



ROOTED

ANNUAL
2024
REPORT

IN

RESILIENCE

 SD CORN



SD CORN

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



Two organizations led by South Dakota corn farmers; working together to improve our way of life and maintain and grow the economic benefit to our producers.



THE SOUTH DAKOTA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

works to increase the profitability of all South Dakota corn farmers through our membership's strong voice in legislative activities and regulatory decision-making.

- Leading grassroots advocacy for corn farmers by corn farmers
- Protecting the freedom to farm
- Improving corn farmer profitability
- Influencing policy in Pierre and Washington, D.C.



THE SOUTH DAKOTA CORN UTILIZATION COUNCIL

is one of the most active commodity organizations in the state. Our peer-elected producer board is tasked with developing and maintaining new and existing markets, promoting new uses and increasing profitability for all South Dakota corn producers.

- Collecting and administering of the one-cent checkoff
- Educating consumers
- Developing and maintaining new markets for corn
- Promoting new uses for corn
- Funding important corn research



DANITA MURRAY

Executive Director, SD Corn

As we approach the end of 2024, I'm looking back on a busy year that has brought changes in Washington, D.C., Pierre and our world. What did we work on this year on behalf of South Dakota corn farmers? Some highlights and examples are noted, with most of the work to be continued!

SD Corn Friendly Fuel Campaign

The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council's (SDCUC or Council) Friendly Fuel Campaign for Fiscal Year 2024 focused on reaching young consumers and educating them about ethanol, with advertising placed on static and digital billboards, social media and broadcast and streaming radio. The second phase of the campaign included gas pump toppers, pump videos and student influencers. Efforts were targeted within South Dakota to continue positioning ethanol as a great option and increase knowledge about the product through the campaign's webpage.

New Uses

The SDCUC continues to work to expand markets for corn, participating with several other corn states in the Radicle Corn Value Chain Challenge to leverage and maximize checkoff dollars through better new-use proposals for research investment. The Council also participates in the multi-state New Uses Consortium, a loosely formed group of like-minded corn organizations seeking and vetting pitches for investment toward significant corn-grind opportunities. Finally, the SDCUC conducts a research proposal opportunity with an in-state focus

each fiscal year. We know that looking for the "next ethanol" is a long-term project; however, I am heartened by the significant improvement in cooperation in this endeavor between corn states. We will certainly cast a broader net together.

Farm Bill

Well, in a nutshell, it's not done. That said, the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) will continue to advocate for its priorities during the 119th Congress, including a mandatory base acre update, an increase in the maximum loan amounts for Farm Service Agency direct farm ownership and direct down payment loan programs and an increase in reference prices that is mindful of market conditions. The inclusion of new voluntary base acres in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 was due at least in part to your state corn delegates at work to protect this South Dakota policy put in place in 2023 at the national level during both National Corn Grower Association Corn Congress sessions in 2024.

Crop Protection & the Endangered Species Act

This year, the SDCGA submitted comments regarding both the Herbicide and Insecticide

strategies proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) to protect federally threatened and endangered species, mitigation efforts combat spray drift or runoff/erosion. The SDCGA questioned the workability of several of the options listed in both strategies and the geographic reach of the new requirements, as well as interaction with the existing regulatory scheme for pesticides. While improvements were made by the Agency, the implementation of this new strategy through the individual label for an active ingredient is still in most states, including ours, uncharted territory. We will continue to work on this issue, moving efforts in 2025 to our State Lead Agency, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as we try to help increase grower awareness about these requirements and the decision-making process necessary to implement these strategies on the ground. Please stay tuned.

Litigation

In June, the SDCGA, along with 13 other state corn associations and several industry partners, filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia requesting a review of the EPA rule, “Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty

and Medium-Duty Vehicles”. Why? The EPA’s final standard effectively required that 69% of all light-and-medium-duty vehicles be electric by 2032. Essentially, electric vehicles under the rule are the only significant option for reducing CO2 emissions from the transportation sector, ignoring options such as E15 and flex-fuel vehicles using higher blends of ethanol.

In August, the SDCGA, along with Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio corn associations, filed a petition against the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit requesting review of the final rule, “Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks for Model Years 2027 and Beyond and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans for Model Years 2030 and Beyond”. Why? This rule mimics the EPA, requiring that 67% of all vehicles be electric by 2032.

What will happen next? Both of these lawsuits will go forward throughout 2025, with a likely loss in the D.C. Circuit, but with a better chance at success in the Sixth Circuit. However, both challenges could eventually end up in front of the U.S. Supreme Court for final decisions.

NCGA POLICY BOOK UPDATES

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association was successful in getting policy adopted by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) in 2024. The following resolutions were passed and added to the NCGA Policy Book.

Fertilizer

Support mandatory price reporting to the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Marketing Service, including marketed quantities, by domestic and international manufacturers and wholesalers of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium fertilizer and fertilizer products. Data shall be published in a manner that protects proprietary business information.

Tax Policy

1. *Support limiting use of the 1031 provision of the federal tax code when used for agricultural land like-kind exchanges by only purchasers and/or sellers who are active farmers and ranchers.*
2. *Business and asset transition program and federal tax policies which could encourage business owners to transfer ownership of assets such as farmland to future generations of farmers and other active farmers during their lifetimes, rather than allow the assets to pass through their estates.*



Fertilizer

Unfortunately, at press time, details regarding all of the ongoing efforts across multiple fronts are unavailable regarding the decades-old recurring issue of fertilizer price spikes in the U.S. In both 2012 and 2022, these input costs increased significantly, tied not to the price of natural gas or demand, but tracking the price of corn. Without long-term work, this phenomenon may happen again and again. On the federal legislative front, we advocate for more transparency regarding market structure and pricing. This past March, the Agriculture & Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University released a fertilizer study that had been requested by Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) that looked at this sector and the report raised a significant question—has the small number of market participants in this space impacted the industry’s market power?

Why is the SDCUC working on this issue? What do we want as improvements in this marketplace?

- Corn farmers need the ability to succeed when the market peaks, as they certainly also have to survive the market when it is low.

- This increase in input cost is a risk that producers are not able to mitigate.
- For example, the small number of firms makes it highly unlikely that enough price transparency exists to effectively hedge (if it were a possibility) through the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In addition, this input cost is not tied to land values, another potential path for risk management.
- Farmers want fertilizer firms to be unable to squeeze additional money out of farmers when the price of corn is high because of their oligopoly power.
- Other hallmarks would include more purchasing options for producers as well as cost transparency.

Indirect Land Use Study

Several corn checkoff states, including South Dakota, helped fund a study, released this past year, that crossed multiple states on indirect land use, refuting claims that biofuels demand causes land use change from non-agricultural land to cropland. The study showed that land use needs to be examined in a longer timeframe than studies critical of biofuel’s impact on

cropland acres. Both Brown and McPherson counties were studied in South Dakota. This analysis is helpful, for instance, when trying to counter any “penalty” for corn as a feedstock due to indirect land use change when calculating the lifecycle greenhouse gas emission for sustainable aviation fuel for the “40B” tax credit.

Did we have any wins? That is an excellent question. We try to stay smart about deploying resources where South Dakota can help move the needle on a particular issue important to corn growers. Some of these projects are long-term (fertilizer, lawsuits) and some are meant to take less time (Farm Bill). And on some, we just hope that with solid input, those empowered to affect the daily decision-making on a farm operation pause, listen and adjust their path forward (Yes, I’m looking at you, EPA).

I hope you all had a wonderful 2024. Thank you for the support for both the SDCUC and SDCGA as they continue important work on behalf of South Dakota corn farmers.

Sincerely,



THE AVERAGE YIELD IS
FORECAST AT 166 BUSHELS
PER ACRE, SETTING A
NEW RECORD HIGH

AND AN INCREASE OF 14
BUSHELS FROM LAST YEAR

CORN IS THE
MOST PLANTED CROP
IN SOUTH DAKOTA



\$3.8
BILLION
IS THE TOTAL
VALUE OF CORN
PRODUCTION IN
SOUTH DAKOTA

THE UNITED STATES
IS THE LARGEST

PRODUCER &

CONSUMER

OF CORN IN
THE WORLD

854 MILLION
BUSHELS OF ANNUAL
CORN PRODUCTION
IN SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA JOBS
SUPPORTED

27,205

BY
ETHANOL PRODUCTION

BASED ON THE
ECONOMIC VALUE
CORN IS THE

#1

AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY
IN THE STATE

130,000 JOBS

ARE PROVIDED BY THE
AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY
IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**BEEF, POULTRY,
PORK & DAIRY**
CONSUME MILLIONS
OF BUSHELS OF
CORN EACH YEAR



3.9 MILLION TONS OF DISTILLERS GRAINS
ARE PRODUCED IN SOUTH DAKOTA EACH YEAR



10,035 FARMS

**GROW CORN IN
SOUTH DAKOTA**

CORN IS USED IN NON-FOOD ITEMS LIKE
ASPIRIN, DIAPERS, TOOTH PASTE,
HAND SANITIZER & BATTERIES



**31 GAS
STATIONS**
IN THE
STATE
OFFER

E15



50%

OF CORN
GROWN IN
SOUTH
DAKOTA
IS USED
FOR
ETHANOL
PRODUCTION



AG IS SOUTH DAKOTA'S LARGEST INDUSTRY BRINGING **\$32.1 BILLION** TO THE ECONOMY





FY25 NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION ACTION TEAMS



Biofuels

Engage in the development and expansion of markets for corn-based biofuels.

Key responsibilities: Ethanol, Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Jay Esser

SDCUC Vice President

Production & Sustainability

Protect and expand voluntary access to economically viable sustainable production practices and technologies for U.S. corn farmers.

Key responsibilities: Crop Protection, Tech Access, LCA (Water Quality, Air Quality, Soil Health), Market Based Incentives

Trent Kubik

SDCGA Secretary/Treasurer

Research & New Uses

Support research and development of new production practices and demand opportunities for U.S. corn.

Key responsibilities: Ag Research, New Uses, Aflatoxin Mitigation Center of Excellence

Jim Ketelhut

SDCUC President

Risk Management

Utilize research, education and advocacy in the development of policy supporting the viability of U.S. corn farmers.

Key responsibilities: Farm Bill Title I, Crop Insurance, Taxes

Scott Stahl

SDCGA District 8 Director

Trade/Transportation/Animal Ag

Engage in the development and expansion of demand for U.S. corn in all forms for export and animal agriculture.

Key responsibilities: Trade/Exports, Transportation, Animal Agriculture

Chad Blindauer

SDCUC District 8 Director

**THANK YOU
TO FY24 NCGA
ACTION TEAM
MEMBERS!**

Mike Cronin

Stewardship

Gary Duffy

Sustainable Ag Research

SOUTH DAKOTA CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION BOARD



DAVE ELLENS
PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 2



TAYLOR SUMPTION
VICE PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5



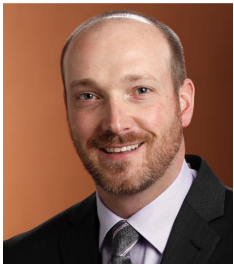
TRENT KUBIK
SECRETARY/
TREASURER
DISTRICT 9



TRAVIS MOCKLER
DISTRICT 1



GARY DUFFY
DISTRICT 3



TRAVIS STRASSER
DISTRICT 4



MIKE CRONIN
DISTRICT 6



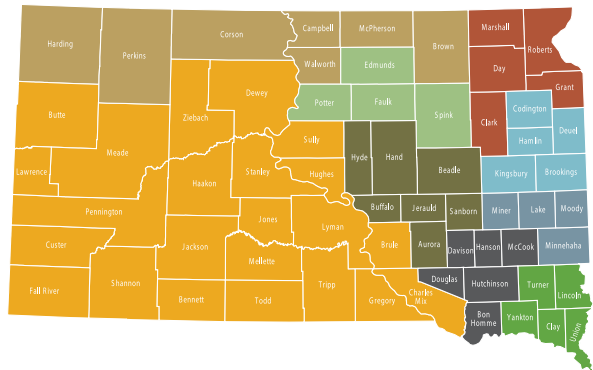
SCOTT STAHL
DISTRICT 8



KELSEY GERAETS
AT-LARGE



MARK GROSS
AT-LARGE



- DISTRICT 1
- DISTRICT 2
- DISTRICT 3
- DISTRICT 4
- DISTRICT 5
- DISTRICT 6
- DISTRICT 7
- DISTRICT 8
- DISTRICT 9



JENNIFER FEISTNER
INDUSTRY DIRECTOR



REBECCA WELLENSTEIN
INDUSTRY DIRECTOR



DAVE ELLENS

SDCGA President
District 2

It's hard to believe this is already my final letter for the SD Corn Annual Report as president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA). I know I may sound like a broken record, but I cannot fully express the pride I feel serving in this role—not only in representing my family farm, my neighbors and my community but also in serving alongside an incredible board of directors. I am equally proud of the work our staff has done to continue advancing SD Corn as a leader in agriculture.

Reflecting on the past year, there have been many significant moments where our organization has made meaningful progress for corn farmers in South Dakota. One such achievement that stands out is how our five delegates successfully prioritized mandatory base acre updates in the Farm Bill through the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

“When SDCGA participated in the NCGA Corn Congress, we presented resolutions and initiatives that will help secure our members’ success in the years to come.”

Additionally, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen the relationships we’ve built with state and national legislators throughout my tenure with SDCGA. During the 2024 legislative session, we hosted a luncheon in the Capitol rotunda to engage with our legislators and convey our members’ priorities to the policymakers shaping legislation in Pierre.

There have been countless other instances throughout the year where our organization has been the unified voice for our members, and I couldn’t be prouder. It has been an absolute honor to serve as president of this outstanding organization. I look forward to the future of SDCGA, the direction we’re headed and the continued support from our community.

Sincerely,

Dave Ellens



2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TOTAL ASSETS
\$4,433,832

TOTAL LIABILITIES
\$233,938

TOTAL NET ASSETS
\$4,199,894

TOTAL REVENUE
\$1,442,040

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,403,710

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
\$38,330

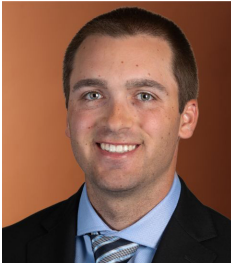
SOUTH DAKOTA CORN UTILIZATION COUNCIL BOARD



JIM KETELHUT
PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 9



JAY ESSER
VICE PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 6



JUSTIN MINNEART
SECRETARY/
TREASURER
DISTRICT 2



**NICHOLAS
FICKBOHM**
DISTRICT 1



DOUG NOEM
DISTRICT 3



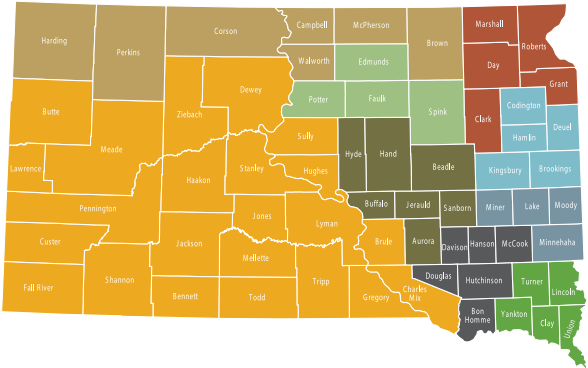
CHRIS NICKESON
DISTRICT 4












**RENO
BRUEGGEMAN**
DISTRICT 7



**CHAD
BLINDAUER**
DISTRICT 8



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  DISTRICT 1 |  DISTRICT 4 |  DISTRICT 7 |
|  DISTRICT 2 |  DISTRICT 5 |  DISTRICT 8 |
|  DISTRICT 3 |  DISTRICT 6 |  DISTRICT 9 |



JIM KETELHUT

SDCUC President
District 9

At the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC), our mission may seem broad and occasionally overwhelming. Still, at its core, it's straightforward:

"We work to maintain and expand corn demand for the benefit of South Dakota's corn farmers."

Corn production across the U.S. has grown steadily, and South Dakota is no exception. Average yields in some cases are now triple what they were not long ago. Our commitment is to sustain and increase this demand locally. Over the past year, we substantially contributed to the Swine Research Facility at South Dakota State University. Animal agriculture has always been and will continue to be a cornerstone of South Dakota's economy. This investment may one day

enhance swine production and boost demand for value-added products in our state.

Ethanol has also been crucial to South Dakota's agricultural growth over the last two decades, and we are dedicated to promoting, protecting and expanding this market. Our daily "Corn Comments" broadcasts aim to educate consumers and deliver relevant information to the agricultural sector.

Additionally, this past year, we partnered with other corn-producing states to support the Radicle Corn Challenge. Modeled after "Shark Tank," this competition sought to foster innovative uses for corn through a global casting call. The Challenge set out to invest a minimum of US \$1.5M in start-up and growth companies worldwide. These companies are expected to be developing new uses for corn that result in replacements for fossil fuel-derived materials with plant-derived materials such as sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), drop-in chemicals and plastics, compostable materials and as yet unidentified products and product categories that could be new areas for corn-derived products to be used.

As you can see, our checkoff dollars support a wide range of impactful projects that deliver returns to South Dakota's corn producers. Thank you for your trust and commitment to the SDCUC. Together, we will continue to advance the interests of South Dakota corn farmers.

Sincerely,

James Ketelhut



2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

TOTAL ASSETS

\$8,032,652

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$83,151

TOTAL FUND BALANCE

\$7,949,501

TOTAL REVENUE

\$6,603,764

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$6,465,782

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES

\$137,982

2024 EVENTS RECAP



Ag PhD Field Day

SD Corn partnered with SD Soybean to educate young people attending Ag PhD Field Day in July. Children created feed rations partially representing the diet of corn and soybeans that pigs and cows eat.



Barry Dunn at the Joint Board Meeting in Brookings in August

The SDCGA and the SDCUC held a joint board meeting at the POET Bioproducts Center in Brookings in August. South Dakota State University President, Barry Dunn, presents an update on the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.



Boozman Farm Visit

Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Ag Committee Senator John Boozman (R-AR) joined U.S. Senator John Thune to gather input directly from South Dakota farmers and ranchers about what needs to be included in the Farm Bill. SDCGA Secretary/Treasurer, Trent Kubik, SDCGA President, Dave Ellens and SDCGA District 8 Director, Scott Stahl, welcomed Senator John Thune.





Corn Cob Open

The SDCGA held the annual Corn Cob Open at the Brookings Country Club in August.



Corn Conference

The SDCGA held the 38th Annual SD Corn Conference at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in January. Governor Kristi Noem, Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson were special guests. The keynote speaker was Rob Sharkey, The Shark Farmer. Awards were presented to Corn Yield Contest winners and other special guests.



Dakotafest

SD Soybean Association and SDCGA teamed up at Dakotafest to host RMA Administrator Bunger. The administrator was introduced by SDCGA member, Chad Blindauer, and SD Soybean Association president, Kevin Deinert.



FFA Officers Visit the SD Corn Office

South Dakota FFA Officers Ben Storm (Sentinel) and Maya Howard (President) visited with SD Corn Executive Director, DaNita Murray, at the SD Corn office in Sioux Falls. The SDCUC is a proud 4-Star Partner of the South Dakota FFA Foundation.



FFA State Convention

The SDCGA visited with FFA students about the importance of grassroots advocacy at the South Dakota FFA Convention in Brookings.



Governor's Ag Summit

The SDCUC was a proud sponsor of the Governor's Agricultural Summit at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron. SD Corn Executive Director, DaNita Murray, poses a question to the presenters.

2024 EVENTS RECAP



KELOLAND Living

Russ Evans from the Under the Hood Show radio program discussed the benefits of using ethanol while being interviewed by KELOLAND Living host Mitchell Olson at Kwik Star in Sioux Falls.



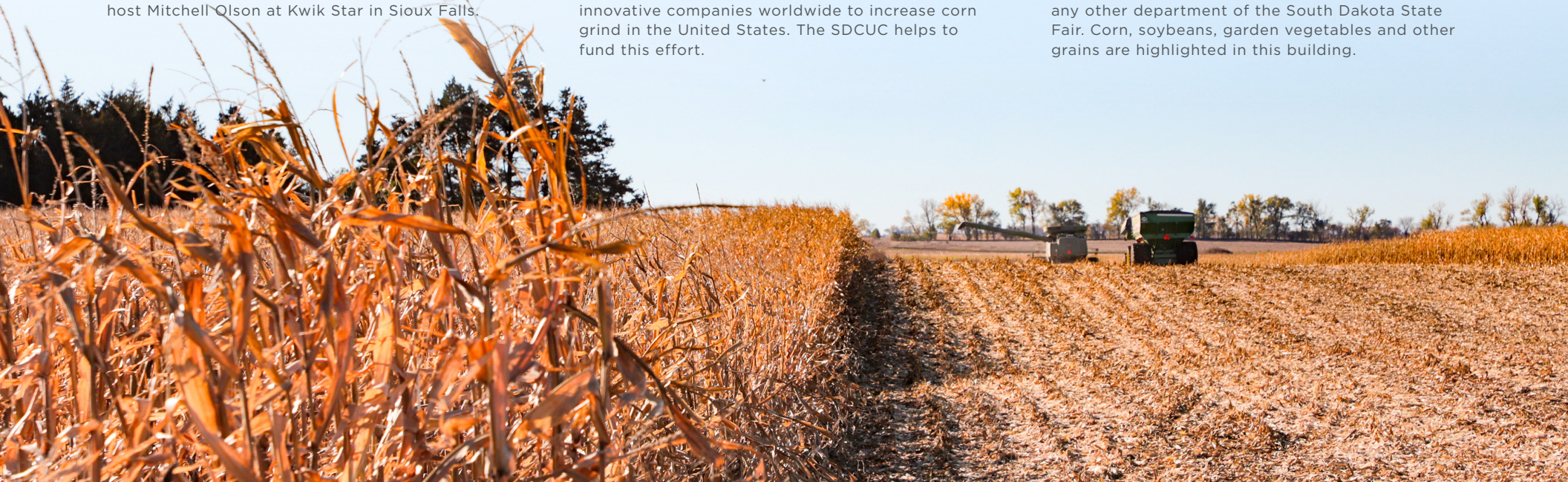
Radicle Corn Challenge

Radicle Growth Managing Partner, Kirk Haney, announced the \$1.5 million contest at Commodity Classic in Houston. The contest's goal is to inspire innovative companies worldwide to increase corn grind in the United States. The SDCUC helps to fund this effort.



SD State Fair

The SDCUC was the presenting sponsor of the SD State Fair Horticulture Building in September. The Horticulture Building has more exhibits than any other department of the South Dakota State Fair. Corn, soybeans, garden vegetables and other grains are highlighted in this building.





SD Trade

The SDCUC was a proud sponsor of The Midwest Agricultural Export Summit in August, held in Sioux Falls.



SDCGA Day at the SD Capitol

The SDCGA Board of Directors met with state legislators in February to discuss session priorities and policy.



SHED Groundbreaking

The SDCUC provided funds for the building of the SHED on the SD State Fairgrounds. District 7 Director, Reno Brueggeman, SDCGA Secretary/Treasurer, Trent Kubik and Executive Director, DaNita Murray, attended the groundbreaking in August.



Sioux Empire Fair

The SDCUC was a proud sponsor of the Sioux Empire Fair in August. This event was a great opportunity to interact with and educate consumers on the many aspects of agriculture in our state.



Summit League Championship

The SDCUC donated tickets to veterans to attend Military Appreciation Day at the Summit League Tournament in Sioux Falls in March. Mother and daughter Air Guardsmen, Senior Master Sergeant Jennifer DeCou and Senior Airman Jenaka DeCou received tickets and were recognized at the event.



SDSU Collegiate Cattlemen's Club

The SDCGA Director At-Large, Kelsey Geraets, discussed the ties between the beef and corn industries at the SDSU Collegiate Cattlemen's Club meeting in April.



2024 EVENTS RECAP



SDSU Pork Gift

The SDCUC announced a \$1.2 million commitment towards an expansion of the Swine Education and Research Facility at South Dakota State University. The grant will fund the addition of two new wean-to-finish nutrition rooms to the existing complex and double the facility's research capabilities.



U.S. Grains Council

The SDCUC hosts a U.S. Grains Council Tour with buyer representatives from South Korea.

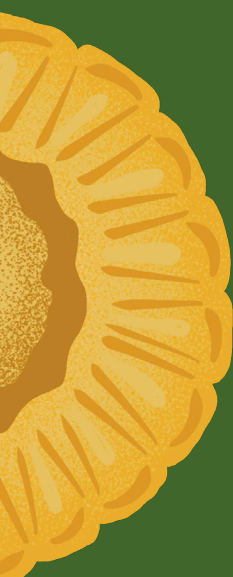


Washington Pavilion Ag Day

The SDCUC is a proud sponsor of the Washington Pavilion Ag Day in Sioux Falls each February. Over 2,000 children and their families attend this celebration of agriculture annually. This year, students made germination necklaces.







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SOUTH DAKOTA CORN SUPPORTS THESE ORGANIZATIONS:

