

MICHIGAN CORN

BETWEEN THE ROWS

The Joint Magazine of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association



Michigan Corn Secures Key
Changes to Cover Crop Rules

FALL 2019

MICHIGAN CORN

BETWEEN THE ROWS

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Michigan Corn Secures Key Changes to Cover Crop Rules

This Spring presented difficult challenges for Michigan's growers as we dealt with what seemed like constant rainfall. Weather conditions delayed or even prevented many farmers from getting into the fields to plant their crop. The Michigan Corn Growers Association and Corn Marketing Program of Michigan went to work reaching out to legislators and regulators to educate them about the situation and try to find solutions that would give farmers the support they needed to get through these tough conditions.

One change to prevented planting rules that we were able to get passed through USDA was aimed at supporting corn farmers and helping offset some of the anticipated shortfalls in corn supply. We worked with USDA's Risk Management Agency to change rules to allow corn silage to be planted as a cover crop on prevented planting acres, even if those acres were intended to be planted to corn. Previously, this would not have been allowed under RMA rules. While this change certainly didn't make farmers whole

again, it did help farmers navigate through a challenging Spring. We continued to work with RMA every step of the way to make sure farmers were getting the most up-to-date and accurate information about how to manage these rules.

If you have any questions or information about how these rules changes are being implemented or affecting your farm, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office. We're here to help.



We need YOU to host your legislator for a ride along in the combine!

Every year during harvest, the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) invites legislators to ride along in the combine with a local farmer. These events are an opportunity to build a one-on-one relationship with your legislator and educate them about farming, agriculture and the issues that are important to you!

"Having that personal relationship with our legislators is so important when it comes to agricultural policy," said Jim Zook, executive director of the MCGA. "Any chance our

farmers have to talk to their legislators about what they do and why they do it will ultimately benefit our industry moving forward."

The MCGA is looking for farmer volunteers who would be willing to host a legislator at their farm during this year's harvest. To volunteer, call Penni Sweeney at (517) 668-2676 or send us an email at corninfo@micorn.org. If we have a legislator in your area that would like to do a ride along, we'll be in contact to set up a time and date!



Michigan Farmers take to the Hill to Advocate on Your Behalf

Every summer, farmers from across the country converge on Washington D.C. as a part of the National Corn Growers Association's Corn Congress. This year, Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) board members, participants in the MICENT young leadership program, and Michigan Corn staff attended on behalf of Michigan farmers.

During their visit to the hill, these advocates met with Michigan's Senators and Representatives, the Canadian Embassy, the Governor's D.C. Liaison, the EPA administrator and other important regulators. They discussed several issues, with key highlights being:

- The importance of passing the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement to expand trade opportunities
- The need for EPA to stop undermining the Renewable Fuel Standard by granting small refinery waivers
- The importance of using sound science in the reregistration of atrazine

These Hill visits are a valuable opportunity for farmers to have a show of force behind the issues that are important to our livelihoods. We thank our members of Congress for taking the time to meet with our farmers.





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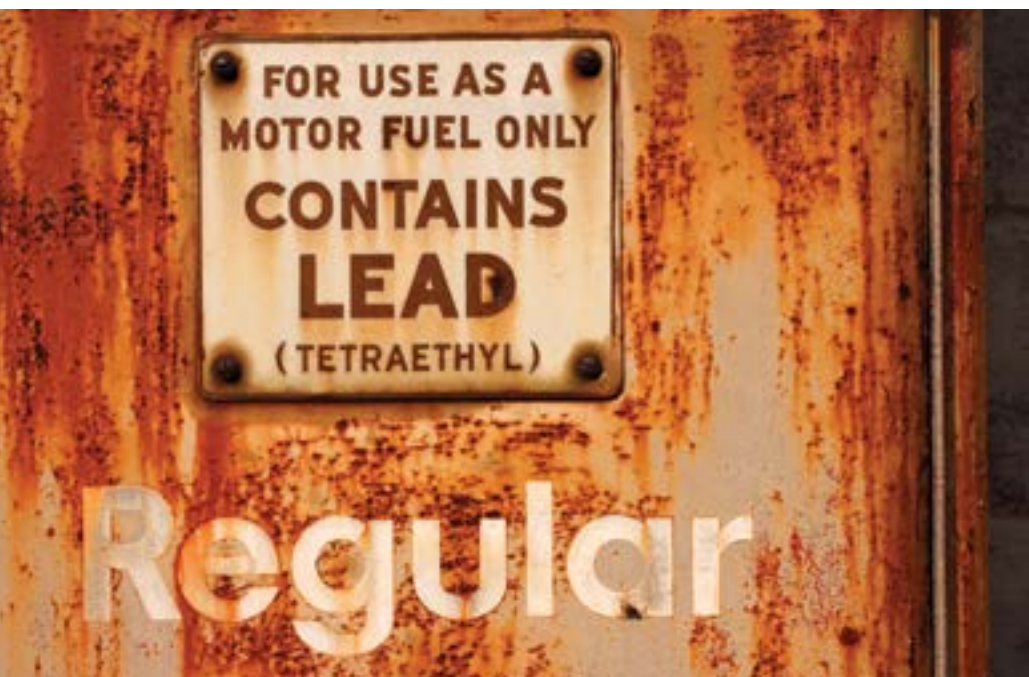
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Lead in Gasoline: How did it happen, why did it happen and how did it stay in our fuel for so long?

By: Jim Zook, Executive Director, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan



This article is the second in a four-part series on ethanol and liquid fuels. The first installment covered the history of ethanol use in fuels. This article looks at the advent of leaded gasoline and the tactics used to keep it in gasoline.

Ethanol as transportation fuel has a long history. It was used to power the first engine by the German inventor Nicholas August Otto. Henry Ford built his very first car to run on what he called farm alcohol. In 1929, Ford built his Model A car as a flexible fuel vehicle. A knob on the dash allowed the driver to adjust the carburetor to run on gasoline or alcohol.

Since then, ethanol has proven to be a superior octane source with no ill health effects that can be made from renewable resources. If ethanol is a superior product then why did the petroleum and automobile industries refuse to use it? The answer is simple. The petroleum and auto industries could not figure out how they would make money from ethanol.

In 1920, the founder of General Motors (GM) lost his stake in the company and the du Pont family began running GM. The du Pont family put Alfred Sloan in charge as he would do

anything to make a positive bottom line. This pushed their researchers to come up with a new product. Researcher, Thomas Midgeley Jr. patented ethanol out of olefins as well as proving tetraethyl lead (TEL) as an octane for anti-knock properties. The new name would be Ethyl an ironic touch from the work on ethanol previously conducted.

TEL came with many issues, but the petroleum industry and GM fought to keep that information hidden.

In March of 1922, Pierre du Pont wrote that TEL is “colorless liquid of sweetish odor, very poisonous if absorbed through the skin, resulting in lead poisoning almost immediately.” This knowledge was denied for many years to come.

In October of 1922, a contract was entered for du Pont to supply GM with TEL and the first production was to follow in February of 1923.

The lab director for the US Public Health Service (PHS), William Mansfield Clark, wrote the Surgeon General warning that TEL was a serious menace to public health. Reports were being made of several serious cases of lead poisoning during the pilot production

phase. Speculation went on to include that widespread use on busy roads would increase lead oxide dust, creating more respiratory and other health issues. The Surgeon General requested that the pharmacology division conduct studies. Unfortunately, the director nixed the idea, saying that this would be too costly and time consuming. He then suggested that the industry supply the data. This began the practicing of allowing the industry to police itself which lasted for the next 40 years.

Additional deaths continued into August of 1923 due to TEL poisoning, however, because of the control that du Pont exerted over the local media, these deaths were never reported.

Knowing that TEL's own health research would not be credible, GM hired the U.S. Bureau of Mines in September of 1923 to explore the dangers of TEL. The Bureau of Mines viewed themselves as a mining promotor and were not going to do anything to jeopardize the industry's advancement. Their scientific work had always been in collaboration with industry. Part of the agreement was that GM was to review and provide corrections to all data before it went public. Additionally, new companies formed by GM would get the same privilege.

In April of 1924, two GM employees died of lead poisoning while engaged in manufacturing TEL. This led GM President Sloan to launch a medical committee in June of 1924. The medical committee provided a cautionary report on TEL. This was then refuted by du Pont to minimize these statements and its effect on profits. Interestingly, these reports and documents are not available in the company archives.

Because of the patent received by Kettering and Midgley; GM would receive royalties from the use of this compound, which slanted their views and use of TEL. GM, in effect, would make money from every gallon of gasoline sold. This led GM to form a company with Standard Oil of New Jersey called the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation.



Apply Now for the Frank Lipinski Scholarship from MCGA

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) board of directors is pleased to announce that the Frank Lipinski Scholarship application is now available. This scholarship is geared towards full-time college students who don't come from an agricultural or farm background. Participation in either the 4-H or FFA organization does not disqualify a student.

Frank was deeply passionate about reaching out to young adults with non-agricultural backgrounds. He made it a priority to assist those wanting to enter our industry and educate young people about the various opportunities available in the agricultural industry.

This scholarship will be awarded for the 2020 spring semester with applications due November 1, 2019. For more information or to apply for the Frank Lipinski Memorial scholarship contact Michigan Corn by calling (517) 668-CORN (2676) or online at www.micorn.org.



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Congratulations

to This Year's Michigan Corn Growers Association Scholarship Winners

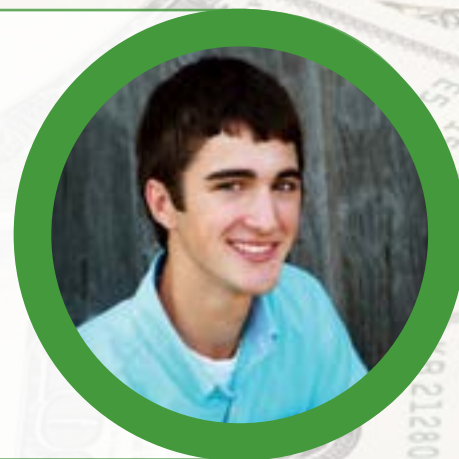


Devin Koroleski
Michigan State University

Devin is a junior at Michigan State University in the agribusiness management program. He grew up on his family's farm in Kinde, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa along with raising beef cattle. He is interested in enhancing his knowledge about crops, commodities and business management to help open the door for more efficiency and better yields on the farm. After college, he would like to help educate farmers on advances in agribusiness in addition to having his own land to farm.

Darren Kulicamp
Michigan State University

Darren is a sophomore at Michigan State University studying agribusiness management. He comes from a 350-acre cash crop and beef cattle operation in Coopersville, Michigan. A 2017 graduate of Coopersville High School, he enjoyed showing cattle and hogs at the county fair and participating in livestock judging throughout his years in 4-H and FFA. Now at MSU, Darren is fortunate to be involved with many clubs including Block and Bridle Club and National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA), where he has been active serving as webmaster and participating in the NAMA product marketing contest. With his degree, he would like to work for a crop inputs firm to serve his neighbors and friends in their agricultural endeavors.



Andrew Smith
Michigan State University

Andrew lives on his family farm where he helps his father, uncle, and grandpa grow a variety of crops and raise steers. With the help of his family, Andrew started an independent beef production operation where he is responsible for raising and selling cattle, and for paying all expenses.

He is involved in many activities within his school and community and is valedictorian of his class at Laker High School. He also participates in cross country, track, science olympiad, National Honor Society, Michigan Youth Leadership Conference, and FFA. In FFA, he serves as the president for his school's chapter, secretary for region III, and was recently elected as the 2019-2020 Michigan FFA Association State Treasurer.

He will be attending Michigan State University to major in agriculture, food, and natural resources education. After completing his major, he hopes to get a graduate degree in agricultural law and work somewhere in agricultural policy. He would specifically like to be involved with influencing issues regarding the environment, commodity markets, and biotechnologies. His long-term goal is to represent the agricultural industry as a state legislator or governor.





Laken Polega *University of Findlay*

Laken Polega is a sophomore at The University of Findlay, pursuing a degree in animal science. She has recently become actively involved in the Livestock Showing Team at UF and serves as the vice president-elect for the women's rugby club as well. She has been actively involved in the Unionville-Sebewaing Area FFA Chapter and is a member of Collegiate FFA at UF. In the fall, she will be receiving her American Degree in Indianapolis, IN. She is passionate about the agriculture industry and hopes to pursue a career in the world of ag after graduation.

Adam Weber *Michigan State University*

Adam Weber is a recent graduate of Ubly high school. He grew up on the family farm and has had a passion for agriculture his entire life. Throughout his high school career, he has been very involved in FFA and other extracurricular activities like football and trap shooting. He will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to study livestock nutrition. After college, Adam plans to come home to the family farm and be part of the operation with his parents Randy and Angie.



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MICENT

Corn Education
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Training

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan is seeking applications for the third class of the Michigan Corn Education, Networking and Training Program (MICENT). This program is designed to provide educational opportunities for the next generation of Michigan corn farmers. Topics include agronomy, technology, farm management, the work of the National Corn Growers Association and one topic picked by the class. There will also be plenty of time provided for networking and an optional international tour (for an additional fee).

The program consists of five sessions. The four sessions in Michigan will begin with an evening reception followed by 1.5 days of educational presentations. The session in Washington, DC will be approximately 3 days.

Details for the optional international trip will be provided to the class at a later date. The material will be in-depth, challenging and rewarding.

Participants may be nominated by their peers or they may nominate themselves. Upon nomination an individual will be notified and sent an application form. Applications are also available online at www.micorn.org. Applications are due October 24, 2019. Application review will take place in October and participants will be notified in November. Primary selection criteria includes the applicants' desire and ability to participate. Diversity among farm size, geographic location and agronomy background will be sought as well.

DATES, TOPICS & LOCATIONS

Session 1

Agronomy

January 7 - 9, 2020 • East Lansing

Session 2

Technology

February 4 - 6, 2020 • East Lansing

Session 3

Farm Management

March 10-12, 2020 • East Lansing

Session 4

You Pick

June 16 - 18, 2020 • East Lansing

Session 5

National Corn Growers Association Work

July 2020 • Washington, DC

International Tour (Optional)

2022 • Location TBD

Registration fee: \$300 - optional international session is extra
Lodging and meals will be provided.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS

Nominate your peers or yourself.

Please send all nominations to Claire White and they will be sent an application and more details about the program.

Applications due October 24.

CONTACT INFO

Refer questions to Claire White at 517-668-2676
or cwhite@micorn.org

For more information, visit www.micorn.org



CORN MARKETING PROGRAM

CMPM

O F M I C H I G A N



Dealing with Corn Ear Rots and Mycotoxins

By: Martin Chilvers, Field Crop Pathologist, Michigan State University

In 2018, ear rots and mycotoxin contamination were of concern for producers particularly in the Thumb region of Michigan.

A number of factors drive disease, but weather is the dominant factor. In severely affected regions we had above normal precipitation from the end of July through August and then in some cases a delayed harvest. Weather conditions around silking are critical to ear mold establishment as the *Fusarium* species that cause *Gibberella* ear rot and *Fusarium* ear rot require free moisture for spore germination and ear infection via silk channels. Another entry point for fungal pathogens can be through wounding of the ears, including insect damage such as that caused by western bean cutworm.

Mycotoxins such as deoxynivalenol (DON, sometimes called vomitoxin) are produced by the fungal pathogens as they grow on the ear. Mycotoxins can accumulate when conditions are favorable for fungal growth, so when a wet fall delays harvest, mycotoxin levels are typically elevated.

If ear molds and mycotoxins are a concern, speak with your seed dealer about identifying hybrids with the best ear rot resistance score. Although this won't eliminate disease it will aid in keeping disease and mycotoxin levels lower when conditions are favorable. Crop rotation

will not eliminate disease, but it will reduce disease inoculum pressure. It should be noted that the mycotoxin will not move from corn into subsequent or surrounding crops.

Mycotoxins are produced by fungal pathogens, particularly *Fusarium*. The *Fusarium* pathogens survive very well on corn residue so planting corn into corn residue will increase the ear mold risk. Fungicides labelled for ear mold suppression such as Proline and Miravis Neo can also be used to reduce disease and mycotoxin accumulation. However, just as with wheat head scab management, fungicide timing is critical. Research from Ontario has demonstrated that fungicides must be applied during silking to have the greatest benefit in suppressing ear molds. And just as in wheat, do not expect miracles, fungicides will certainly aid in reducing ear mold and mycotoxins, but if the hybrid is susceptible and weather conditions conducive there will still be significant disease. The VT/R1 timing is also now the recommended timing for western bean cutworm management if present above threshold, so it may be possible to tank mix fungicide and insecticide when appropriate.

Fields with ear mold disease should be harvested as soon as possible and dried quickly to minimize mycotoxin accumulation. To determine if the field is infested with ear mold, visit 5 points throughout the field and pull

the husks all the way back on 20 ears, for 100 ears per field. Ears with *Gibberella* ear rot will develop a pink mold, typically from the tip of the ear. Ears with *Fusarium* ear rot tend to have a white cottony mold, and infections are often scattered on the side of the ear with infected kernels having a brown appearance or white streaks (starburst pattern). If you are unable to identify the ear mold, a sample including the entire ear can be sent to the MSU Diagnostic clinic (www.pestid.msu.edu/).

Fields that are identified to have ear rot should be harvested early and the grain should be segregated. During harvest, combine adjustments can be made to discard lightweight diseased kernels and fines. Grain moisture should be lowered as quickly as possible to less than 15 percent to minimize additional mycotoxin accumulation. For long term storage moisture should be brought down to less than 13 percent and cooled to 30°F. Coring of the grain bin may be used to improve storage airflow and remove fines. These fines may contain a higher amount of DON, thus not being representative of the entire bin.

For more information check out the collaborative multi-University Crop Protection Network website for more information on corn, soybean and wheat diseases, including a special series on corn ear molds: www.cropprotectionnetwork.org



MAEAP Verification Leads to Better Farming Practices

MAEAP participation inspires producer to make changes that improve his farm while caring for the land

Denny Person of Person Farms, LLC

Farming runs in the family for Denny Person. His parents and grandparents were farmers and Denny has fond memories of helping out on the family's dairy farm as a child. Now Denny is in charge, taking over the family farm from his father in 2010. Some things have changed. Denny now raises beef cattle and grows beans, corn, and wheat. What hasn't changed is his love for the land.

Denny's desire to be a good steward led him to get involved in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). A voluntary program, MAEAP helps Michigan farmers adopt cost-effective practices that reduce erosion and runoff into ponds, streams, and rivers.

Denny knows that runoff from his farm can have an impact on the land and waters that surround him. It's why he went no-till in 2013 and plants a wide variety of cover crops. However, Denny wanted to do more to care for his land. After hearing about MAEAP from his local conservation district, Denny decided to give the program a go.

"I enjoy working with the conservation district here in Hillsdale County. They want to do a lot

to help farmers like me," says Denny. "When they told me about MAEAP, I knew this program would be a good fit for me. I trusted them and knew they would never steer me in the wrong direction."

Denny earned his first MAEAP recognition in Cropping in 2014. Since then, he has been recognized in Farmstead, Livestock, and Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat. Denny found the process to be fairly easy. He was doing many things right and keeping good records. In fact, his only hold up involved adding a proper chemical storage unit. After securing funding, Denny was able to pay for a containment barn and complete the MAEAP process.

"Participating in MAEAP opens your eyes to areas where you can improve your farming practices," says Denny. "For example, I had never given much thought to what to do in an emergency, like a fire. MAEAP showed me the value of having an emergency plan and sharing it with the local fire chief, just in case something should happen."

Denny is quick to assure other farmers that MAEAP is not your run-of-the-mill government program.

"As a farmer, you can't help but be hesitant when dealing with the government. You worry that if you aren't doing something right, they will come and fine you," says Denny. "MAEAP technicians are not out to do that. They are there to help you. That's the benefit of working with local techs. When you know and trust the people you work with it makes a huge difference."

Denny urges all farmers to sign up and have a MAEAP technician come out for a visit.

"Maybe you'll decide not to participate or complete the process. That's okay," he says. "Go over the checklist with a MAEAP tech and get an idea of where you are at. You just might have your eyes opened to something you can change on your farm for the better."

Farmers who are MAEAP verified are eligible for a free 3-year membership in the Michigan Corn Growers Association. For more information about membership, contact the Michigan Corn office at (517) 668-2676.

To learn more about the MAEAP program, visit www.maeap.org or call 517-284-5609.

Opportunities to Lead with Michigan Corn!

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association are both farmer-led organizations that rely on the dedication and expertise of our farmer leaders to drive us forward. We're looking for new leaders that are hungry for opportunities to get more involved, roll up their sleeves and get to work advancing the missions of CMPM and MCGA.

There are lots of different ways to get involved for people of all different experience levels. A few examples of how you can get involved include:

- Run for a position on the CMPM or MCGA board of directors to guide the organizations
- Serve on a National Corn Growers Association Action team to help set national priorities
- Attend trade mission trips with U.S. Grains Council and the U.S. Meat Export federation to help grow our markets overseas
- Participate in the MICENT young leaders program
- Host a meeting on your farm

If you are interested in getting more involved, call the office at (517) 668-2676 and we'll help you take the next steps.



Mental health is just as important as physical health

Michigan 24-Hour Helpline:

Call 211 - Health & human services information and referral

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

Call 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)
24-hour crisis intervention

Crisis Text Line:

Text "GO" to 741741

Refer to a local health-care provider or local mental health professional

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Locator: www.samhsa.gov/find-help
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Visit www.canr.msu.edu/managing_farm_stress/need_help_now for more resources

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Michigan Corn Growers Association Tells EPA to Stop Undermining the Renewable Fuel Standard

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA)

reiterated its call on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to keep the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) whole by accounting for waived ethanol gallons as the agency considers proposed biofuel targets for 2020.

Jeff Sandborn, a farmer from Portland Michigan, former MCGA board member and current board member of the National Corn Growers Association, gave testimony at an EPA hearing in Ypsilanti on July 31. He pressed the agency to move forward with a stronger RFS rule that supports America's farmers, their rural communities, and consumers.



Excerpts from Sandborn's Testimony

"With low commodity prices, policy uncertainty, and extreme weather that delayed or prevented planting for many farmers this year -- It's been a deeply challenging time to be a farmer. That's why it so disappointing to seeing the continued erosion of the RFS and destruction of corn demand represented in this proposal.

Ethanol is a critical piece of the market for Michigan corn. We have 5 ethanol plants operating in our state. Each of these plants buys corn from Michigan farmers, employs Michigan workers, and uses Michigan contractors and vendors.

Unfortunately, EPA has waived 2.61 billion ethanol-equivalent gallons over the past two years. There are 38 additional waivers pending, covering at least 1.8 billion additional gallons or nearly 10 percent of the RFS. These waivers decrease demand for ethanol and corn and directly undermine the work and markets of Michigan corn farmers.

While the 2020 proposal maintains the conventional biofuel requirement of 15 billion gallons, these volumes are meaningless if EPA continues to expand retroactive refinery waivers. Without accounting for these waivers in this proposal, there's no guarantee that EPA will follow the law and ensure that the proposed volumes are met.

MCGA urges EPA to account for waivers in this rule to keep the RFS whole, restore volumes improperly waived and move forward with a stronger RFS rule that supports America's farmers and consumers."

Corn Marketing Program Welcomes New Research Manager

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) is pleased to announce Kristin Poley as the Michigan Research Manager starting in August. Poley will be in a joint research position with CMPM, Soil Health Partnership (SHP), and The Nature Conservancy in Michigan with the primary responsibility to build research partnerships to answer key soil health and water quality questions.

“Agriculture in this era presents challenges to growers, markets and the general public,” said Poley. “Being able to work as part of a team that takes a focus on sustainability to overcome those challenges makes me really excited to get to work.”

“Soil health is the key to the future of sustainable and productive farming in Michigan,” noted Mary Fales, The Nature

Conservancy’s program director for Saginaw Bay. “The Nature Conservancy is proud to play a role in this partnership, designed to bring more soil health research to Michigan.”

In her role at CMPM, Poley will manage the research portfolio and grant program as well as help organize the annual Great Lakes Crop Summit. Poley will work closely with SHP lead scientist, Maria Bowman and will be the liaison for the SHP expansion into Michigan, augmenting the existing site, and supporting analysis of data already being collected throughout the multi-state network. Currently,



SHP does not have any participating research farms located in Michigan, and it is critical to locate partnering farms in the state to generate soil health data that’s meaningful for local farmers.

Poley attained her bachelor’s degree in fishery and wildlife biology and master’s degree in Entomology from Michigan State University. She resides in St. Johns, Michigan with her husband, Nathan on a few acres raising chickens, geese, and ducks.

Outgoing Michigan Corn Intern Jennifer Gentner Reflects on Internship Experience

By: Jennifer Gentner



Growing up in an agriculture-based environment with a passion for event planning, I never thought I could mix the two together. I went into college with the mindset that I had to leave my agriculture background behind to pursue my event planning career path. However, in the winter of this year I came across the Michigan Corn internship that stated I would have the opportunity to do event planning for their summer activities. Before I knew it, I was in the office working on the various summer events.

I began helping with the planning of the Clinton County annual meeting and Corn Congress. This consisted of scheduling caterers, reserving receptions, booking tours, and many other duties. I was able to attend both events and watch them come together from beginning to end. One of my favorite experiences of the summer was lobbying on the Hill in Washington D.C. at Corn Congress. It really showed me how much impact a small

group can have on big political issues and how important my voice is.

I was also assigned to work on two of the biggest events; the annual golf outings and the Between the Rows Tour. The staff knew I wanted to pursue event planning, so they allowed me to see every aspect of these events. From working with sponsors, developing graphics, and presenting at the events, I gained an amazing experience in event planning in a short period of time.

I can’t believe my internship with Michigan Corn is coming to an end, but I am forever grateful for the amazing opportunities over the past few months. I now know I can incorporate both of my passions into a future career and I am confident I will be able to do so. I would like to thank Michigan Corn and the incredible staff for making me feel so welcome and appreciated this summer.



Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 5
Lansing, MI 48906

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