

# IL Corn Growers Association Political Action Committee Newsletter **MAIZE MATTERS**



[www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org)

**YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE: ICGA IN ACTION**  
Delivering results through trade, energy, and farm policy

**DECEMBER 2025**



*TL: Laura Lant-Hanley, Tom Doran, Mark Schneidewind, and Angela Tin BL: Collin Watters testifying to state legislature on tariffs M: Illinois Director of Ag, Jerry Costello, Brady Holst, Gov. J.B. Pritzker, John Bartman, Shane Gray TR: Ashley Deal, Paige Sierens, Kaydence Wooton, Natalie Pratt, Lindsay Croke, Koben Tate, Jim Tarmann, Kyle Bradshaw, Lyndi Allen, and Ethan Bremmer BR: ICGA Annual meeting*



*Josh St. Peters, Chris Davis, Brad Stotler, Mark Von Holten, Rep. Tony McCombie, Ellen Rahn, Kevin Johnson*

## **IL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION (ICGA)**

IL Corn Growers Association is a state-based, nonpartisan organization that represents the interests of corn farmers in Illinois, maintaining a high profile on issues in Washington, DC, and Springfield, IL. Through grassroots advocacy, ICGA creates a future for Illinois farmers in which they can operate freely, responsibly, and successfully. In order to fulfill this mission, the organization conducts governmental affairs activities at all levels, market development projects, and educational and member service programs. For further information regarding their work and involvement, visit their website [www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org).



# IL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

The IL Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting took place on November 25, 2025 in Bloomington, Illinois. The ICGA board elected new board members, along with the new president.

Mark Bunselmeyer, a farmer from Maroa, IL, was elected president for 2025-2026.

Joining Bunselmeyer in leadership roles are Vice President Don Guinnip of Marshall, Secretary Matt Shane of Peoria, and Treasurer Michael Houston of Golden.

Bryan Tomm of Carmi is newly elected to represent farmers in District 13. Chad Dillenberger of Valmeyer was appointed by the board to fill a vacancy representing farmers in District 14.

The ICGA Board of Directors and the counties each director represents are detailed on our website at <https://www.ilcorn.org/about-il-corn-growers-association>.



*T: ICGA Annual Meeting B: Don Guinnip, Micheal Houston, Mike Shane, Mark Bunselmeyer*

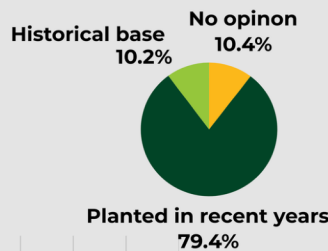
## POLICY SURVEY

BASED OFF 434 RESPONSES

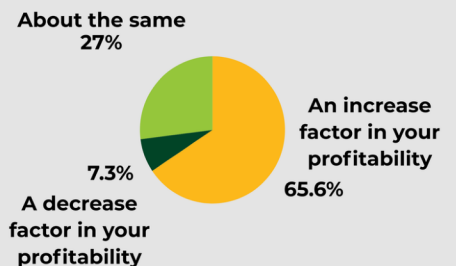
Do you believe that farmers need Federal "economic disaster aid" payments for losses incurred in 2025?



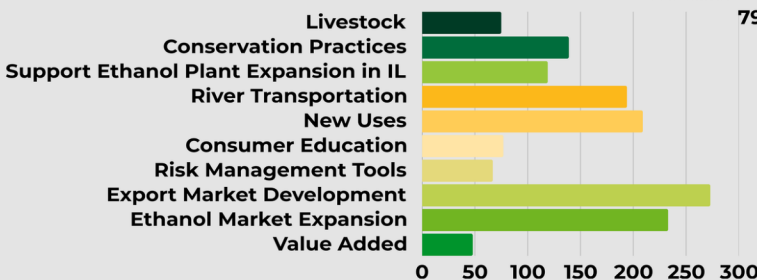
Should farm program payments continue to be made on a farm's historical base acres or should they be based on what the farmer has planted in recent years?



How do you see trade in the next five to ten years?

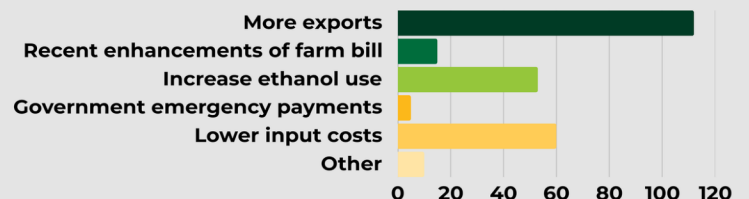


What THREE issues should be IL Corn's highest priorities for your future?



BASED OFF 259 RESPONSES (FARM ECONOMY SURVEY)

What is the BEST way to address low corn prices?



To close out the year, we asked farmers to weigh in through surveys on current policy and the farm economy. The responses provided insight of what

Illinois farmers are facing today and what issues matter most as decisions in Washington, D.C. and Springfield, IL directly impact your bottom line.

# ICGA LEADERS SHOW UP TO REPRESENT ILLINOIS FARMERS

House Agriculture Chair Sonya Harper (D-Chicago) held a subject matter hearing in October on tariffs' impact on the Illinois farm economy. Director of Agriculture, Jerry Costello, and representatives from commodity groups, including IL Corn Director of Exports and Logistics, Collin Watters, testified to members of the state legislature about the negative impacts that tariffs are having on farms.

The following day, the IL Corn Growers Association attended the signing of Executive Order 2025-07 by Governor Pritzker on a Taylorville, IL farm. This order is a state response to the multi-year downturn in the ag

economy caused by trade policies, decreasing demand, and high input costs.

"Farmers in Illinois have been struggling over the last several years with stagnant demand and excessive input prices," said Shane Gray, Waverly farmer and ICGA leader. "What would be a tremendous help for family farmers is market certainty amidst the chaos and lower input costs. Additionally, opportunities to grow domestic ethanol and biodiesel use would give a positive signal to the market, and hopefully help increase prices for U.S. farmers."



*L: House Ag Chair Sonya Harper, Director of Illinois Ag, Jerry Costello, and representatives from commodity groups testified to members of the state legislature on tariffs R: J.B. Pritzker signing executive order for ag trade crisis*

## IL CORN ADVOCATES FOR TRADE IN CHICAGO

IL Corn leaders from Dwight, IL, Art Bunting and Dan Parker, attended a series of trade meetings in Chicago that focused on trade relationships and the importance of agricultural exports.

Throughout the day, IL Corn met with the Consulate General of Canada, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Consulate General of Mexico, Food Export Midwest, and the Commodity Market Exchange (CME). The IL Corn leaders shared their personal stories on how trade affects their farm and families. They expressed how exports support farm incomes, the value of free and fair trade, and the need for strong international relationships.

A highlight of the event was Ambassador Reyna Torres, Consul General of Mexico, who, with IL Corn leaders, discussed the vital relationship between the United States and Mexico markets for corn and

other agricultural products. Ambassador Torres admired IL Corn for their efforts in connecting and supporting the Latino Caucus.



*Dan Parker, Gabriel Mendoza - Consul for Economic and Cultural Affairs, Ambassador Reyna Torres - Consul General, Art Bunting, Jon Hurst, Collin Watters, and Gerardo Guerrero - Deputy Consul General*





**IL CORN**  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

**IL Corn Growers Association**

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## **SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT CORN**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted a public hearing for Marquis Carbon Injection LLC to inject and store carbon dioxide underground at an injection well in Putnam County, Illinois.

Marquis uses, on average, over 360,000 bushels of corn every day, making a large economic impact for Illinois corn farmers. The carbon sequestration well will allow them to expand corn markets, grow ethanol production, increase on-farm conservation, and reduce carbon. In Illinois, 25% of corn is used for ethanol production, generating \$4.4 billion in value of ethanol and distillers grains production.

“As a farmer in the area, I support this carbon storage project because it will hopefully help Marquis expand and pursue low-carbon fuel markets. About a quarter of our grain here in Illinois goes into the production of ethanol, and I see this project as technology that will help the industry continue to evolve and provide a



*Bill Leigh testifies on carbon sequestration well*

good market for our corn,” Bill Leigh, a farmer from Minonk.

New markets for ethanol, like the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) opportunity, will not take off without ethanol plants sequestering carbon. The lower-scoring carbon intensity produced at plants like Marquis, if approved, will enable both domestic and international growth in the corn industry. This progress would boost farmer profitability and drive further investment in rural communities.