

National Corn Growers Association

The **National Corn Growers Association (NCGA)** is a national organization founded in 1957 and represents more than 32,300 dues-paying corn growers from 48 states and the interests of more than 300,000 farmers who contribute to corn checkoff programs in 20 states. NCGA is the largest trade organization in the United States representing corn growers, and currently focused on supporting ethanol demand, developing new uses for corn through research and business development programs and is also the leading voice for corn growers for options and responsible implementation of biotechnology products to U.S. and international government leaders.

Top biofuels issues according to NCGA under ARS scope of responsibility

- ◆ Decrease variance, and increase yields in corn production (bioenergy feedstock issues)
- ◆ increased stress tolerance (insect, weed, water)
- ◆ increased input efficiencies (P,K,N water)
- ◆ starch profile and availability for bioenergy processing
- ◆ cellulose/hemicellulose structure in stover/cobs for optimal bioenergy production
- ◆ Soil tilth
- ◆ Continued stover removal and soil health studies
- ◆ Rotational options and corn on corn improvements
- ◆ Soil carbon sequestration technologies/potential
- ◆ Mycotoxin mitigation
- ◆ Crop production strategies/products that decrease mycotoxins
- ◆ Address distiller's grains mycotoxin removal technologies
- ◆ DDGS profiles
- ◆ Phosphorus/sulfur content
- ◆ Increase inclusion levels
- ◆ Preservatives for longer storage
- ◆ DDGS flowability
- ◆ Pelletization
- ◆ Ethanol & other biofuel production facilities diversity of products
- ◆ Ethanol – utilize as a building block for value added chemicals
- ◆ Other biofuels and co-products – diversify uses for wider market applications

ARS top priorities according to NCGA

- ◆ Stress tolerance/yield enhancement of feedstocks
- ◆ Mycotoxins & Animal agriculture impacts of DDGS
- ◆ New uses for ethanol beyond fuels, or bioproduct development
- ◆ Soil health
- ◆ Cell wall manipulation, cellulose/hemicellulose structure

Additional Questions

ARS to serve customers better –

Maintain and continue intra-agency and inter-agency working groups to minimize redundancy and integrate research programs into commercially viable technologies.

Positive recommendations about ARS to customers –

Diversity of ARS projects, labs and geographic locations give ARS the potential to address the majority of challenges facing agriculture. Customers looking to address a technology hurdle can either find an ARS program already working on it, or the ability to integrate the problem into its current system.