

Corn Growers Announce Results

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) plan to plant about 2 percent fewer corn acres in 1993, compared with 1992, but more plan to emphasize environmentally sound practices such as no-till and reduced fertilizer inputs, according to a Gallup survey released recently by NCGA.

The survey, conducted in February, shows that farmer-members plan to plant 463.3 acres of corn compared with 473.1 acres in 1992. The results were based on interviews with 507 corn farmers in 30 states.

A weighted sample indicates that 44 percent plan to use no-till this year, compared with 39 percent in 1992. No-till practices conserve topsoil and reduce runoff into streams. In addition, most plan no increase in fertilizer application; 11 percent plan to reduce fertilizer inputs.

If the survey of NCGA members is applied to total U.S. corn acreage, plantings in 1993 would slip to 77.8 million acres. According to USDA, 79.3 million acres of corn were planted in the U.S. in 1992. Other results include:

*10 percent plan to grow specialty corn in 1993.

*In 1992, 39 percent of the members dedicated more than 25 percent of their acreage to

no-till.

*Members average corn yield in 1992 was 142.3 bushels per acre, compared with the national average of 131.4 bushels per year

*In 1993, 65 percent plan to forward price a portion of their corn crop.

*Members currently using a marketing consulting service include 29 percent.

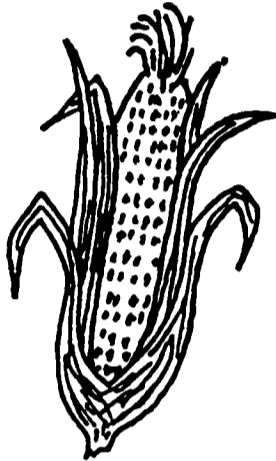
*84 percent think government policy should promote the use of corn for ethanol.

The survey, in addition to checking economic and planting trends, examined environmental attitudes of growers. Results show that growers feel they are in a Catch-22 situation regarding the environment and the public's perception of them.

"Seventy-three (73) percent said they would use more environmentally benign herbicides, even if they had to sacrifice some weed control," said Randy Cruise, NCGA president and a farmer from Pleasanton, NE. "Eighty-four (84) percent said they feel unfairly perceived as poor environmental stewards. They feel constrained to use existing products because environmentally superior products are not available. The growers surveyed estimated their yield would be reduced by one-third if they quit using pesticides."

"Not surprisingly, 90 percent said the Environmental Protection Agency should move more quickly to decide on registering pesticides with environmental and toxicological improvements," Cruise told reporters.

Several new products are pending registration at EPA. Many of these have very low use rates and favorable environmental and safety properties.



Corn grower members showed significant support for the development of new uses for their abundant commodity.

"The farmers indicated new use development is the highest priority for NCGA programs and farm programs, which reinforces our commitment to market development," Cruise said.

One industry group estimates total food, seed and industrial use for corn will increase from 1.485 billion bushels in 1992 to 2.378 billion

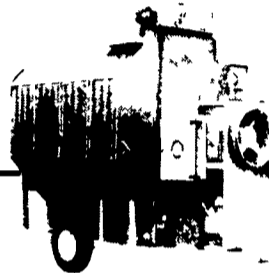
bushels by the year 2001. That assumes a renewed focus on new products by corn farmers, industry and government.

NCGA's board of farmer-directors were in Washington, DC, during this, National Agriculture Week, canvassing Congress with corn grower perspective on issues including ethanol and President Clinton's economic plan.

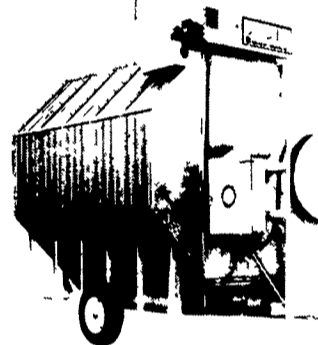
NCGA conducted the Gallup survey in conjunction with Doane Agricultural Services Company.

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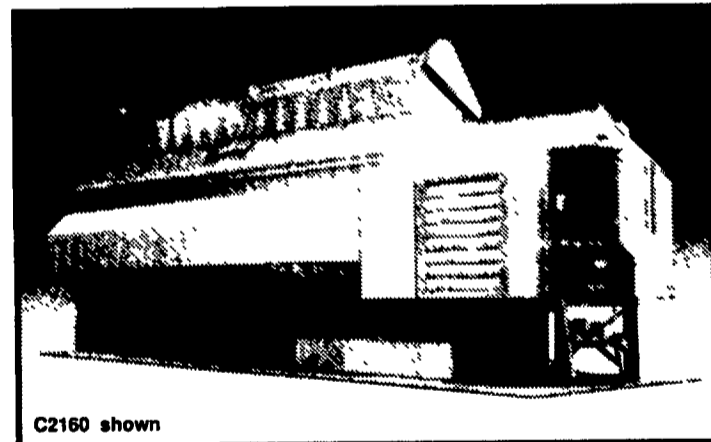
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