn. But as policy makers, media and consumers increasingly challenged agricultural practices, it became clear that farmers needed to speak up and engage in order to help the marketplace better understand what they do—and how they do it.

- The Nebraska Corn Board supported the Corn Farmers Coalition, a multi-state campaign targeted to the Washington, D.C. “inside the Beltway” crowd. This groundbreaking effort had a significant impact on improving the perception of corn farming among policy makers and staff.
- The Nebraska Corn Board was an early supporter of CommonGround™, a national initiative that provides farm women with the training and opportunities to engage with consumers in grocery stores and other public venues. These peer-to-peer conversations have had tremendous impacts in fostering consumer awareness and understanding of farming and how food is produced.
- For many years, the Nebraska Corn Board has published *CornsTALK*, a consumer-facing publication that is distributed periodically through all Nebraska newspapers. The publication focuses on topics of keen interest to consumers including GMOs, ethanol, women in agriculture, sustainability and other issues.
- The Nebraska Corn Board was the first organization to provide significant funding for Raising Nebraska, the ag literacy experience on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds focused on “your food and the families who grow it.”

1. The McDaniel family of Roca was one of the Nebraska farm families featured in the “Sustaining Innovation” campaign, which focused on the measurable impact of sustainable farming practices.
2. A family learns about where their food comes from at the interactive dinner table at Raising Nebraska at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds.
3. Joan Ruskamp, a farmer from Dodge, Nebraska, and CommonGround™ volunteer, talks with consumers at a grocery store.





> What's ahead...

Two generations have passed since the corn checkoff was established. In that time, Nebraskans and Americans in general have become more disconnected with agriculture. At the same time, consumers are more curious about where their food comes from and how it is grown. The job of education and consumer engagement becomes more important every day.

- The Nebraska Corn Board is amping up its support for programs such as Ag in the Classroom, CommonGround™, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance and other programs aimed at improving consumer education about agriculture, farming and food.
- The Nebraska Corn Board is partnering with other corn states to implement a nationwide consumer education campaign on E15 on the Big Ten Network. Another multi-state initiative has started in the Colorado Springs market.
- Biotechnology, GMOs and sustainability continue to be hot-button issues for consumers. Corn checkoff funds will be invested in state, national and international outreach and education to answer questions from consumers, stakeholders and policy makers.

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Deb Gangwish As farmers, we can no longer assume that it's enough to simply do our job well. We need to engage in conversations with consumers, influencers and thought leaders to help them better understand what we do and how we do it. In today's environment, we need to continually earn the trust and confidence of our neighbors, our customers and our nation. We need to let them know that while much has changed in farming, the one thing that hasn't changed is how much we care. The Nebraska Corn Board funds and facilitates a wide range of effective communications programs that help us tell that story here at home, across America and around the world.

– Shelton, Nebraska Farmer and CommonGround™ Volunteer

When corn farmers invest in their checkoff, they are investing in the strength of Nebraska.

The corn checkoff helps Nebraska agriculture leverage its statewide strength in value-added production—and that generates economic vitality all across the state.

NEBRASKA'S NATIONAL RANKING

Irrigated corn production.....	1st	Distillers grains production.....	2nd
Red meat production.....	1st	Overall corn production.....	3rd
Popcorn production.....	1st	Pork processing.....	3rd
Ethanol production.....	2nd	Pork production.....	5th

40 Years of Corn Industry Leadership

Since its inception in 1978, the Nebraska Corn Board has benefited from the leadership and vision of corn farmer-leaders from across the state. Nebraska's 23,000 corn farmers—and all of Nebraska—are in great debt to these farmer-leaders who contributed their time, talent and leadership to the Nebraska Corn Board over the past four decades.

NEBRASKA CORN BOARD Members who have served each district

District 1

Darrell Eberspacher 1978-1980	Seward, NE
Johnny Coder 1980-1983	Seward, NE
*Nancy Heidemann 1983-1989	Plymouth, NE
Kathy Wittler 1989-1992	Talmage, NE
Ruth Gerdes 1992-1999	Auburn, NE
*Bernie Heier 1999-2007	Walton, NE
David Nielsen 2007-2013	Lincoln, NE
David Bruntz 2013-	Friend, NE

District 2

Bob Bettger 1978-1981	Fairmont, NE
Vernon Krueger 1981-1984	Red Cloud, NE
Clayton Lukow 1984-1987	Holstein, NE
*Rodney Heinrichs 1987-1993	Carleton, NE
*John McKenzie 1993-1999	Harvard, NE
*Mark Jagels 1999-2014	Davenport, NE
John Greer 2014-	Edgar, NE

District 3

Roger Kreutz 1978-1981	Giltner, NE
Louise Merchant 1981-1984	Polk, NE
Elaine Stuhr 1984-1987	Bradshaw, NE
*Ronald Hunnicutt 1987-1993	Giltner, NE
Christine Bankson 1993-1998	Hordville, NE
Clint Jensen 1998-1999	Aurora, NE
Boyd Smith 1999-2002	York, NE
Stan Boehr 2002-2007	Henderson, NE
Curtis Friesen 2007-2014	Henderson, NE
Brandon Hunnicutt 2014-	Giltner, NE

District 4

Charles Brodersen 1978-1980	Herman, NE
*Bill Meyer 1980-1983	Pierce, NE
*Matt Connealy 1983-1989	Decatur, NE
*Bob Dickey 1989-1992	Laurel, NE
*Lee Klein 1992-1996	Battle Creek, NE
Jerry Aschoff 1996-2001	Madison, NE
*Bob Dickey 2001-2013	Laurel, NE
Debbie Borg 2013-	Allen, NE

District 5

*Floyd Wahlgren 1978-1986	Gothenburg, NE
Ernie Dobesh 1986	Grand Island, NE

Gary Baer 1986-1988	Kearney, NE
Rod Swanson 1988-1992	Overton, NE
Mark DeVore 1992-1995	Grand Island, NE
*Kevin Swanson 1995-2004	Overton, NE
Bart Beattie 2004-2007	Sumner, NE
*Tim Scheer 2007-	St. Paul, NE

District 6

*John Burkholder 1978-1979	Holdrege, NE
*Roy Pearson 1979-1982	Holdrege, NE
Don Sjogren 1982-1985	Funk, NE
*John Burkholder 1985-1988	Holdrege, NE
Steve Henry 1988-1991	Arapahoe, NE
*LaMoine Smith 1991-1997	Minden, NE
*Doug Boisen 1997-2006	Minden, NE
Dennis Gengenbach 2006-	Smithfield, NE

District 7

*Richard Meuret 1978-1982	Brunswick, NE
Bruce Hild 1982-1985	Neligh, NE
Richard Uhrenholdt 1985-1988	Elgin, NE
Sandra Koinzan 1988-1991	Neligh, NE
*Rod Hassebrook 1991-2000	Platte Center, NE
Jerry Childers 2000-2006	Chambers, NE
*David Merrell 2006-	St. Edward, NE

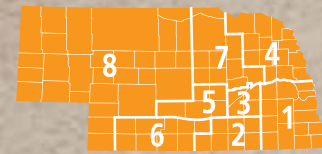
District 8

Robert Sterkel 1978-1979	Bridgeport, NE
*Ron Patrick 1979-1986	Grant, NE
Calvin Schulz 1987-1988	Paxton, NE
*Mike Bauerle 1988-1995	Champion, NE
Dale Kastens 1995-2003	Lodgepole, NE
*Jon Holzfaster 2003-	Paxton, NE

AT LARGE

*Wayne Ziebarth 1978-1984	Wilcox, NE
*Larry Sitzman 1984-1991	Culbertson, NE
Gale Lush 1991-1993	Wilcox, NE
*Bob Dickey 1993-1999	Laurel, NE
*Lee Klein 1999-2002	Battle Creek, NE
Tom Weber 2002-2005	Dorchester, NE
*Alan Tiemann 2005-2017	Seward, NE
Jay Reiners 2017-	Juniata, NE

* = Past Chair



District 1
Dave Bruntz
Friend, NE



District 6
Dennis Gengenbach
Smithfield, NE

District 2
John Greer
Edgar, NE



District 7
David Merrell
St. Edward, NE

District 3
Brandon Hunnicutt
Giltner, NE



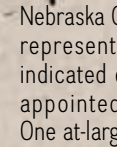
District 8
Jon Holzfaster
Paxton, NE

District 4
Debbie Borg
Allen, NE



At-large
Jay Reiners
Juniata, NE

District 5
Tim Scheer
St. Paul, NE



Nebraska Corn Board members represent the eight districts indicated on the map and are appointed by the Governor. One at-large member is elected by the other Board members.

Nebraska Corn Board Staff

Kelly Brunkhorst
executive director



Boone McAfee
director of research

Kurtis Harms
director of communications



Roger Berry
director of market development

Nikki Bentzinger
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