



March 20, 2026 Issue | *Corn Insider for KCGA Members*

Taking the Farmer Voice to Washington: KCGA Pushes for E15, New Markets, and Stronger Demand

This past week, KCGA Vice President Brett Grauerholz and Kansas Corn CEO Josh Roe participated in numerous industry meetings and Capitol Hill visits in Washington, D.C.

Industry discussions focused on getting year-round E15 across the finish line and advancing an octane standard to lower fuel prices and further increase corn demand. Meetings were held with companies and associations including John Deere, Valero, the National Association of Truck Stop Owners, the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America, the Renewable Fuel Association, POET Biofuels, and Growth Energy.

Additionally, Brett met with lobbyists representing the buildout of ethanol use in marine fuel. Just a 5% blend of ethanol in ocean-going vessels would represent 5 billion gallons of new demand. With more than 330 ships currently operating or under construction that can run on alcohol-based fuels, ethanol presents a drop-in, cost-effective solution to power large shipping vessels.

In meetings with Senator Roger Marshall and Representatives Derek Schmidt and Sharice Davids, the dire financial situation on the farm was front and center. Brett and Josh thanked the delegation for their past efforts supporting E15 and the Farm Bill, but emphasized that farmers need more than supportive statements and votes—we need markets.

We are grateful for passionate grower leaders willing to step away from their farms during a busy season. Their presence ensures the farmer voice is heard in Washington, D.C.—another way KCGA leaders are working for you while you stay focused on the farm.



Kansas Corn Advocates for Farmers at the Statehouse

Kansas Corn continues to stay active in the Kansas Statehouse, working to protect farmers and strengthen the ag economy.

Culminating much of our efforts in the statehouse this session, SB 498—the ethanol tax credit bill—passed the Senate with amendments in a resounding vote of 38-1! Changes included repealing several existing tax credits, adding a firearm safe storage tax credit, and shortening the program to three years. Due to where we are in the legislative

calendar, this bill will go to a Senate/House Tax Conference Committee in the coming weeks instead of going through the regular order of being taken up by the House.

During a recent hearing, Kansas Corn delivered oral testimony in support of HB 2476 before the Senate Agriculture Committee. The bill aims to prevent unnecessary state labeling requirements and reduce frivolous lawsuits tied to product labeling. With limited time to speak, CEO Josh Roe focused on what matters most to farmers—cutting red tape and protecting access to essential crop protection tools.

Following the hearing, Kansas Corn met with committee members to reinforce the importance of the bill. The message was clear: without these protections, farmers could face higher input costs and fewer available tools. Kansas Corn also addressed several inaccuracies shared in opponent testimony to ensure lawmakers had the full picture. Kansas Corn also submitted written testimony supporting HB 2714, the American Beer Act. The bill would reduce the state excise tax on American-made beer, helping promote products that rely on U.S. agriculture—including Kansas-grown corn. Increased demand for domestic products means stronger markets for farmers.

Kansas Corn will continue to advocate on behalf of farmers—both in Topeka and in Washington, D.C.—to protect your operation and grow demand for Kansas corn.

Making Sure Kansas Corn Farmers Are Heard in Washington

Not all advocacy work in Washington, D.C. happens in face-to-face meetings. One of the most effective ways we represent Kansas corn farmers is by signing onto coalition letters that ensure your voice is heard when decisions are being made.

When dozens of agriculture groups sign a single letter, it carries weight. These letters are read by policymakers, help shape conversations, and often generate media attention, amplifying farmer priorities when time and access in D.C. are limited.

Since our last e-newsletter, KCGA has joined multiple letters to Congress, federal agencies, and the Administration focused on the issues that matter most to your operation—input costs, market stability, and demand for corn.

Key Efforts on Your Behalf:

Strengthening the Farm Economy

Kansas Corn joined more than 50 ag groups in urging the Administration to provide meaningful support for farmers facing tight margins, high input costs, and market uncertainty.

This includes:

- Assistance for farmers impacted by weather and economic challenges
- Expanding year-round E15 to drive corn demand
- Policies that support biofuels and domestic ag products
- Long-term demand stability through programs like the Renewable Fuel Standard and 45Z

With global disruptions impacting fertilizer and fuel prices, these actions are critical to keeping farms viable and maintaining a strong U.S. food and fuel supply.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Fighting High Fertilizer Costs

Last week KCGA also joined grower groups across 14 states calling on the Department of Justice and USDA for transparency and action on fertilizer pricing. Farmers are facing a highly concentrated fertilizer market, raising concerns about fairness and affordability. Our coalition is pushing for:

- Clear updates on federal investigations into pricing practices
- Farmer input in the process
- Transparency in findings that directly impact your bottom line

This effort has already generated national and local media coverage, helping elevate farmer concerns and apply pressure for action. [Click here to read the letter.](#)

[Click here to read the article](#) from KSNT featuring KCGA Treasurer, Jeff Albers from Denton.

Reducing Input Costs Through Trade

KCGA signed onto a letter urging chief executives of Mosaic and J.R. Simplot, two of the nation's largest fertilizer companies, to support removing duties on imported phosphate. These restrictions have limited supply and contributed to higher prices for farmers.

In 2020, the Commerce Department, acting on a petition filed by Mosaic, imposed duties on phosphate fertilizers imported from Morocco and Russia. Mosaic claimed at the time that unfairly subsidized foreign companies were flooding the U.S. market with fertilizers and selling the products at extremely low prices. The petition was supported by J.R. Simplot.

As a result of the decision, at least one Moroccan company halted shipments of phosphate fertilizers into the U.S., which led to price hikes and shortages. This will not be the last correspondence on this topic as we join NCGA in continuing to reach out to the Department of Commerce, U.S. International Trade Commission and Congress on this issue. We will continue to push for free trade, open markets and the removal of any unnecessary barriers that lead to higher input prices. This specific letter has been picked up by Politico and other national media sources.

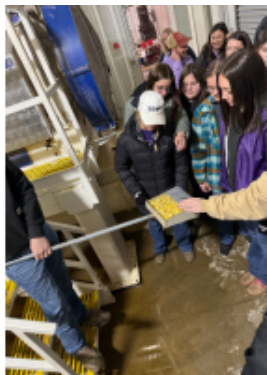
[Read the full letter here.](#)

K-State Ag Ed Students Experience Kansas Corn Industry

A recent agricultural tour gave future ag educators a firsthand look at the people and processes driving Kansas agriculture. Each year, Kansas Corn hosts a two-day tour for K-State agricultural education seniors preparing to enter the classroom. For some, it's their first time on a farm. By visiting real-world operations, they see how crops, livestock, and value-added industries work together across the state's ag economy.

One stop included Kansas Ethanol in Lyons, where students followed the process of turning locally grown corn into ethanol—from grinding and fermentation to distillation. They also saw how distillers grains are used, reinforcing agriculture's ability to maximize every bushel. At Knight Feedlot, students learned how steam-flaking corn improves digestibility and feed efficiency, showing the impact of science and innovation in livestock production. The tour wrapped up at Splitter Farms, where producers Matt and Jana Splitter shared the realities of farming—from weather and markets to rising input costs—along with how precision technology helps keep their operation efficient and sustainable.

Experiences like this give future teachers a clearer picture of modern agriculture, equipping them to share accurate, real-world perspectives with the next generation.



Upcoming Events

- WIBW Farm Profit Seminar, March 26, Doors open at 4 PM, 2005 Center St. Marysville, KS 66508



Kansas Corn
1680 Charles Place, Suite 200
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-410-5009



E-mail | Website
Visit kscorn.com

Kansas Corn | 1680 Charles PL, Suite 200 | Manhattan, KS 66502 US

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