

# Corn Growers Gather At Classic

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Each year, the National Corn Growers Association holds its annual meeting, called the Corn Classic, in late February. This year, the Corn Classic was held in Nashville, Tenn. from Feb. 26-28.

I was fortunate enough to attend my first Corn Classic this year along with about 20 other folks from Pennsylvania.

I found the Classic to be an excellent conference with a good mix of education, entertainment, and business meetings. Almost everyone from our area agreed that this was a top-notch conference.

There were plenty of opportunities to meet with industry and NCGA representatives to discuss many of the hot issues facing corn growers. The speakers in many of the ses-

sions were excellent. There were also many opportunities to have some fun and meet with many of our counterparts in other states.

I'm sure many more of our members would find this an excellent meeting because not only was it packed with information, but it also provided an opportunity for a mid-winter vacation for many folks.

I met corn growers from Ohio, Illinois, Nebraska, North Dakota, New York, and Maryland taking advantage of this opportunity.

Some of the highlights of the meeting included an inspirational presentation from former Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw, an announcement of precision farming equipment being marketed by Deere and Co. for planters and combines, and an excellent discussion of the future by the

renowned futurist Noel Hazlet of New Mexico State University.

Hazlet suggested that in the future, agriculture will form alliances with other industries such as pharmaceuticals, medicine, recreation, and manufacturing to create farms that do much more than just produce raw commodities. For example, he suggested that in the future, hog farmers may be able to raise hogs that carry genetically engineered replacement organs for humans. This and many other developments may help producers add value to the crops they produce now.

Mark your calendar to join NCGA at its next Classic, which will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., on Feb. 25-28, 1996. Next year's event will be called the "Commodity Classic" and represent the first joint conference held between the National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association.

# Corn Growers Name Washington Staff Member

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Bruce Knight will be joining the Washington staff of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), according to Chris Wehrman, NCGA's chief executive officer.

"Bruce brings nearly 10 years of Capitol Hill experience to NCGA," Wehrman said. "We look forward to his leadership on environmental and conservation issues, and commodity futures regulation." As government relations representative, Knight will also monitor tax issues relevant to corn farmers.

"Bruce's extensive background in domestic farm programs, grain quality, and tax issues will be key as NCGA enters the 1995 farm bill debate of the nation's corn farmers," Wehrman said. "He and other Washington staff will assist our more than 200 far-

mer delegates in developing corn grower policy at NCGA's annual meeting in late February."

Knight, who starts with NCGA on Feb. 20, was previously director of government relations and marketing services for the National Association of Wheat Growers in Washington, D.C. He has also served as legislative assistant for Rep. Fred Grandy (R-Iowa) and Sen. James Abdnor (R-S.D.).

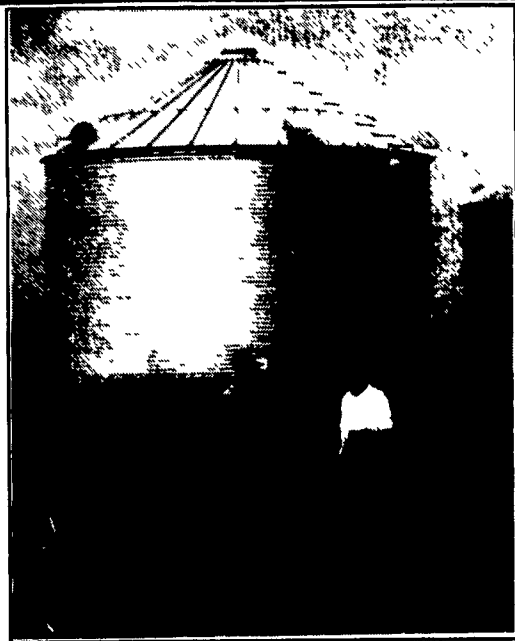
Knight replaces Dave Stawick, who was named to the Senate Agriculture Committee staff on Jan. 17.

A native of Gann Valley, S.D., Knight is a graduate of South Dakota State University, where he majored in general agriculture and minored in animal science and economics. He resides in Fairfax City, Va. with his wife, Julie.


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