



EMERGE

A SOUTH DAKOTA CORN PUBLICATION



Ethanol: High corn prices big factor

Study: Ethanol pumps \$1M into economy

By VIN WOSTER
Leader Staff
The ethanol industry has a \$61 million impact on South Dakota's economy that goes far beyond the farm, farmers and ethanol industry officials said Monday.
Releasing the results of an economic study on the ethanol industry, corn and ethanol officials for the American Ethanol Association said the study's findings likely will be significantly improved or else be allowed to expire at year's end when it's scheduled to expire. That's because the current Congress doesn't kill it first.
Energy-policy analysts enjoy

Increasing production

1988-89	566,325 gallons
1989-90	985,000 gallons
1990-91	1.1 million gallons
1991-92	2.3 million gallons
1992-93	5 million gallons
1993-94	7.4 million gallons
1994-95	11.4 million gallons
1995-96	14 million gallons

More corn and soybeans, less wheat to be planted

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A record number of acres may be planted to soybeans this year in South Dakota, corn acreage will also increase, but farmers have told the U.S. Department of Agriculture they will sow less wheat.
Another USDA report reveals that spring inventories of most major crops are larger this year.

could be raised in that area," she said Wednesday.

Hanson said farmers are already in the fields in southeastern South Dakota.

Corn plantings are expected to total 3.6 million acres in South Dakota, an increase of 6 percent from both last year and 1989.

Previously stated wishes and removed her life support.

"I didn't think I could make that decision, and he looked at me and said 'I already made it.' Now, no one in my family considered suing our doctor, because it was the right decision," he said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers said the Nancy Cruzan case changed his mind about the measure.

Supreme Court in a battle to remove dent left her in a vegetative state. The high court ruled last December that they could remove her feeding tube.

Business update
Fair labor charges
Against firm

S.D. e

SD Corn Growers Celebrate 50-Billionth Bushel Jubilee

Corn growers from all across the state of South Dakota will mark the 50-Billionth Bushel Jubilee. Celebrating a milestone in the state's corn production history, the South Dakota Corn Growers Association will hold a special ceremony in Sioux Falls. The ceremony will be held on Monday, April 4, at the Ramkota Hotel. Corn will be the main attraction.

South Dakota to build ethanol plant

Associated Press

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association recently ran a promotion in Watertown, S.D., to encourage use of ethanol.

It gave out a "yellow nickel" for every gallon that customers bought. The nickels were painted yellow to represent corn, the major ingredient of ethanol.

"If we, for instance, double the current production of ethanol in the United States — going from 8 percent of the U.S. market to

sources," Iseminger said. "Now I think it's going to take a good hard look at it again to see what happens."

Farmer Russel Gantzort, of Clear Lake, S.D., agrees. "It'll help our corn prices out and I think in the long run it'll probably even lower our fuel prices a little bit."

The government allows no more than a 10 percent ethanol blend in gasoline, but ethanol supporters say gasoline with an 85 percent blend runs cars cheaper and emits half

AGRE

loan to final blending still

Iseminger will increase South Dakota

Ethanol is at both Sioux Falls and

44 million ethanol plant planned

City of Sioux Falls switches to ethanol

Vehicle fleet expands use of alternative fuel

By RANDY HASCALL
Argus Leader

City of Sioux Falls vehicles operated by the city will switch to ethanol fuel, according to a city official. The city converted a 6,000-gallon diesel tank for the new fuel.

South Dakota raises third-largest corn crop on record

The 2010 South Dakota corn crop totals finished at 569.7 million bushels, making it the state's third-largest crop on record. The state's corn crop is up 1.4 percent from the 2009 crop.

2009, totaling 4.22 million, the lowest level since 2006. Final state corn yields came in at 135 bushels per acre, down five bushels from November projections.

year during the growing season," said Gary Duffy, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. "While yields may be slightly down, our producers continue to produce a high quality crop."

from 154.3 to 152.8 bushels per acre with a total crop of 12.44 billion bushels, down 5 percent from November's estimate of 12.54 billion bushels. The 2009 record was 12.44 billion bushels.

More ethanol coming to area

S.D. has

State joining nation

BY THOM GABRUKIEWICZ
tgabrukiew@argusleader.com

It seems nothing can stop the farmer this season.

This year's harvest is on pace to produce the second-largest corn crop in U.S. history and the fourth-largest soybean crop.

Despite a too-soggy spring and June floods, South Dakota corn production is projected at 135 bushels per acre this year. The 2009 record was 12.44 billion bushels.

HOW SOUTH DAKOTA CORN GROWERS BUILT A NATIONAL MODEL FOR ETHANOL, INNOVATION AND RURAL PROSPERITY

On a cold and windy January day in 1986, a small group of South Dakota corn farmers gathered at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls with a shared concern about the future. Corn prices were low. Surpluses were high. Farm profitability was under pressure, and producers knew that traditional markets alone would not secure the future of South Dakota agriculture.

What happened that day would help to reshape the state's agricultural economy for generations.

Roughly 40 to 50 farmers met to discuss the challenges facing corn producers and the need for a unified voice. Orrie Swayze chaired the meeting. After hours of discussion, Roland Pester made the motion to officially form the South Dakota Corn Growers Association [SDCGA]. The motion passed, and a movement was born.

Within weeks, a steering committee was assembled, bylaws were drafted, districts were organized, and volunteer leaders stepped forward to build the organization from the ground up. On March 18, 1986, the first official board meeting was held, articles of incorporation were notarized, and the organization elected its first officers:

- Mark Rogen, President
- Orrie Swayze, First Vice President
- Monty Cronin, Second Vice President
- Ron Alverson, Secretary
- Roland Pester, Treasurer.

Those early leaders could not have imagined the full impact their efforts would have over the next four decades.

1986-2026

BUILDING A STRONG VOICE FOR CORN GROWERS

From the beginning, SDCGA focused on more than membership. The organization was designed to be a voice for South Dakota corn farmers in Pierre, Washington, D.C., and throughout the agricultural industry.

Committees were quickly established to focus on market development, field services, government relations, research and production, budgeting, and conventions. The organization's familiar logo was approved in 1986, and the first newsletter soon followed.



Membership growth became a major priority. Early outreach efforts included “Farming Plus Days,” educational programs held across the state during the winter of 1987. Farmers gathered in Watertown, Huron, Mitchell, Vermillion and other communities to hear from market experts, industry leaders, and organization representatives.

Those meetings were more than educational seminars—they were the foundation of a statewide network of producers united around common goals.

“We knew we had to work together,” many of the founding members would later recall. “No one else was going to create opportunities for us.”

The organization also launched early research and demonstration programs, including the first SDCGA show plots in Twin Brooks, Huron and Freeman. Those efforts provided practical production information to farmers while reinforcing the association's commitment to research-based agriculture.

THE BIRTH OF THE CORN CHECKOFF

One of the most defining moments in organization history came in 1988.

SDCGA leaders and volunteers spent countless hours in Pierre advocating for legislation that would establish the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC) and create the state corn checkoff program. Farmers traveled repeatedly to the Capitol to meet with legislators, explain the value of market development, and build support for the initiative.

Their work paid off.

On March 2, 1988, the South Dakota corn checkoff was signed into law with an emergency clause, allowing it to take effect immediately.

The new structure created the SDCUC to oversee investments in research, market development, promotion, and value-added agriculture.

The impact of that decision cannot be overstated.

The checkoff gave South Dakota corn growers the ability to invest in their own future. It created resources to support ethanol infrastructure, promote new uses for corn, develop research partnerships, and attract processing opportunities to the state.

That same year, Dale Gullickson was hired as the first executive director, the organization opened its first office in Sioux Falls, and the framework for decades of industry growth was established.

SOUTH DAKOTA BECOMES AN ETHANOL LEADER

Long before ethanol became a national conversation, South Dakota corn leaders saw its potential.

The late 1980s and early 1990s became a period of bold experimentation and aggressive market development. SDCGA and SDCUC leaders worked tirelessly to promote ethanol blends, support infrastructure, educate mechanics and fuel retailers, and demonstrate that ethanol worked in real-world applications.

In 1987, the organizations approved the first ethanol pump stickers in the state.

In 1988, one of the nation's earliest small-engine ethanol studies was conducted at Lake Area Vocational Technical Institute (LAVTI) in Watertown. Engines running on ethanol blends were tested, monitored, and disassembled for evaluation—part of an effort to answer questions and build confidence in ethanol performance.

The organizations also fought public misconceptions head-on, including efforts to remove “No Alcohol” signs at fuel stations. By 1989 and 1990, SDCUC launched low-interest loan and grant programs to support ethanol blending facilities, storage infrastructure, and market expansion. Those investments helped create a statewide ethanol network and became the beginning of South Dakota's long-term leadership in renewable fuels.



Among the earliest projects were:

- Funding for ethanol tank farms and blending infrastructure
- Rebates for ethanol storage tanks
- Support for mechanics training programs
- Promotion partnerships with fuel retailers
- Investments in E-85 vehicles and conversion technology
- Research grants for alternative fuel applications.

The organizations didn't stop with passenger vehicles.

Ethanol-powered race cars, motorcycles, snowmobiles, boats, pickups, police vehicles, and even airplanes became part of South Dakota's story.

In 1991, South Dakota helped establish the first public E-85 pump in the nation at S & A Convenience in Sioux Falls. That same year, Dr. Max Shauck of Baylor University converted an aircraft to fly on 100% ethanol, supported by SDCGA research investments.



The Vanguard Squadron of Tea, South Dakota, later flew ethanol-powered aircraft demonstrations at Oshkosh, the world's largest airshow, bringing national attention to South Dakota innovation.

At the same time, racing legend Leo Hess shattered land speed records using ethanol fuel, proving renewable fuels could deliver elite performance.

These projects captured headlines, but their deeper purpose was education. SDCGA and SDCUC leaders understood that public confidence and consumer awareness were essential to building long-term ethanol demand.

**INVESTING IN
VALUE-ADDED
AGRICULTURE**

Beyond renewable fuels, the organizations focused heavily on creating value-added opportunities for South Dakota farmers.

Throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s, SDCUC invested in research farms, feasibility studies, processing infrastructure, and cooperative development. The organizations provided support for projects that would later become foundational parts of South Dakota agriculture.

The organizations also invested in Dakota Lakes Research Farm, Northern Crops Institute, Heartland Grain Fuels, and numerous ethanol and processing initiatives throughout the state.

Many of those early investments were considered ambitious at the time. Today, they are recognized as visionary.

The revolving low-interest loan program created in 1989 became one of the organization's most influential tools for encouraging market development and agricultural processing. Leaders understood that keeping corn value in South Dakota would strengthen local economies, create jobs, and improve farm profitability.

Their vision helped transform South Dakota into a national leader in ethanol production, renewable fuels, and value-added agriculture.

**A LEGACY BUILT
BY FARMERS**

The first ten years of SDCGA and SDCUC were powered by volunteer leadership, long meetings, and an unwavering belief in the future of South Dakota agriculture

Founding leaders often spent late nights discussing policy, solving problems, and debating strategy. Many of the organization's biggest decisions were shaped around tables long after official meetings ended.

Those early leaders were not simply building organizations. They were building opportunity.

- Forty years later, the results are visible across the state:
- A nationally respected corn grower organization
 - A strong and effective corn checkoff program
 - World-class ethanol production capacity
 - Expanded domestic and international markets
 - Research investments that continue to benefit farmers
 - Rural economic growth and value-added agriculture
 - Strong representation in Pierre and Washington, D.C.

Today's South Dakota corn industry stands on the foundation built by those early visionaries who believed corn could be more than a commodity.

As SDCGA and SDCUC celebrate 40 years, the mission remains remarkably consistent with the goals established in 1986: promote corn, improve profitability, expand markets, support research, influence policy, and strengthen rural communities.

The tools may have evolved, but the commitment has not.

From one snowy meeting in Sioux Falls to four decades of leadership and innovation, the story of South Dakota Corn is ultimately the story of farmers working together to create a stronger future.

And after 40 years, that future is still being written.

**AN UNWAVERING
BELIEF IN THE
FUTURE OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
AGRICULTURE.**

**AND AFTER
40 YEARS,
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TODAY'S
CORN INDUSTRY STANDS
ON THE FOUNDATION
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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

June 9, 2026

South Dakota Corn Growers Association
4712 S. Technopolis Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57064

South Dakota Corn Growers:

Congratulations on the tremendous milestone of your 40th anniversary as the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. As Governor, I recognize the decades of work South Dakota Corn has done to become a cornerstone of our state's agricultural community. You've played a key role in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and championing the hardworking family farms who feed and fuel the world. You truly are the voice of South Dakota's corn growers.

Since your founding in 1986, you've remained committed to providing strong policy leadership, expanding market opportunities, developing ethanol, and transforming South Dakota's agricultural industry. The collective efforts throughout the years have not only elevated the value of our corn industry but have also ensured our family farms remain resilient and prosperous for generations to come.

Corn is central to South Dakota's identity, and our state consistently ranks in the top ten corn producing states in the nation. Your organization's success is reflected in the state's record 6.85 million acres planted and 1.09 billion bushels of corn harvested in 2025. In addition, nearly half of the corn produced by your members is converted to clean burning ethanol right here in South Dakota, adding jobs and value back into our economy.

Your leadership over the last forty years has been instrumental in keeping our agricultural heritage strong. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence, community support, and economic development.

As you look back on forty years of outstanding accomplishments, I hope you reflect proudly on all that you have accomplished. I join all South Dakotans in celebrating this special anniversary and wishing you continued growth and success in the decades ahead.

Sincerely,



Larry Rhoden
Governor

STATE CAPITOL | 500 EAST CAPITOL | PIERRE, SD 57501



Dear Members of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council:

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations as you celebrate 40 years of hard work and dedication to improving the lives of South Dakota farmers and promoting our state's agriculture economy. This incredible milestone is a testament to your tireless efforts to champion South Dakota agriculture and your steadfast advocacy on behalf of corn producers across our state.

Thanks to your great partnership, we have made tremendous strides to support the hard work and ingenuity of South Dakota corn producers and create new opportunities so they can grow their operations and thrive. As a longtime advocate for year-round E15 and robust biofuel blending targets, I'm proud of all the work we did to secure the highest renewable volume obligations ever this year. This commonsense measure will not only increase domestic demand but also help ensure that South Dakota continues to be one of our nation's leaders when it comes to biofuels.

During my time in Congress, I have helped craft four farm bills. I'm especially proud of the significant agriculture investments we secured in last year's Working Families Tax Cuts legislation to improve critical safety net programs, increase reference prices, expand crop insurance, and bolster disaster assistance. We also made lasting reforms to ensure farmers can keep and invest more of their hard-earned money by permanently extending the 199A 20 percent small business tax deduction and full expensing on new equipment, as well as raising the death tax exemption to protect more family farms from this punitive tax and costly estate planning expenses. On top of all that, we successfully extended the 45Z biofuel tax credit through 2029 and curbed eligibility for foreign feedstocks to prioritize American producers.

While our work is never finished, your dedicated efforts help ensure farmers across our state have a strong voice and a seat at the table when it comes to crafting policies that directly affect your livelihoods and our rural communities. Advocating for producers in our state is always a top priority of mine, and your insights have made a huge difference as we've worked to advance policies that empower our farmers and grow South Dakota's agriculture economy.

Congratulations, again, on this incredible achievement, and thank you for everything you do day in and day out to support South Dakota corn producers. I look forward to building on our work to deliver for South Dakota farmers in the years ahead. and curbed eligibility for foreign feedstocks to prioritize American producers.

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Kindest Regards,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



SENATOR MIKE ROUNDS

April 10, 2026

SD Corn
4712 South Technopolis Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-4246

Dear Members and Staff of SD Corn,

Congratulations on 40 years of serving South Dakota! This partnership between SDCGA and SDCUC has been instrumental in supporting South Dakota farmers.

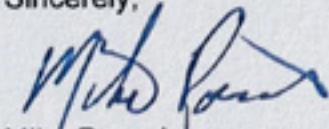
There have been many changes in the ag industry over the past four decades. Whether using GPS for autosteer and automatic row shut off, improving profitability by integrating seed biotechnology or expanding markets for corn to further include ethanol and distillers grains, these changes have had a significant impact on the success of family farms in our state.

While there have been many changes, a few things have stayed the same. Kids are still getting in combines to help their dads finish the field before rain comes in. Families are still bringing dinner out to the harvest crew in the middle of a long day's work. And communities are still supporting neighbors in need, often putting their neighbors' needs ahead of their own.

SD Corn has had an impact on many of the changes that have occurred in the past 40 years, but you should be just as proud of your work to keep some things the same. Because of your work, farmers in our state have continued to find success and ways to improve practices so their operations can be passed onto the next generation.

Again, congratulations on this milestone. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,



Mike Rounds
United States Senator



South Dakota's farmers know better than anyone how essential a strong agricultural economy is to the success of our state. The 40th anniversary of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council (SDCUC) marks four decades of leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment from South Dakota's corn producers.

Your organizations have championed the interests of corn producers across the state – advancing research, expanding market opportunities, promoting responsible stewardship, and ensuring that the voices of growers are heard at every level of government.

During my time in Congress, I've been proud to stand with our producers and advocate for rural communities in a place where the challenges facing agriculture are not always well understood. Working alongside SDCGA and SDCUC has been critical to advance policies that support corn farmers across South Dakota and throughout the region.

As your organizations look ahead, I'm confident the next 40 years will be just as impactful as the last. I congratulate the many leaders, past and present, whose dedication has strengthened South Dakota agriculture and helped ensure a bright future for the next generation of producers.

Dusty Johnson

DUSTY JOHNSON
U.S. Representative from South Dakota



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President

April 27, 2026

Dear South Dakota Corn members,

Congratulations on 40 years of leadership and positive impact on agriculture in South Dakota. This milestone expresses a great deal about your long-term commitment to the producers you represent and the future of our state.

This anniversary is a personal one for me. I've had the privilege of working closely with South Dakota Corn over the years, and I'll always be grateful and proud for the opportunity to serve as your first endowed dean for the College of Agriculture, what is now the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences. Additionally, in 2012, you honored me as your Most Valuable Player in Agriculture, a distinction of which I'm very proud. These experiences shaped my career and continue to reflect the kind of forward-thinking investment your organization consistently makes in SDSU.

Your impact on SDSU is both significant and enduring. Your investments have helped shape our campus in meaningful ways, from your leadership as a champion of the Raven Precision Agriculture Center and support of an endowed chair in Precision Agriculture, to your role as a lead or major donor in projects like the Swine Unit expansion, the POET Bioproducts Center, the Berg Agricultural Hall remodel, the Young Brothers Seed Technology Laboratory, and the Cow-Calf Unit.

Just as important has been your consistent support of students and programs. From undergraduate scholarships to your commitment to the Agricultural Leadership program, and decades of investment in university research, your partnership has helped us deliver work that creates real, value-added opportunities for South Dakota corn producers.

What I've always appreciated most is the relationship behind these investments. Time and again, when I've come forward with ideas about where SDSU can grow and better serve agriculture, South Dakota Corn has been willing to listen, engage, and step forward in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your trust, your leadership, and your partnership over the past 40 years. We are proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to what's ahead.

Sincerely,

Barry H. Dunn
Barry H. Dunn
President
South Dakota State University

Office of the President
Morrill Hall 222, Box 2201 | Brookings, SD 57007 | 605-688-4111



NOT JUST A MOMENT IN TIME...

A collection of notes celebrating four decades of leadership.

"The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association congratulates SD Corn on 40 years of service. Your leadership has made a meaningful difference for generations of South Dakota farmers and ranchers.

As partners in agriculture, we appreciate the vital role corn plays in cattle nutrition and in sustaining our state's beef industry. Strong relationships like ours built on shared values, purpose, and commitment to feeding the world, strengthen all of South Dakota agriculture.

Thank you for four decades of dedication, and congratulations on this remarkable milestone!"

- Taya Runyan, Executive Director

"Cheers to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council on 40 years of excellence. Your leadership has driven vital progress in both agricultural research and policy, building a stronger future for every producer in our state. We're raising a cold glass of milk in your honor—congratulations on this milestone!"

- Heidi Zwinger, Executive Director



"South Dakota Farm Bureau warmly congratulates the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council on 40 years of outstanding service to South Dakota agriculture.

For four decades, the South Dakota Corn organizations have been steadfast advocates for farmers - championing policies, investing in research and promotion, and driving innovation that has strengthened farm operations, rural communities and our entire state.

Your farmer leaders have been true trailblazers in advancing value-added opportunities, helping position South Dakota as a leader in corn utilization, biofuels, and expanded markets. That forward-thinking approach continues to create new demand, enhance profitability, and open doors for the next generation of farmers. The impact of your work is evident across our state.

As we look ahead, your vision, leadership, and partnership will remain critical in navigating the opportunities and challenges facing agriculture. We are proud to work alongside you and look forward to continued collaboration in building a strong future for South Dakota agriculture.

Congratulations on 40 years of success and progress!"

- Krystil Smit, Executive Director

"Congratulations to South Dakota Corn on their 40th Anniversary! South Dakota Pork Producers Council appreciate the consistent and high quality corn and dried distillers grain that South Dakota corn growers provide to our pork producers. We look forward to another 40 years of partnership and collaborations between our organizations!"

- Glenn Muller, Executive Director

"Congratulations to the SD Corn Growers Association and SD Corn Utilization Council on your 40th anniversary! Your inspiring vision and strategic leadership continue to enrich the lives of farm families and strengthen the economies of communities across South Dakota and the nation. The South Dakota Soybean Association and SD Checkoff applaud your accomplishments and are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as you embark on the next 40 years."

- Jerry Schmitz, Executive Director

"The South Dakota Wheat Commission extends its sincerest congratulations to South Dakota Corn on 40 years of dedicated service to our state's producers. Your commitment to market development, education, and promotion have been vital to South Dakota agriculture."

- Jonathan Kleinjan, Executive Director

"Congratulations to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council on 40 years of service to South Dakota agriculture. For four decades, you've been strong advocates for farmers and a driving force in innovation, education, and market development. At the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association, we value the partnership we share and the unified voice we bring to advancing agriculture across our state. Here's to the next 40 years!"

- Jennifer Scharpe, Executive Director



A LEGACY BUILT TOGETHER.

Congratulations on 40 years of impact and service to South Dakota corn producers. The South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council have played a vital role in amplifying farmer voices and driving innovation for the industry. NCGA is proud to stand alongside you and celebrate this milestone.



A hearty congratulations to South Dakota Corn for reaching this amazing milestone! We, at the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council, understand and appreciate how much global trade impacts the state, and the folks at South Dakota Corn are vital to the work we accomplish together. We celebrate this 40 years and look forward to the promising opportunities in the next 40.



On behalf of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), congratulations to South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council on this remarkable 40-year milestone. Your organization has played a vital role in advancing agriculture, supporting producers, and strengthening the connection between corn production and global demand for U.S. red meat.

As a valued USMEF member since 1998, South Dakota Corn has been an important partner in expanding international markets and demonstrating the power of collaboration across the industry. We are proud to work alongside you and look forward to many more years of partnership and shared success.



"40 years! Congratulations from Alabama, the Cotton State!"
- Alabama Soybean & Corn Association



"On behalf of the Colorado Corn Promotion Council, congratulations to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council on celebrating 40 years of service to corn farmers and the industry.



Your organizations have played an important role in advancing agriculture, supporting producers, and strengthening the corn industry in South Dakota and beyond. We value the partnership between our organizations and appreciate the leadership South Dakota Corn has shown over the past four decades.

Congratulations on this milestone anniversary and best wishes for many more years of success."
- Colorado Corn Council

"Congratulations to SDCGA and SDCUC on your 40th Anniversary. While South Dakota and Georgia are miles apart in distance, we most frequently find a kindred spirit between our associations when it comes to both our stakeholders whether its policy, needs at home, struggles, environmental challenges and ultimately pride and heartfelt thanks in what our growers do everyday. May we both act in concert with each other and continue this highly respected fight for the future of our growers."



- Georgia Corn Growers Association

"Congratulations to South Dakota Corn on 40 years of supporting farmers, strengthening communities, and advancing agriculture. It's been exciting to see the impact you've made, and even better to work alongside such a dedicated team. Here's to the next 40 years!"



- Illinois Corn Growers Association

"Congratulations on 40 Years! From Indiana's corn and soybean farmers."



- Indiana Corn Growers Association

"Iowa Corn would like to congratulate South Dakota Corn on celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year," said Iowa Corn CEO Craig Floss. "South Dakota Corn has been an instrumental partner with Iowa Corn as part of the National Corn Growers Association, ensuring that corn grower's needs are addressed not only here in the Midwest but across the country. We look forward to continuing to partner with the South Dakota Corn team in the years to come to advance the representation and profitability of U.S. corn growers."



- Iowa Corn Growers Association

"On behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association, I would like to congratulate the South Dakota Corn Growers Association on 40 years of advocacy and leadership for South Dakota corn farmers. SDCGA is a respected and valued partner, and we value our relationships with your farmer leaders and staff. We look forward to our continued collaboration on issues important to our members. Here's to 40 years!"



- Kansas Corn

"Thank you for your efforts to increase opportunities for family corn farmers! Congrats, South Dakota Corn! From your friends at Minnesota Corn."



- Minnesota Corn

"Congratulations to the South Dakota Corn Growers Association on celebrating 40 years. Your leadership on behalf of corn growers and voice across the industry continues to make a meaningful impact. Missouri Corn values the partnership and the work we do together to support farm families across the country. We look forward to building on that momentum in the years ahead."



- Missouri Corn

"Congratulations on supporting South Dakota's corn growers for 40 years! Here is to 40 more! "



- Nebraska Corn Board

CONGRATS

"On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council and the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, congratulations to the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council and the South Dakota Corn Growers Association on 40 years of leadership and service to corn producers.

For four decades, South Dakota Corn has been a strong voice for farmers, advancing opportunities in market development, research, and policy while strengthening the future of the corn industry across the region. We are proud to stand alongside you as partners and friends, working together to support growers and expand opportunities for corn.

Congratulations on this remarkable milestone, and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead."

- North Dakota Corn Council

"Ohio Corn & Wheat congratulates South Dakota Corn on celebrating 40 years of leadership through the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

We're proud to work alongside you in advancing policies, expanding markets, and building long-term opportunities for corn growers."

- Ohio Corn & Wheat

"Congratulations on 40 years of outstanding leadership and dedication to the corn industry. Your commitment to advancing agriculture, supporting farmers, and strengthening rural communities is truly commendable. We are proud to celebrate this milestone with you and look forward to your continued success in the years ahead."

- South Carolina Corn & Soybean Association

"Congratulations on 40 years of impact and leadership in advancing South Dakota's corn industry. Your commitment to farmers, innovation, and advocacy has built a lasting legacy that will help guide the future of agriculture in South Dakota for generations to come. Tennessee Corn appreciates the opportunity to work alongside you and looks forward to continuing our partnership in advancing the success of corn growers in the years ahead."

- Tennessee Corn

Congratulations to South Dakota Corn on this incredible 40-year milestone! From the Texas High Plains to the South Dakota prairies, corn farmers share a common commitment to feeding the world, fueling our economy, and stewarding the land for the next generation. Here's to many more years of moving the corn industry forward, together!

-Texas Corn Producers



HONORING THE PAST, GROWING THE FUTURE.

In honor of the 40th Anniversary of South Dakota Corn, we're proud to share a special long-form oral history featuring past presidents of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

The SDCGA was founded in 1986 and lobbied the South Dakota Legislature to form the SDCUC in 1988. These two organizations have played a critical role in advancing South Dakota corn through advocacy, research, market development, and innovation. In this video, former leaders reflect on the moments, challenges, and decisions that shaped the organizations—from their early beginnings to their impact today.

Through firsthand stories and personal insights, this conversation preserves the legacy of leadership that helped build South Dakota Corn into what it is now, while offering perspective on how the past continues to guide the future.

We invite you to listen, learn, and celebrate four decades of dedication to South Dakota corn. Featuring, in order of appearance, the following presidents of South Dakota Corn:

Reno Brueggeman	Jerry Rubendall	Gary Duffy	Taylor Sumption
Ron Alverson	Rick Kasperon	Mark Gross	Ryan Wagner
Pat Tracy	Lewis Bainbridge	Lynn Jensen	Scott Stahl
Delton Strasser	David Fremark	Grant Rix	Dave Ellens
Rob Koskan	Reid Jensen	Keith Alverson	Troy Knecht
Mark Rogen	Dennis Mitchell	Chad Blindauer	Brian Smith
Lee Qualm	Brad Bonhorst	Doug Noem	Robert Walsh
Bill Chase	Darrin Ihnen	Ludwig Hohm	Jim Ketelhut
			John Olbertson



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to watch our 40-year history



40 YEARS OF PROGRESS..

Inside the South Dakota Corn Conference

The 40th Annual SD Corn Conference brought energy, celebration and optimism to the Sioux Falls Convention Center on January 17, 2026, as corn growers, industry leaders and supporters from across the state gathered to celebrate four decades of progress in South Dakota agriculture.

Hosted by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA), the milestone event combined industry education, recognition and entertainment into a memorable day that highlighted the strength and unity of South Dakota's corn industry.

The conference kicked off with a strong lineup of speakers and educational sessions focused on issues impacting growers today and opportunities shaping agriculture tomorrow. From grain marketing and weather outlooks to conversations about biofuels and innovation, attendees heard valuable insights designed to help producers navigate a rapidly changing agricultural landscape. SDSU President Barry Dunn also addressed attendees during the luncheon program, emphasizing the importance of partnerships and continued investment in agriculture.

SD Corn Executive Director, DaNita Murray, presents Lifetime Achievement Award to SD Soybean Executive Director, Jerry Schmitz.



As the day transitioned into the evening celebration, the atmosphere turned festive as growers, friends and industry partners gathered to recognize the people who continue to move South Dakota agriculture forward. One of the biggest highlights of the evening was honoring the 2025 award recipients for their leadership, service and dedication to the industry.

Scott Stahl received the Excellence in Agriculture Award, Keith Lundberg was honored with the Excellence in Public Outreach Award and Drew Peterson earned the Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award. Glenn Muller and Jerry Schmitz were both recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards for their decades of commitment to South Dakota agriculture.

The conference also celebrated the 2025 Corn Yield Contest winners, showcasing the innovation, productivity and determination of South Dakota corn growers across the state. Adding even more excitement to the evening was a special performance by the 147th South Dakota Army National Guard



2025 State Corn Yield Contest Winners were recognized for their impressive yields.

Band, SGT ROCK, whose high-energy entertainment kept the crowd engaged and helped create an unforgettable celebration.

South Dakota Corn extends sincere appreciation to the many people who helped make the 40th Annual SD Corn Conference such a success. Thank you to the current and past board members whose leadership and dedication have guided the organization over the past 40 years and continue to strengthen South Dakota agriculture for future generations.

A special thank you also goes to the conference sponsors, Friends of SD Corn, vendors and exhibitors whose support helped make the event possible. Their partnership plays a vital role in advancing the mission of South Dakota Corn and creating opportunities for growers across the state.

As attendees reflected on 40 years of accomplishments and looked ahead to the future, one thing was clear, the South Dakota corn industry continues to grow stronger through leadership, innovation and the relationships built within the agricultural community.



Scott Stahl, retiring SDCGA District 8 Director, receives the Excellence in Agriculture award.

AND STILL GROWING.

The 147th Army Band delighted attendees with their musical performance.



**South Dakota Corn
Utilization Council**

4712 S Technopolis Dr
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

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This year marks an extraordinary milestone for South Dakota agriculture: 40 years of service and impact by the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and the South Dakota Corn Utilization Council.

For four decades, volunteer farmers from across the state have stepped forward to lead with purpose, dedicating their time and energy to something greater than themselves or their own operations. Their commitment has helped shape not only these organizations, but also the future of corn production and rural communities throughout South Dakota.

The story of South Dakota Corn is one of resilience and vision. These organizations were built by producers who believed there was an opportunity to create positive change for corn farmers across the state. What began with a shared goal and a handful of determined leaders became the foundation for decades of progress, advocacy, research, market development, and innovation.

Over the years, the organizations have evolved alongside the agricultural industry itself. They have adapted to changing markets, new technologies, shifting priorities, and the many challenges agriculture faces. Through it all, their mission has remained steady: to improve opportunities for South Dakota corn producers and strengthen the future of agriculture.

The impact of that work reaches far beyond the farm gate. It can be seen in stronger markets, expanded ethanol opportunities, increased research investments, and efforts that support sustainability and profitability for future generations.

This anniversary is ultimately about people. It is about the founders who took the first leap and helped establish both organizations with courage and

determination. It is about the board members, past and present, and the families and business partners who supported their service and leadership over the years.

It is also about the members and checkoff supporters whose continued belief in grassroots leadership has sustained these organizations for four decades.

And it is about the broader agricultural community that works every day to ensure farmers can continue providing food, fuel, and fiber to South Dakota, the nation, and the world.

The success of South Dakota Corn over the past 40 years proves what is possible when people unite around a common purpose. Together, farmers and industry leaders have created something lasting. They have built organizations that continue to grow, evolve, and create momentum for the future.

The next chapter for South Dakota Corn is filled with opportunity, including new partnerships, new ideas, and new ways to serve producers in an ever-changing agricultural landscape. The work continues, and the future remains bright because of the strong foundation built over the last four decades.