

Corn Classic At Mile-High City



CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A "Rocky Mountain High" awaits the 2,000-plus corn growers and industry leaders expected to attend the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) 1994 Corn Classic in Denver, Colo., Feb. 27 - March 1.

"Meeting in the Mile-High City gives farmers and their families the unique opportunity to reap the benefits of Corn Classic and enjoy some of the finest snow-skiing in the country," said Scott Wall, a Yuma County, Colo., corn grower and Corn Classic chairman.

"Corn Classic offers a prestigious slate of speakers, top-

notch entertainment, and a superb trade show," he said. "Couple that with the chance to ski the Rockies with other corn grower families at discount group rates, and you have a sure-fire formula for success."

Already Corn Classic has lined up political commentator Mark Shields as keynote speaker on Monday, February 28. His appearance is sponsored by DowElanco. Shields is known for his wit and keen understanding of the American political system. The analyst has managed political campaigns from the courthouse to the White House in some 38 states.

Shields appears every Friday

on PBS's prestigious "MacNeil/Leher Newshour" and can be seen on Saturdays on CNN as part of the award-

winning "Capital Gang." For more information about

Corn Classic, call NCGA at (314) 275-9915.

CornPak Expands With New Manufacturers, Distributors

CHAMPAIGN, Ill — Widespread use of environmentally friendly packing products is one step closer to reality with the opening of the first manufacturing plant for CornPak, the only loose-fill packing material that is 100 percent biodegradable.

Arcola Grain Products, Inc., is the first licensed producer of CornPak and is now manufacturing at its Arcola, Illinois, plant. The company's produc-

tion is being sold through a network of distributors developed by MarketLink USA, Inc., a nationwide sales firm with regional offices in St. Louis and central Illinois.

Made from ground "puffed" corn, CornPak is as strong and resilient as styrofoam peanuts, but offers a number of performance advantages.

To make Corn Pak more widely available and reduce the cost of distribution and delivery, the product's deve-

loper, Innovative Packaging, is working with independent producers to establish other manufacturing centers throughout the nation.

More information on CornPak manufacturing and distribution opportunities is available from Innovative Packaging Corporation, 304 W. Hill, Champaign IL 61820, (217) 352-0095. For product inquiries and orders, contact MarketLink USA, (217) 897-1862.

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NCGA Calls For 7.5 Percent Corn Reduction For 1994

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) recently recommended to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that the acreage reduction program (ARP) percentage for the 1994 corn crop be set at 7.5 percent.

The recommendation was made in a letter from NCGA President Randy Cruise, a Pleasanton, Neb., corn farmer.

NCGA's recommendation is based on current estimates of the 1993 production and anticipated demand for the 1993 and 1994 marketing years. The latest USDA estimate of the 1993 corn crop is 7.23 billion bushels, but Cruise pointed out that this year's crop may face a great deal of uncertainty at this time.

One example is the corn crop's vulnerability to frost damage because of late planting and unusually cool temperatures throughout most of the growing season.

"We would expect the Secretary to make necessary adjustments to the preliminary program announcement to reflect significant changes in the total supply of feed grains," Cruise wrote.

If 1993 production is close to current estimates, NCGA predicts a 7.5 percent ARP will result in sufficient corn production to meet likely demand without unnecessarily adding to stocks.

"Farmers are frustrated by cash corn prices that are virtually unchanged from a year ago when corn production was 2.25 billion bushels higher," Cruise wrote. Record corn production last year kept cash prices from rising this summer. If 1994 production adds to carryover stocks, it will not only weaken 1994 corn prices, but also 1995 and 1996 prices, Cruise predicts.

"Farmers cannot profitably compete at today's low corn prices and cannot afford to produce surplus corn which has a price-depressing impact," Cruise wrote.

Other recommendations announced by NCGA recently to support corn farmer profitability include:

- USDA should make 50 percent of the projected deficiency payment available at sign-up in order to help producers who lost crops and income potential this year to finance their 1994 crop.

- USDA should establish a marketing loan for corn at no less than the basic loan rate, which NCGA estimates to be \$1.98 per bushel, to assure a competitive position for U.S. corn while providing income support for producers.