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Tom Bressner, Wisconsin Agri-Business Assn.
Dale Drachenberg, Didion Ethanol



WCGA Annual Meeting to be held February 3

The WCGA 2022 Annual Meeting will be held at Noon on Thursday, February 3, at the Kalahari Convention Center, in conjunction with the 2022 Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo.

The meeting is open to all WCGA members and corn growers interested in joining the organization. To confirm your membership status, please contact Nicole Wagner at nicole@wicorn.org.



The WCGA Policy Resolutions Meeting will also be held in the Wisconsin Dells at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2, at the Kalahari Convention Center. To register for the meeting, please contact Nicole Wagner at nicole@wicorn.org.

WCGA will once again be featuring a CORN PAC Silent Auction at the Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo, as well as the Wisconsin Corn Foundation's Scholarship Silent Auction. Both auctions can once again be found in the Empress Room.

To register for the Wisconsin Corn/Soy Expo, visit <https://cornsoyexpo.org/>

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association – 47th Annual Meeting Agenda*

1. Call to Order – Mark Hoffmann, President
2. Roll Call of Directors
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business
 - a. Activities Update
 - b. NCGA Update
6. New Business
 - a. Election of Directors
 - b. 2021 Yield Contest Winners
 - c. Resolutions
7. Adjourn

**Agenda subject to change.*

CALENDAR

**All dates & locations are current at the time of printing. Due to the ongoing pandemic, details may change. Stay up-to-date by visiting wicorn.org.*

February 2
Policy Resolutions Meeting
Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

February 3
WCGA Annual Meeting
Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

March 10-12
Commodity Classic
New Orleans, La.

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The President's Perspective

Well, it's that time again. It is hard to believe it's already January. Where did the time go? I hope everyone had a safe and healthy holiday season and a good harvest season. We have a lot going on with at the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association. Internally, we are currently modifying our staff structure to employees, rather than independent contractors. We are excited to welcome Brenda Gudex to the team as our new Communications and Program Manager. You can read more about Brenda below and I hope a lot of you will stop and introduce yourselves to her at Corn/Soy Expo.

We are also working on a new strategic "Corn Vision" plan with all of the other corn states. If anyone has ideas for this you can contact me or Tom Gillis, as we are serving as the representatives for Wisconsin. WCGA is also looking forward to Commodity Classic in New Orleans this March. This year it's going to be in person not all virtual like last year.

As for Corn/Soy Expo, we hope everyone comes out in support of the organization. Let's make it a good, safe show and bring it back like it was in the past. I look forward to seeing everyone there and please be sure to join us for our Annual Meeting – after all, it is your organization.

Thanks for trusting in WCGA and in me.

– Mark Hoffmann, WCGA President



Wisconsin Corn welcomes new Communications and Program Manager

Wisconsin Corn is pleased to introduce Brenda Damrow Gudex as the organization's Communications and Program Manager. Damrow Gudex, a native of Juneau, began her duties on January 17. She previously served as the Executive Secretary for the American Milking Shorthorn Society, where she was responsible for managing the organization's office and programming, promotion, and member relations.

In her role with Wisconsin Corn, Damrow Gudex will be responsible for all activities related to cultivating and implementing communication, public relations, membership, and market development strategies and programs. Her role's responsibilities include: managing in-state promotion efforts; website, newsletter, and social media coordination; coordinating the annual Corn Yield Contest; and managing the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association's CORN PAC program and activities.

Prior to her work with the American Milking Shorthorn Society, Gudex served as the Director of Agricultural Programs for the Fond du Lac Chamber of Commerce. She earned her bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, where she majored in Life Sciences Communication. She also received the IOM designation from the Institute for Organizational Management in 2015.

Damrow Gudex will work remotely from her home in Oakfield, where she lives with her daughters, Madison, MacKenzie and Macyn.



Did you know? You can now make a donation to the Wisconsin Corn Foundation online at <http://bit.ly/fdndonation>.



Policy Update | The Welch Group

Happy New Year! We hope you had a safe and pleasant holiday season. March marks the end of the 2021-22 legislative session, but there are still a few loose ends to tie up before then! Along with some other ag industry bills we support, there are three bills that remain a priority for WCGA to potentially progress or get on the Governor's desk before time runs out.

AB 727: related to the nitrogen optimization pilot and cover crop incentives, had a second hearing in early January in the Assembly. WCGA Board Member Doug Rebut came to Madison to testify on behalf of WCGA. The main points he shared with the Committee on Agriculture were that nitrogen is necessary for harvesting corn and our members are committed to being good stewards of Wisconsin's land and water resources. This bill would allow corn growers to explore the best use of nitrogen on their crops while still maintaining a good yield. He also pointed out how WCGA members are concerned about maintaining clean groundwater for themselves and their neighbors. Both the nitrogen optimization pilot and the cover crop program will help farmers initiate and test the effectiveness of approaches that can reduce runoff or infiltration of nitrogen or other fertilizers.

AB 384: related to storage of dangerous substances, had a second hearing in the Senate this January. This time, WCGA contract lobbyist Bob Welch testified on behalf of WCGA. The original bill would have subjected farmers to inspections, regulations, and potential fines for petroleum tanks on their property that were more than 110 gallons. This gallon amount would have been quite low compared to

current rules that only required tanks greater than 5,000 gallons to be subject. Together with members of the Wisconsin Ag Coalition, WCGA was able to encourage lawmakers to amend the bill so that farm tanks under 5,000 gallons would only have to be registered with local fire departments, but not face any other regulation. We expect the amendment to be adopted in both houses of the legislature.



SB 667: related to creating a hunting season for sandhill cranes, is unlikely to pass the legislature this session. However, WCGA has worked hard with supportive senators and representatives to find a compromise with groups who are troubled about the potential for endangered whooping cranes to be harvested. Several discussions were had between all parties on both sides of the issue in an effort to hash out the best possible solution for the damages being done to crops by sandhill cranes. Each effort made on this issue helps set the stage for future legislative success.

WCGA will continue to keep you updated on the status of these and other bills that affect our livelihood. We are thankful for all your support this legislative session! We hope 2022 is a successful year for all of you!

Notable News from NCGA | Brooke Appleton, VP of Public Policy

Fueling Up on Farmer-Friendly Legislation in 2022

Much of the focus will continue to be on the future of the Build Back Better plan, and we all know it's difficult to get much accomplished in an election year, but we're going to keep pushing for passage of key legislation for corn growers.

This includes ensuring year-round access to E15 and building momentum on the Next Generation Fuels Act, which paves the way to incorporate higher ethanol blends into America's fuel supply. Given the competing priorities in Washington, we need your voice in pushing these legislative priorities. If you haven't already, let your members of Congress know you support these bills. Act now.

Learn more about NCGA's policy efforts and sign up for alerts at <https://ncga.com/take-action/become-an-advocate/take-action>



USDA Announces Details for PACE Coverage

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released the details and coverage of the new crop insurance Post Application Coverage Endorsement, or PACE, for non-irrigated corn.

Farmers in Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties are eligible for the endorsement. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3GzOVR6>