MICHIGAN CORN

BETWEEN THE ROWS

The Joint Magazine of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association

RECORD CROWD ATTENDS 2018

Great Lakes Crop Summit

SPRING 2018

MICHIGAN CORN

BETWEEN THE ROWS

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New Challenges in 2018 Underscore the Need for Vigilance and Engagement

By: Jim Zook, Executive Director, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and Michigan Corn Growers Association

Every year brings new political challenges to Michigan's corn industry, and sometimes renews old challenges. This year is no different. 2018 is already shaping up to be a busy one for the Michigan Corn Growers Association as we fight for the interests of Michigan corn growers in Washington, D.C.

Three of the biggest fights we have coming this year will be on the Renewable Fuel Standard, trade policy and the Farm Bill.

This year has brought renewed attacks on the Renewable Fuel Standard, driven by oil refiners and their lobbyists who are bent on boosting their own profits at the expense of rural America. They're attacking the RFS from every angle, from the number of gallons of ethanol called for, to the RIN credits that make the program work. Ethanol is one of the largest markets for Michigan corn, accounting for more than 35 percent of corn use in the state. We can't afford to backslide, especially now when so many farm families are struggling.

On trade, NAFTA renegotiations are continuing with mixed messages coming out of the administration. In addition, we're facing stiff competition from other countries who are stepping up their export of corn and corn products. We have to continue to aggressively push for trade agreements that work for American farmers and ensure we have competitive access to global markets.

And we can't forget the Farm Bill. The talk coming out of Washington is that there will be a big push for further cuts to farm programs in the next Farm Bill. We have to have a strong voice at the table to make sure that we don't lose funding for important programs like crop insurance and the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development program that help build export markets.

We'll keep fighting on your behalf on these important policy issues and letting you know when key officials need to hear your voice! If you're not already signed up for our email alerts, send us a message at corninfo@micorn and we'll make sure you have the latest updates on critical legislative issue.

Michigan Corn Growers Elects New Board Members

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) announced the results of its 2018 elections for the board of directors at the association's 2018 Annual Meeting at the Great Lakes Crop Summit.

"On behalf of the Michigan Corn Growers Association, I want to congratulate all of the new and re-elected board members," said Jason McConnachie, president of MCGA. "We look forward to having them serve as representatives for Michigan corn growers and thank them for their commitment to our state's corn industry."

MCGA board members serve 3-year terms. Elections were held by mail and ballots were tallied and then verified by the MCGA Election Committee.

Cade Klein (Marcellus) was elected to represent district 6, which encompasses Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties.

Russell Braun (Ovid) was reelected as an At-Large board member, representing the entire state.

Phil Gordon (Saline) was reelected to represent district 8, which encompasses Lenawee, Monroe and Washtenaw counties.

Matt Frostic (Applegate) was reelected to represent district 3, which encompasses Huron, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.

2018 Resear

Full reports for research funded by the Corn Marketing Pro

Goss's Wilt: An Emerging Problem for Michigan Corn Production

Researcher: Dr. Martin Chilvers, Michigan State University

Why it's important: This research is aimed at identifying emerging plant diseases in Michigan to help farmers better prepare to combat these diseases before they become an issue. Goss's wilt has been an emerging problem in surrounding areas, but fortunately has not reached Michigan. However, researchers also scouted for additional diseases and confirmed the presence of tar spot on corn in Michigan.

Dr. Martin Chilvers

Results: This project made critical accomplishments when it comes to helping Michigan farmers cope with emerging diseases, including:

- Demonstrating and improving the use of aerial scouting for Goss's wilt
- Developing a collection of Goss's wilt isolates from Michigan and other states to improve diagnostics techniques for future experimentation
- Conducting awareness activities across Michigan to educate farmers about Goss's wilt and other emerging diseases
- Confirming the presence of tar spot on corn in Michigan for the first time.

Next steps: More research will need to be conducted to determine how farmers can best combat Goss's wilt and tar spot in their fields.

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gram of Michigan are available online at www.micorn.org

Characterization of Rhizoctonia Seedling and Root Rot Disease of Corn and Rotation Implications

Researcher: Dr. Martin Chilvers, Michigan State University

Why it's important: This research helps determine which strains of Rhizoctonia are the most aggressive, and then tests those strains to see which fungicides are most effective at preventing root rot as corn emerges. This will ultimately aid farmers in treating the disease to improve seedling germination resulting in improved yields.

Results: This project made significant headway in helping farmers combat Rhizoctonia root rot. Highlights include:

- Developing a large collection of Rhizoctonia solani isolates from Michigan
- Identifying which isolates were most aggressive in corn and rotational crops
- Screening fungicides for improved management
- Leveraging CMPM investment to conduct industry fungicide trials

Next steps: This study lays the groundwork to partner with industry to conduct fungicide trials.

Gibberella Ear Mold, Seedling Damping Off and Root Rot, and Responding to Emerging Diseases

Researcher: Dr. Martin Chilvers, Michigan State University

Why it's important: The Michigan State University Plant Pathology Program will use these funds to isolate strains of Gibberella ear mold to determine which ones are causing vomitoxin, that severely decreased corn grain and feed quality in 2016. Using those isolated

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strains, they can test for fungicide effectiveness to better inform management practices. Currently, the study is testing the three most widely used fungicides (Caramba, Proline and Folicur) with plans to test Adepidyn as well if it is approved next year.

Next steps: This project is still ongoing and testing remains to be done on fungicide effectiveness and timing to help farmers predict and manage this disease.

Management Strategies to Minimize Gibberella Ear Rot and Associated Mycotoxin Contamination in Corn Grain

Researcher: Dr. Maninder Singh, Michigan State University

Dr. Maninder Singh

Why it's important: The overall objective of this study is to evaluate fungicide efficacy on Gibberella in a common set of hybrids with variable ear rot resistance across different geographical locations. This provides a range of potential weather conditions, which are critical to the development of the disease. The study also addresses western bean cutworm damage and its association with vomitoxin outbreaks. In addition to determining the effectiveness of foliar fungicides on different hybrids, this project will develop a dataset for development of a predictive model for vomitoxin outbreaks across Michigan. This will help farmers in making decisions on future fungicide applications for ear rot to improve grain and feed quality.

This project began in 2017 across 9 locations in conjunction with the MSU Corn Hybrids Compared Variety Trials. Data is still being evaluated.

Michigan Genomes to Fields: A Collaboration with the NCGA Genomes to Fields GXE project

Researcher: Dr. Maninder Singh, Michigan State University

Dr. Marisol Quintanilla

Why it's important: This project includes data from 20+ states and Ontario. The goal is to apply the information generated in each state by sequencing the maize genome and ultimately lead to crop improvement. The data will help develop the ability to more accurately predict plant performance under variable growing conditions. This project is a public/private partnership spearheaded by the National Corn Growers Association and the results will be shared publicly through the Genomes2Fields GXE project.

Next Steps: The next step is to fully utilize the value of genetic sequencing and combine this genetic information with phenotypic and environmental data to better understand and predict performance under variable growing conditions. This is a multi-year, multi-state project and results are still being developed.

Cass County Groundwater Assessment Pilot Project

Researcher: Michigan Gateway Foundation

Why it's important: The goal of this project is to improve the site-specific review process used within the Michigan Water Withdrawal Assessment Process as farmers seek to install new high-capacity wells. This project is being completed by a professional hydrogeologic consulting firm. From installed monitoring wells, the new data will be used to demonstrate long-term water level trends, measure interference during pumping and conduct aquifer performance tests. This will provide greater knowledge of groundwater and streamflow to more accurately predict the impact of water withdrawal on given areas and can augment the site-specific review process with additional scientific data.

Next Steps: This is a three-year project that is currently partway through year two. Models are being developed and findings will be released in year three.

Corn Nematode Survey and Evaluation of Nematode Damage, Effect of Management Practices and Soil Health

Researcher: Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, Michigan State University

Why it's important: This research is a survey of nematodes that affect corn in Michigan. It seeks to relate nematode abundance and distribution data to soil type and management practices. Since nematodes are microscopic organisms in the soil, damage often goes undocumented. It is important to track their presence and determine how farming practices such as cropping history, rotations, cover crops, tillage and pesticide use correlate to their presence. This research can also help identify beneficial soil organisms that improve soil health.

Results: During this research, commonly encountered nematodes in samples thus far include Spiral, Stunt, Root Lesion, and Soybean Cyst. At least one Lance, Dagger, and Stubby-Root nematode have been found at various locations.

Next steps: Researchers have also identified the need for an updated nematode distribution map for corn. To meet that need, in 2018 they will conduct a corn-specific plant-parasitic nematode survey spanning the lower peninsula of Michigan with at least 40 growers visited.

Understanding Nutrient Impacts and Sources at the Watershed Scale to Enhance Environmental Stewardship

Researcher: Dr. Joan Rose, Michigan State University

Dr. Joan Rose

Why it's important: This project collected and analyzed water samples to identify human markers and markers for livestock. This will help track how nutrients move into watersheds and determine the risk factors for nutrient movement. It also created maps that will allow us to best target mitigation strategies to enhance environmental stewardship.

Results: In analyzing the data, research showed that streamflow is an important transport factor in the widespread increase in manure markers in rivers draining from ag and natural fields. In addition, spring melt was the single strongest predictor for bovine and porcine markers in water. Research also identified watersheds with similar land use clustered together based on the markers that were present in samples.

Next steps: Having this data is important because it allows the agriculture industry to use scientific data to defend ourselves in debates about watershed contamination. Making sure we have solid baseline data is critical to protecting our right to farm. The research also identified watersheds that would benefit from additional study.

Comparing Best Management for Chemical Agriculture Fertilizer and Manure and the Impacts on Water Quality to Enhance Environmental Stewardship

Researcher: Dr. Joan Rose, Michigan State University

Why it's important: This study will collect and analyze water samples from selected watersheds to identify relationships between fecal contamination, water chemistry and microbial source markers. It will also analyze detailed agricultural practices, landscape and hydrologic data to combine with comparisons among human waste, animal waste, and chemical fertilizer. This will allow researchers to map the landscape and water quality data and relationships among them to identify practices that positively and negatively impact water quality.

Results: This research is building off of findings from Dr. Rose's previous CMPM-funded research and targets some of the key watersheds identified in that research. Researchers will collect samples in winter and during spring melt, analyze that data against land use and agricultural practices, examine high peak events and then meet with partners to discuss how the data can help farmers enhance their environmental stewardship efforts.

How Competitive are Inter-seeded Cover Crops in Corn

Researcher: Dr. Karen Renner, Michigan State University

Dr. Karen Renner

Why it's important: Corn rotations generally do not allow enough warm weather after harvest to establish cover crops. This project could open an entirely new window of opportunity to seed cover crops by interseeding them in the early growth stages of corn, around sidedress time.

Results: This research covered multiple sites over multiple years from 2015 to 2017. It looked at annual ryegrass, Tillage Radish®, and crimson clover. The research focuses on seeding cover crops from V2-R6. Research is finding success at these early growth stages without reducing corn yields. Timely rainfall is still important to cover crop germination and establishment. Various herbicide programs were found that control weeds without harming the germinating cover crops.

Next steps: Growers can use this information determine the optimum window for inter-seeding cover crops for stand establishment, biomass production, weed suppression, and improved soil health.

Attaining the 300 Bushel Yield Goal Through Climate Tolerant Hybrids, Population Densities and In-season Nitrogen Models

Researcher: George Silva, Michigan State University Extension

George Silva

Why it's important: While there are instances of 300, 400 and even 500 bushel corn yields, we all know that this is not typical for field and farm averages. This study used modern hybrids to see what combination of populations, row spacing and nitrogen application can work best for Michigan.

Results: Over the years, the plots have endured typical random weather conditions that reinforce that nitrogen (N) management is still the most difficult and important aspects of yields.

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In 2014 and 2015, 20 inch and 30 inch rows were included in the trials. Not finding consistent advantage, the 20-inch row spacing was dropped from the trials. Initial populations were 30,000, 36,000 and 42,000. With little advantage noted, the top and bottom rates were dropped, with both ends of the spectrum showing slight yield decreases.

Early plots included N ranging from 120 to 300 lbs. per acre in several applications. These extreme ranges were dropped and the plots continued to look at 160, 240 and 280 lbs. per acre N rates, using 28%. The research showed that if too much N was lost early season, the late season N provided a rescue treatment. If drought conditions prevail, late season N didn't help, and excess N could be found in stalk and soil tests after harvest. A general trend with rates was that 160 lbs/A N, was not the highest yields, but rarely were the yields with higher N rates statistically significant.

2013: 246 bu./A achieved with 240 lbs. N/A under favorable rainfall.

2014: 217 bu./A achieved with 240 lbs. N/A under widespread flooding and N losses.

2015: 245 bu./A achieved with 240 lbs. N/A with wet spring.

2016: 203 bu/A achieved with 300 lbs. N/A under severe drought.

2017: 271 bu./A achieved with 280 lbs. N/A under low seasonal rains. Rainfall timing and amount still has the largest impact on nitrogen and yields.

Utilizing Farmers' Changed N Application Technologies to Demonstrate Improved Nutrient Management Practices

Marilyn Thelen

Researcher: Marilyn Thelen, Michigan State University Extension

Why it's important: This study compared new nitrogen (N) application methods in field size trials by partnering with farmers who had identified and adopted various N management practices.

Results: Results from commercial fertilizer and manure application of N were compared. For N management with commercial fertilizer some key findings include:

- Weather conditions during the growing season impact the success of extra N applied at pre-tassel.
- Utilizing the standard N rate and applying the final N pre-tassel resulted in reduced yield.
- Extra nitrogen applied at the pre-tassel stage was not statistically different from all the nitrogen being applied pre-plant or the final being applied at side-dress.
- Applying nitrogen pre-tassel resulted in higher soil nitrate levels in the 0 – 8 inch soil profile. Nitrogen remaining in the soil profile is subject to loss before the next growing season.

For N management with manure, some key findings include:

- Nitrogen provided by swine manure is equivalent to commercial nitrogen when the swine manure is applied at agronomic rates and in a manner to reduce environmental losses.
- Additional commercial nitrogen is discouraged when swine manure has been applied.

Next steps: This research identified some key practices that farmers can apply as well as some areas for additional study. In particular, there is an opportunity for continued study to help farmers evaluate available nitrogen prior to additional swine manure or commercial nitrogen applications.

Soil Phosphorous Dynamic Holding Capacity

Dr. Steven Safferman

Researcher: Dr. Steven Safferman, Michigan State University

Why it's important: This research is using simulated soil column studies to model the vertical movement of phosphorus (P) below the surface. Their goal is to learn more about maximizing the beneficial uptake of P by plants and minimize the transport of P through tile drainage and eventually to surface waters. There is vast diversity in soil types and conditions in our state, but this is a beginning to narrow down what may be predicable or not, under various simulated rain events using manure and fertilizers applications. The information gathered can be used along with existing best management practices to help growers reduce the risk of P reaching surface waters and improve their profits.

Results: Based on simulated soil column studies, dye tracer studies and modeling, researchers found the following key takeaways:

- Soil column studies showed no statistically significant difference between soil retention and effluent loss of P between mineral fertilizers (MAP, DAP and TSP) when applied at equal rates of P.
- Soil column studies did find statistically significant differences between effluent losses after a heavy rain event between organic and mineral fertilizers.
- Dye tracer studies showed a noticeable difference in macro pore structure between till and no-till practices.
- Trends appear to show deeper penetration of dye into the soil profile for no till soils and heavy clay soils.
- Modeling activities projected that heavy clay soils would have greater losses of water extractible P relative to lighter soils. This was due to the lack of ability of these soils to incorporate any water into the soil matrix, creating a flushing effect within the fissures. Dye tracer studies backed this, but field testing should be used to validate.

Next steps: Many of these findings can be applied to help growers improve their efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance stewardship by limiting P losses. Technologies to control and recover phosphorus at the edge of field should be examined, including the use of sorptive materials and controlled drainage structures. This research was done using soil columns to simulate vertical movement of P below the soil surface. Follow up studies need to be conducted in actual field situations.

Tailoring N Rates to Observed Spatial and Temporal Variability in Corn to Increase Profit and Reduce N Losses

Dr. Bruno Basso

Researcher: Dr. Bruno Basso, Michigan State University

Why it's important: The overarching goal of this project is to develop new knowledge that can lead to improvements in N management and crop water use efficiency. This is especially important as corn growers face lower prices and look for ways to reduce input costs and boost yields.

The research aims to determine to what extent knowledge of yield in different places in the field (spatial) and over different seasons (temporal) can be used to improve N management and farmer profitability with the development of an integrated crop model. Dr. Basso has also received additional funding from CMPM to incorporate the use of aerial imaging into this study.

Results: Researchers have been monitoring experiments at farmers' fields designed to evaluate plant to plant variability and variable rate applications of N fertilizer using information from Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), airborne optical and thermal imagery, and ground-truth measurements with different hand-held devices. This data is currently being evaluated.

A New Algorithim to Quantify Yield Stability and N Balance at Sub-Field Scale in Every Corn Field in Michigan

Researcher: Dr. Bruno Basso

Why it's important: Dr. Basso is developing a new algorithm to analyze historical satellite imageries to quantify corn production's spatial and temporal pattern variations at the sub-field level. This knowledge of yield stability is then converted into crop N uptake, N losses and Nitrogen Use Efficiency. The objective of this project is to be able to quantify stability zones - high yielding and stable over time, medium yielding and stable, low yielding and stable, and unstable at the subfield scale for any field where corn is grown.

Next steps: Preliminary results have been collected, but analysis is ongoing.

In-season Nitrogen Applications Using Applicator-Assisted Technologies

Researcher: Dr. Kurt Steinke

Why it's important: Nitrogen (N) placement and timing are key factors for synchronizing N availability with peak corn N demand, reducing N loss and increasing cost efficiency. New technologies have been developed in response to the need for more efficient N applications, including the new Y-Drop method.

Dr. Kurt Steinke

Results: Based on one year of trials, neither corn yields or profits were increased with Y-drop, late season N. When compared to various combinations of pre-plant, 2x2 at planting and sidedress N applications, the 40 lbs. N applied 2x2 followed by V4-6 sidedress continued to offer the most consistency across locations and supports data collected from 2014-2016.

In addition to plenty of opportunities to learn, the summit gives farmers a chance to relax and get to know their fellow farmers and agribusiness partners.

Farmer attendees had the chance to network with more than 60 sponsors at the trade show during this year's event.

Suzanne Pish presented on managing stress on the farm and how to safeguard mental health during tough times.

A big thank you to our Michigan FFA officers who came out to help with the conference this year.

Record Attendance for 2018 Great Lakes Crop Summit

More than 1,000 Gather for Networking and Learning

More than 1,000 people gathered at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort to attend the 2018 Great Lakes Crop Summit. The event featured expert speakers from universities and industry on a wide range of topics, including agronomy, grain marketing, policy and managing the family business.

The event is a joint effort of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee and the Michigan Wheat Program.

Next year's Great Lakes Crop Summit will take place January 30 – 31, 2018 at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant.

The 2018 Great Lakes Crop Summit was made possible by the generous support of more than 60 sponsors and exhibitors. A list of sponsors, the full speaker list and information about past years are available at www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com

Introducing the Inaugural MI CENT Class

The inaugural class of MI CENT, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan's young farmer leader program, met for the first time this January. This program is designed to provide educational opportunities for the next generation of Michigan corn farmers. Topics include agronomy, technology, farm management, the work of the National Corn Growers Association and a trip to Washington D.C. to lobby Michigan's Congressional delegation. To nominate yourself or another farmer for next year's program, contact Theresa Sisung at (517) 668-2676.

Left to right: Scott Thomas, Jay Parr, Steve Keinath, Damien Miller, Jake Lonier, Jason McConnachie, Logan Crumbaugh, Jake Wamhoff, Allyson Maxwell and Ross Meyer

2018 MI Cent Class

Logan Crumbaugh, ***St. Louis***

Logan is part of his family's 3,500 acres cash crop farm, Crumbaugh Legacy, Inc. They grow sugar beets, corn, soybeans and wheat in addition to some custom work for neighbors. Logan received a bachelor's degree in agribusiness management from Michigan State University in 2017.

Steve Keinath, ***Deckerville***

Steve has been farming full time with his father since 2006. They raise nearly 1,000 acres of corn, wheat, navy beans and sugar beets. Before returning to the farm full time he worked in construction and as a certified mechanic. Steve also started a Pioneer seed dealership, C & M Seeds in 2016. He and his wife Kayla have two children, Maggy and Charly.

Jake Lonier, ***Lansing***

Jake is the sixth generation to be a part of his family's 3,000 acre farm, Shady Lodge Farm. He has worked full time on the farm for nearly 10 years and hopes to take over the farm one day. They raise corn, soybeans and wheat. In addition, they do some custom harvesting and fertilizer spreading and have their own tile plow.

Allyson Maxwell, ***Hope***

Allyson is a city-girl-turned-farm-wife who left her suburban roots near Kansas City, and married into a fourth-generation farm family. Allyson and her husband, Peter, farm with Peter's father, uncles, and cousin near Midland. They raise corn, soybeans, sugar beets and wheat. Allyson earned a bachelor's degree in English from Kansas State University before working for Monsanto and Crop Production Services. Currently, she works at home and helps with the family farm business. Allyson and Peter have two sons.

Jason McConnachie, ***Deckerville***

Jason farms 3,600 acres of sugar beets, corn, dry beans and wheat with his father and two younger brothers. He has been farming full time since graduating from the ag mechanics program at the University of Northwestern Ohio 15 years ago. Jason and his wife Angie have three kids, Alayna, Adrianna and Ethan. He enjoys coaching the kids in sports, mainly hockey and baseball, serving on the Michigan Corn Growers Association board and being involved with the Masonic Lodge and Goodtimer's organizations.

Ross Meyer, ***Grand Ledge***

Ross has worked for Shady Lodge Farm LLC since 2011. He also farms 500 acres of corn and soybeans of his own, in addition to his duties at Shady Lodge Farm. Ross is responsible for all the management decisions on his 500 acres. While in high school Ross took heavy equipment repair and equipment operator classes at AIS. In his spare time Ross enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

Damien Miller, ***Elsie***

Damien has been farming with his father Scott all his life. Together, they operate a 2,300 acre cash crop farm growing corn and soybeans. Damien is a 2012 graduate of Ferris State University where he received a degree in construction management and surveying engineering, while also playing football. He currently works full time off the farm but returns whenever he can to help and hopes the addition of a 4,800-head hog finishing facility will bring him closer to being able to farm full time. Damien and his wife Kortney, have one daughter, Paisley.

Jay Parr, ***Brown City***

Jay has been farming with his father, Jeff, since 2008. Together they operate a 1,300 acre cash crop farm growing corn, soybeans, and sugar beets. They also provide custom planting and harvesting services to neighboring farms. Prior to returning to the farm, Jay attended Michigan State University, graduating from the Agricultural Industries program. Jay and his wife, Tara, have two daughters, Millie and Hazel.

Scott Thomas, ***Brown City***

Scott works for Eager Farms where he has been employed for the last 15 years. They raise 1,200 acres of corn, soybeans and sugar beets. In addition to planting, scouting, spraying and harvesting Scott also manages the farm's seed warehouse for their Pioneer dealership. He also helps with his family's 450 acre farm. Scott was selected as the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Agriculture Employee Award winner in 2017. He also serves on the Sanilac County Farm Bureau Board.

Jake Wamhoff, ***Williamston***

Jake farms 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat with his father and grandfather. He has been back on the farm for three years and a Becks Hybrids seed dealer for two. Jake graduated from Michigan State in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Finance. He is an avid Spartan sports fan and in his spare time he restores old John Deere tractors with his father.

Michigan Corn Growers Association Presents Awards at 2018 Annual Meeting

The Michigan Corn Growers Association honored State Representative Dan Lauwers and farmer Ken Wadsworth with special awards at this year's annual meeting.

Twelve years ago, the Michigan Corn Growers Association created the "Friend of Corn" award as a way to honor individuals who have shown great support, leadership and dedication to the corn industry. In 2017 the board voted to present the Friend of Corn award to a legislator each year. This year the board chose State Representative Dan Lauwers to receive the Friend of Corn Award.

Dan's career has always centered around agriculture, and he has been a strong and consistent voice of support for our industry. From his support of the MAEAP program to making sure the programs and funding were available to improve the agriculture industry, Dan has been a vocal advocate for corn growers and farm families. He has consistently stood up for science-based decision making and made sure that agriculture was represented accurately in policy discussions in Lansing.

In 2017, the board also created a new Distinguished Service Award. This annual award will be presented to people in the corn industry that have exhibited exemplary leadership and service to their industry. The board chose to present the 2017 Distinguished Service Award to Ken Wadsworth.

Ken Wadsworth is a farmer that many others look up to. Ken has dedicated his life to expanding the opportunities on his farm as well as the operations of his neighbors. Ken served as Former Chairman of the Michigan Corn Growers Association and as a Board Member of Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and was instrumental in getting the first ethanol plant in Michigan. Ken has dedicated his life to making sure that opportunities were available not just to his family, but to his entire community and industry.

The MCGA thanks Ken and Dan for their commitment and dedication to Michigan's corn industry. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Dan Lauwers

Ken Wadsworth

Michigan State University Student Receives First Frank Lipinski Scholarship

The Michigan Corn Growers Association awarded Sarah Drumm with the first annual Frank Lipinski scholarship. This scholarship targets students who do not come from a farm background but are interested in pursuing careers in the agriculture industry.

"Coming from a non-traditional agricultural background, one question I am often asked is how I became interested in agriculture," said Drumm. "My interest started at a young age. I was always in the garden with my grandparents helping them pick everything, from blueberries to corn. When I finally turned 14, I landed a job at the local greenhouse. During my 4 years of employment, the owners helped increase my knowledge of plants and my love for agriculture grew. When it came time for me to go to college, I knew exactly what I wanted to study. I wanted to help feed the world by studying agriculture and develop an understanding of how our agricultural output could be improved."

Drumm is currently a third-year student with dual majors in horticulture and crop and soil science.

WE NEED YOU!

To host a Between the Rows Tour stop in late August 2018

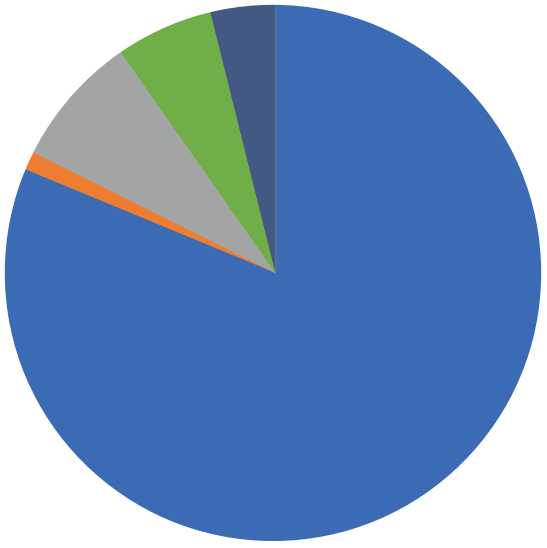
The Between the Rows Tour begins with staff and volunteers walking fields across the state to estimate corn yield. At the end of each day an event is held at a local farm, *hopefully yours*, to discuss the crop outlook for the corn harvest.

If you are interested in hosting a Between the Rows stop in 2018, or the future, please contact Theresa Sisung at TSisung@micorn.org or 517-668-2676.

The Between the Rows Tour is brought to you by:

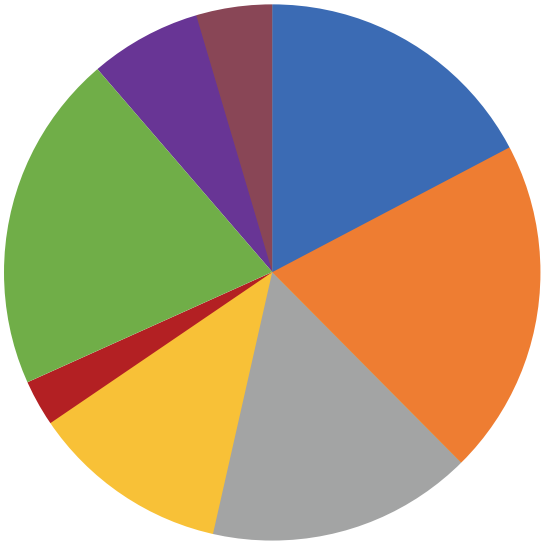
CORN MARKETING PROGRAM CMPM OF MICHIGAN

mac michigan agricultural commodities, inc.



2017 REVENUE

- Assessment Revenue
- Great Lakes Crop Summit
- Miscellaneous Income
- Building Rental Income
- Administrative Reimbursement
- Dividends an Interest
- Grant Revenue



2017 EXPENDITURES

- Education
- Research
- Administration
- Crop Summit
- Development
- Overhead
- National Association Funding
- Rental Expenses

2017 – Fiscal Report for the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

In 2017, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan continued to invest your checkoff dollars in programs and activities aimed at strengthening our industry. This includes market development, consumer education, promotion and research.

This fiscal year, 81% of our revenue came from the checkoff assessment, which amounted to $2.447 million. Total income for CMPM was $3.01 million with the remainder of our revenue derived from special events and arrangements, rental income from our building, interest and other miscellaneous income. The income from these additional revenue sources do not add to our operational budget and are directly passed through to cover expenses.

We take seriously our responsibility to serve our stakeholders well and invest their money in ways that will make a difference. To that end, we strive to keep our overhead and administrative expenses low so that more of your money goes toward programs aimed at increasing your profitability and market opportunities. In 2017, 11% of our budget went to cover overhead and just 3% went to administrative costs.

In terms of programs, the majority of our budget goes to our top three priorities: market development, education and research – with slightly more emphases on the first two. This year we spent 19% of our overall budget on education, 19% on market development and 16% on research. In addition, we are able to leverage our budget and staff to achieve greater impact by partnering with national organizations including the National Corn Growers Association, the U.S. Grains Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation. These partnerships account for 21% of our budget.

Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
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Board Members and Staff

Corn Marketing Program of Michigan Board Members

Blaine Baker – *District 4*
Dr. Doug Buhler – *Mich. State University*
John Burk – *District 8*
John Cnudde – *MABA*
Tom Durand – *District 7 (President)*
Matt Holysz – *District 2 (Treasurer)*
Steve Lonier – *District 6*
Jason McConnachie – *MCGA President*
Craig McManus – *District 5 (Secretary)*
Randall Poll – *District 1*
Heather Throne – *Ex-Officio, MDARD*
Paul Wagner – *District 9 (Vice President)*
Ned Wyse – *District 3*

Michigan Corn Growers Association Board Members

Carlton Blough – *District 2*
Russell Braun – *At-Large*
Dan Cable – *District 8 (Vice President)*
Matt Cary – *District 2*
Earl Collier – *District 6*
Gabe Corey – *Industry Representative*
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Richard Dobbins – *District 7*
Tom Durand – *CMPM President*
John Ferkowicz – *At-Large*
Janna Fritz – *District 3 (Secretary/Treasurer)*
Matthew Frostic – *District 3*
Philip Gordon – *District 8*
Mike Hard – *District 7*
Tony Igl – *District 4*
Dr. James Kells – *Mich. State University*
Mark Kies – *Hillsdale Co. President*
Cade Klein – *District 6*
Brian Kreps – *Monroe Co. President*
Jason McConnachie – *Sanilac Co. President (President)*
Josh Miller – *Clinton Co. President*
Ron Parks – *District 5*
Jeff Sandborn – *NCGA Corn Board*
Waylon Smolinski – *District 1*
Eric Voisinet – *District 4*
Tom Ziel – *Huron Co. President*

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Angel Jenio – *Communications Director*
Natalie Rector – *Research Coordinator*
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Penni Sweeney – *Membership & Events Director*
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