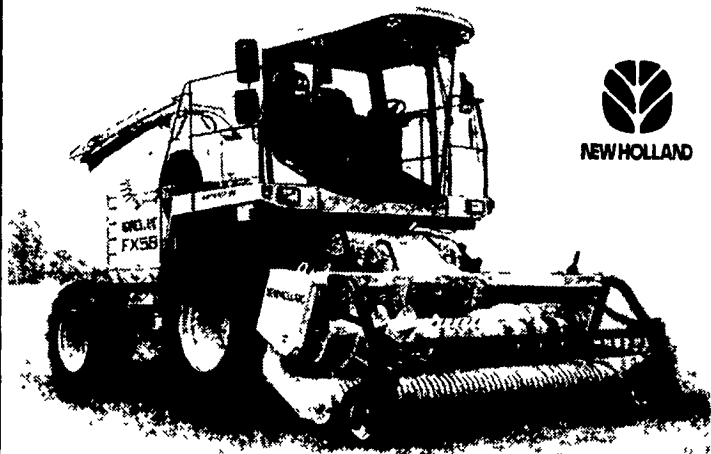


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# Department of Energy

## Awards Project

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) recently announced that corn growers' checkoff investments in research have paid off with a Department of Energy grant totaling \$889,632 for the development of new uses for this country's number one crop - corn.

This grant, made through DOE's Renewable Resources Vision 2020, is for a three-year program of process development and commercialization of polyols, value-added chemicals made from corn.

The current polyols market would require 250 million bushels of corn to supply the total domestic demand for these valuable polyol compounds: ethylene glycol (antifreeze); propylene glycol (aircraft deicing fluid); and glycerol (ingredients for personal care products and prepared foods). The next generation of these catalysts to make other chemicals, beyond polyols, could increase the demand for corn three or four fold, perhaps as much as an additional billion bushels, in the next 10 years.

"This research represents substantial - and very real-commercial value for all corn growers," said NCGA Corn Board member Bob Boeding of Lawler, Iowa. "And it is made possible by their check-off investments."

The DOE grant will enable NCGA and its partners, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory of Richland, Wash., and Michigan State University, East Lansing,

Mich., to develop research resulting in corn-based commodity chemicals that are highly valuable and commercially competitive without the need for government subsidies.

Boeding noted that this is "the very kind of public/private partnership that NCGA referred to in our comments made at the recent executive order signing by President Clinton on bio-fuels and bio energy." In those comments, NCGA President Roger Pine said that more partnerships among agriculture, industry and government are needed in order to meet the challenge of creating security for the United States in the 21st Century.

"NCGA corn growers have been steadfast in gaining this kind of recognition for the research process they have developed," Boeding said. "It reflects on state Corn Grower and NCGA efforts to leverage growers' checkoff dollar investments."

The DOE grant is a "matching funds grant," meaning corn growers must match this amount with a minimum equal amount of funds and in-kind efforts.

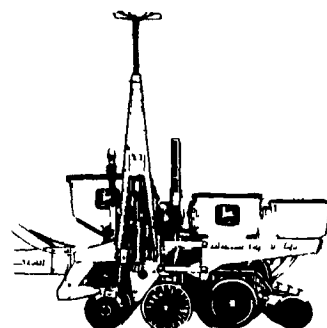
"It is the intent of NCGA to develop corn grower ownership potential in this (polyols) commercialization project and to be benefit from the investment for years to come," Boeding said. "This success can only be realized if corn growers continue to shape their destiny by investing checkoff funds in projects which expand and build potential markets for corn."

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