

NCGA Provides Grower Answers

Q: Why should we change the organization, and why must it be done now?

A: Farmer members of the Process and Resources Study Groups took a long, hard look at the current organization and determined that more unified and coordinated planning, implementation and evaluation between states and a single national organization would result in a more efficient use of financial and human resources. A unified and coordinated approach will help us reach the nine goals adopted by the boards of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and National Corn Development Foundation (NCDF) in December 1996. Such an approach also will help us achieve the shared Corn Industry Vision. In short, we need a more efficient, more participatory organization if we are to realize our target of a \$40 billion crop value at the farm gate in 2002 and address changing needs of farmers.

Q: Is this new organization like the many others in agriculture today?

A: No. Our proposed new organization is completely different in many ways than any existing farmer-led organization. The Study Groups looked at existing organizations and determined ours had to be unique to meet the needs of corn growers. The whole idea behind it is broad-based, grass-roots participation with opportunities for many different farmers from all states to participate. The decisions would be made closer to the farm, and farmers would collaborate on programs and funding decisions throughout the organization.

Q: How will representation be determined?

A: The Corn Congress, the largest of the three interacting groups making up the new national organization, is structured in such a way that all states are fairly represented and have a say in the process. The number of growers from each state isn't capped. Instead, the number is determined by three equally weight-

ed criteria applied to each state: number of corn grower association members in the state; state corn production; and the dollars invested by the state in the new NCGA. Each state's representation is determined by the number of representatives the state actually earns. Every state with a corn grower association or checkoff board would be represented.

Q: How will the process be approved?

A: The recommendations from the Study Groups will be discussed and voted on by the boards of the NCGA and NCDF at their August meetings. The August vote is the major, official vote creating the new NCGA and authorizing it to begin functioning. If the recommendations are accepted, a Transition Team will be appointed to help form one organization from the NCGA and NCDF. The Transition Team would develop procedures and guidelines for putting the Corn Congress, Corn Board and Corn Action Teams into place. Other team actions include revamping the bylaws of the NCGA and integrating the NCDF into the new National Corn Growers Association. The Transition Team would report to the NCGA/NCDF Executive Committee on its progress in November. It would make recommendations to the NCGA and NCDF boards in December. The timeline recommended for establishing the new NCGA calls for the process to be complete by Oct. 1, 1998.

Q: How will appointments be made to Corn Action Teams and Task Forces?

A: Corn Action Teams are open to any farmer who has an interest in areas in which the team is working. These work areas would tie directly to the nine strategic goals of the new NCGA. Nominees do not have to be members of the Corn Congress or the Corn Board. Corn Action Team members can be nominated by their states, by members of the Corn Congress or by the Corn Board. They also can be self-nominated. The officers of the

Corn Board appoint Corn Action Team Chairmen and Vice Chairmen with the approval of the Corn Board. Action team members are selected from among the nominees by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Corn Board officers with approval of the Corn Board.

Q: Who is eligible for the Corn Congress, Corn Board and Corn Action Teams?

A: Representatives from state grower associations or checkoff boards can determine the length of the term. Corn Board members are recommended by a nominating committee for election by the Corn Congress after the nominating committee has requested a list of interested candidates from state organizations. You don't need to be in the Corn Congress to be on the Corn Board. Corn Board members can serve two, consecutive, three-year terms. Corn Board members and officers can be either state grower association members or checkoff board members.

Corn Action Team members can be nominated for a particular team by their states, by the Corn Congress or by the Corn Board. They also can be self-nominated. The officers of the Corn Board and Corn Board members will work with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of each team to select and approve the people nominated for each Corn Action Team.

Q: How does a state involve more growers in the new NCGA than in the present NCGA/NCDF?

A: Currently NCGA/NCDF board members comprise both the board and the committees of the association. In addition, board members often serve as delegates. In the new NCGA, there are separate and distinct functions for growers who participate in the Congress, Board, Action Teams and Task Forces and more ways for farmers to be involved. These functions involve various time commitments. The Study Groups suggest that each state plan to use different growers for these positions. States will decide which farmers to recommend for vari-



ous positions. The Study Group members believe that not utilizing different growers is a disservice to the states that will limit the potential of the new NCGA and its increased farmer access.

Q: Won't smaller states be left out of the process?

A: Because the Study Groups are proposing three criteria for state representation in the Corn Congress, all states have the opportunity to be fairly represented. If only one criteria were used, it would be possible that representation could be unfairly skewed. Every state organization represented in the current NCGA and NCDF will be represented in the new Corn Congress and can be part of the Corn Board or Corn Action Teams as well.

Q: What is the role of the NCGA/NCDF Executive Committee during the transition year?

A: The NCGA/NCDF Executive Committee will be elected in 1997 as usual. With the integration of the NCGA and NCDF into the new National Corn Growers Association in December 1997, the Executive Committee begins to serve as an "interim Corn Board" until the first Corn Board elections are held in August 1998. Throughout

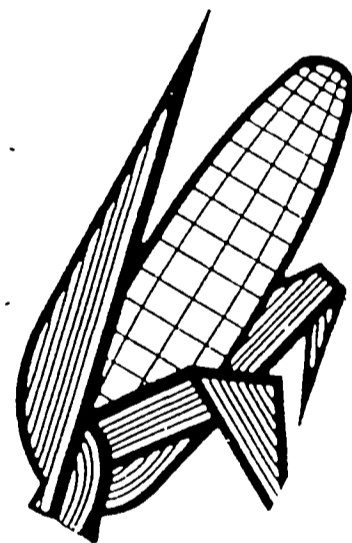
1998, the "interim Corn Board" will serve as an advisor for implementing the new organizational structure. It will fill the management role for policy and budget matters. This procedure allows the new NCGA to progress smoothly through the transition. It also allows the new Corn Board to be elected at the time that it would be elected in each of the following years.

Q: How will the NCGA/NCDF join together?

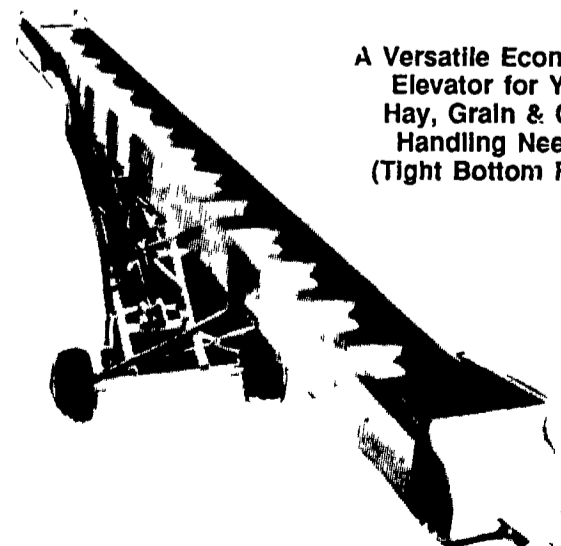
A: In December 1997, the Transition Team will propose bylaws for the new National Corn Growers Association. At that time, NCDF directors will vote to join the NCGA. NCGA directors will vote to amend the NCGA bylaws. Specific steps and explanation for this action will be reviewed at the NCGA/NCDF board meetings in August.

Q: How do I find out more?

A: Call us. Members of the Process and Resources Study Groups are available to talk with you individually by conference call or to make a presentation to a group. Contact either Wallie Hardie at (701) 474-5471 or Everett Nordine at (712) 843-5405. Or call Mike Rohan at the NCGA at (314) 275-9915 ext. 123.



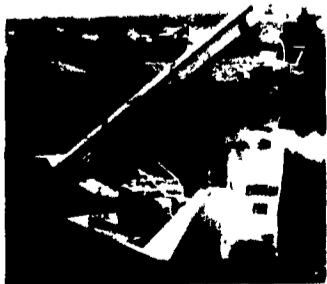
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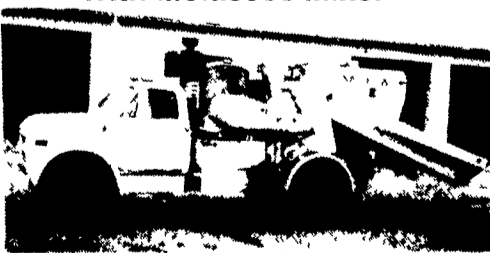
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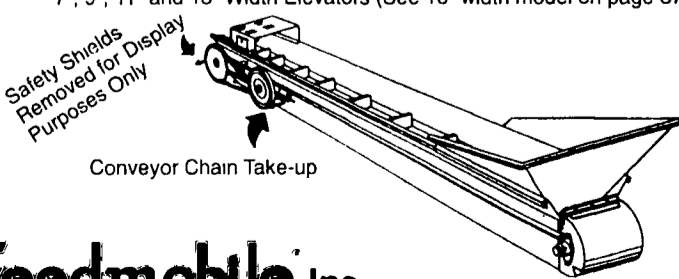


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