

Farm Bill Flexibility, Opportunities Top Agenda

SHELTON, Neb. — At the beginning of his year as National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) president, Rod Gangwish said, "This year, the NCGA will anticipate and accelerate change in Washington D.C. and state houses across the nation. We will work in partnership with those within and outside agriculture who share our common goals."

As the volunteer, elected leader of nearly 30,000 corn

growers, Gangwish, a farmer in Shelton, Neb., had a big responsibility, but one he says he shared with all NCGA members.

"The most important person in this association is the member at the grassroots level," he said. "I may do the speaking on behalf of NCGA, but I'm backed by a strong group of officers and a board of directors who are supported by states and grassroots members."

Especially critical during Gangwish's year as president was the development of the 1995 farm bill. "There are many pieces of legislation that will affect the farm bill," said Gangwish. "If we don't take the opportunity to be involved in the issues that affect us, we forfeit the chance to have a voice in the outcome."

However, NCGA's efforts to innovate and lead encompassed far more than the farm bill. After only three



CORN TALK NEWS

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weeks as president, Gangwish took to the podium to speak about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on behalf of the nation's corn farmers. Officials who organized a last minute news conference in Washington D.C. requested a farmer to represent

agriculture interests, and chose Gangwish.

At a second GATT news conference, Gangwish was invited to speak on behalf of agriculture, where he introduced the participating senators and congressmen. The news conference was broadcast across the country on major news networks.

"This is just one example of a situation I was in where NCGA was sought for its reputation of trustworthiness," Gangwish said.

Among Gangwish's most memorable moments as NCGA president were testifying at farm bill hearings in the U.S. Senate and House, and representing corn farmers at the North American European Union Agricultural Conference, a meeting of European farmers, international ag counselors, and U.S. policy-makers.

During the coming year, fresh issues will top NCGA's agenda — most notably implementation of the 1995 farm bill and innovative ways to market corn. Gangwish acknowledges that at times, he will miss leading corn growers. But he said, "I'm leaving NCGA in good hands. As president, Bill Northey and the entire 1995-96 NCGA officer team will do a great job."

As for Gangwish, he'll continue to contribute to NCGA. After all, Gangwish appreciates the value of an NCGA member. He said, "We can't sit around and watch things happen, we need to participate and help shape our future."

Corn Stocks On-Farms Total 15 Million Bushels

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's old corn crop stocks on September 1, 1995 totaled 17.1 million bushels, compared with 12.5 million bushels a year ago,

according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn stocks on-farms totaled 15 million bushels, up from 10.5 million bushels last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 2.1 mil-

lion bushels, compared with 2 million bushels a year ago.

Off-farm wheat stocks were estimated at 9.2 million bushels, 7 percent more than last year's 8.6 million bushels.

Off-farm barley stocks were estimated at 1,100,000 bushels on September 1, 1995, unchanged from last year. Off-farm soybean stocks totaled 410,000 bushels on September 1, 1995, compared with 260,000 bushels last year.

For wheat, soybeans and barley, on-farm stocks are included in a national unallocated total. Oat stocks on September 1, 1995, amounted to 6.7 million bushels, 5.6 million on-farm and 1.1 million off-farm. Last year, oat stocks were estimated at 6.4 million bushels, 5.7 million on-farm and 700,000 off-farm.

Nationally, old crop corn stored in all positions on September 1, 1995, is estimated at 1.56 billion bushels, up 83 percent from September 1, 1994. Of the total stocks, 741 million bushels are stored on-farms, 87 percent above last year. Off-farm stocks, at 817 million bushels, are up 80 percent from a year earlier.

All wheat stocks in all positions totaled 1.88 billion bushels, 9 percent less than stocks on hand September 1, 1994. Wheat stored on-farms totaled 744 million bushels, down 14 percent from last September. Off-farm stocks total 1.14 billion bushels, down 6 percent.

Barley stocks in all positions were 312 million bushels, compared with 352 million bushels on September 1, 1994. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 199 million bushels were stored on-farms and 113 million bushels were stored off-farms.

Old crop soybeans stored in all positions totaled 335 million bushels on September 1, 1995, 60 percent more than the 209 million bushels held a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 105 million bushels, are 73 percent more than last year. Off-farm holdings totaled 230 million bushels, 53 percent more than September 1, 1994.

Oat stocks in all positions totaled 180 million bushels, down 18 percent from a year ago. Of the total stocks, 107 million bushels are stored on-farms. Off-farm stocks totaled 72.9 million bushels.



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