

Biotechnology Holds Key To Corn's Future

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — NCGA believes that corn's future is written in its genetic code.

That's why the association has teamed up with a consortium of private and public sector organizations to launch the National Corn Genome Initiative. The group is seeking \$143 million in federal support, over five years, for research to map the corn genome.

Mapping and sequencing the corn genome is the key to U.S. corn growers' future success in the world market, explained NCGA Research Committee Chairman Doug Foss of Illinois.

"To continue to compete globally, we must improve our corn production capabilities. We have to efficiently and economically maximize our yields and combat serious threats from disease, pests, and climate changes, and we have to do this without harming the environment," Foss said.

A corn genome map will identify the particular locations of genes that control important traits such as stress tolerance, pest and disease resistance, yield and nutritional value. These genes can then be incorporated into improved crop varieties to address a diverse range of producer and consumer problems and needs.

The Senate Appropriations Committee had allocated \$40 million to the National Science Foundation for a National

Plant Genome Initiative that will focus on deciphering the genetics of corn and other economically significant crops. The bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee.

NCGA will be working with House and Senate members to ensure that the \$40 million in funding is included in the final bill.

Leading the fight for this funding on Capitol Hill are Sens. Kit Bond (R-MO), Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), Charles Grassley (R-IA), and Tom Harkin (D-IA), as well as Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO).

The Clinton Administration also has signaled its recognition of the importance of plant genome research. At the urging of Sen. Bond, it recently estab-

lished an Interagency Working Group on Plant Genomics. Agencies involved include the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Office of Management and Budget and USDA.

Learn more about the importance of the corn genome to the U.S. grain industry in a new

video entitled "National Corn Genome Initiative: For A Better America, for A Better World." The 10-minute program was produced by NCGA with the support of the Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board. To obtain a copy, contact Amy Mercer at (314) 275-9915, ext. 118.

Corn Growers Applaud U.S. Decision To Fight Mexican Fructose Tariffs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is praising the decision by the U.S. Trade Representative to pursue formal action to resolve a dispute with Mexico regarding anti-dumping duties imposed on high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) imported from the United States.

Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky announced recently that the U.S. will request immediate consultations with Mexico under the dispute settlement provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO). If the issue is not resolved via consultation, the U.S. may seek a WTO panel ruling.

Earlier this year, Mexican sugar interests alleged that high fructose corn syrup from the U.S. was being dumped on the Mexican market at prices that were less than the cost of

production. In response, on June 24, the Mexican Trade Ministry imposed tariffs of as much as \$175.50 per ton on HFCS imported from the United States.

"U.S. exporters cannot possibly compete at these exorbitant tariff levels, so all exports of U.S. fructose to Mexico are effectively stopped," said NCGA President Wallie Hardie, a corn farmer from Fairmount, N.D.

Hardie emphasized that the ability to compete freely in the international marketplace is particularly important to U.S. corn growers following enactment of the 1996 Farm Bill. "Freedom to Farm provisions have eliminated the traditional price supports available to corn farmers. In exchange, we were told that we would be free to produce for a growing international market," he said.

"If left unchallenged, Mexi-

co's decision to impose anti-dumping duties on U.S. fructose exports represents a breach of faith with corn farmers who were assured of their right to pursue markets around the world," Hardie said. "Therefore, we applaud Ambassador Barshefsky's decision to take action to ensure enforcement of the fair trade provisions of the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement."

The action enjoys widespread support on Capitol Hill.

In July, Congress passed a concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) urging the U.S. Trade Representative to take appropriate steps to resolve the issue. Hardie and the Corn Growers expressed gratitude to the elected officials who have championed the issue, including Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Richard Lugar (R-IN), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Robert Kerrey (D-NE), and Representatives Glenn Poshard (D-IL), Thomas Ewing (R-IL) and Phil Crane (R-IL).



CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

BRINGING TECHNOLOGY Down to Earth

Ask about corn hybrid:

NC+ 4646

111 Days 2425 GDUs

- ◆ Dominating yield performer
- ◆ Excellent standability
- ◆ Rapid drydown

Ask about corn hybrid:

NC+ 4880

112 Days, 2430 GDUs

- ◆ Strong yield potential
- ◆ Excellent germination and seedling vigor
- ◆ Good standability and fast drydown

Your NC+ Dealer has the genetically superior hybrids and varieties that will yield for you



Ask about corn hybrid:

NC+ 5007 New

112 Days, 2440 GDUs

- ◆ Excellent yields and eye appeal.
- ◆ Displays good tolerance to gray leaf spot.
- ◆ Excellent ear flex and rapid drydown.

Ask about corn hybrid:

NC+ 5445

114 Days, 2515 GDUs

- ◆ Outstanding yielder.
- ◆ Good tolerance to most foliar diseases.
- ◆ Good hybrid in soybean rotation.

Call District Sales Manager Harvey Doyle at 412-459-8580 or see one of these NC+ Dealers.

AARONSBURG
MICHAEL SPEICHER

ELLIOTSBURG
WAYNE FREEMAN • 717-582-2397

HALIFAX
BETHTEL FARMS, KENNETH
BECHTEL • 717-896-8314

KINTNERSVILLE
WAYNE LITZENBERGER
• 610-847-5563

KUNKLETOWN
JEFFREY BORGER • 610-381-3785

LEBANON
CLARENCE MULL • 717-865-2037

LITITZ
ELVIN HURSH • 717-733-3538

MANCHESTER
ANIMAL MEDIC • 717-266-5611

MANHEIM
ARTHUR AUKER • 717-665-6627

RICHFIELD
SAMUEL KNOUSE • 717-463-2885

SALEM
DONALD EMEL • 609-769-1577

THOMPSONTOWN
DAVID SANER • 717-535-5103

THOMPSONTOWN
ROGER SANER • 717-535-5307



America's
down to earth
seed company