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to your voice.



Annual Report 2008  
Illinois Corn Growers Association

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## Art Bunting, President Illinois Corn Growers Association

1. As president, Bunting was extremely involved with the media. In fact, perhaps this year more than any other, the interviews that he provided were integral to beginning to turn the image of the Illinois corn grower around. Here, Bunting is discussing the significance of PETROL's additional E85 pumps with Trisha Braid-Terry of RFD Radio.

2. At the 2008 Commodity Classic in Nashville, TN, Bunting diligently reviewed, commented on, and voted to support or oppose various changes to NCGA policy. Without direction from growers, your national organization is not able to effectively lobby and work for you in Washington, DC.

3. Bunting and Senator Dick Durbin had a lot to discuss in July given the vast amount of rain that flooded Illinois and prevented planting statewide. Open communications with our Congressmen and Senators is a piece of what ICGA does to ensure that the voices of Illinois corn growers are heard in Washington, DC.



# Letter from ICGA President, Art Bunting

The last year has been a roller coaster ride of high corn prices, planting and harvesting challenges, higher input costs, and a return to lower corn prices. However, it has also been a time of great successes for the Illinois Corn Growers Association. I hope you take a few minutes to review this report and some of the accomplishments made possible by your membership, direct involvement, and our clear mission of increasing profitability and improving the business climate for Illinois growers. ICGA was involved on four major fronts this year that required a lot of attention and we experienced clear victories.

## RFS Passage

We successfully passed the Energy Independence and Security Act which will expand corn-based ethanol to 15 billion gallons by 2022; and then took the next step to turn back a waiver request from the Governor of Texas .

## Override of Presidential Veto on WRDA

Thirteen years of public education and lobbying investment resulted in the passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and the override of the subsequent veto by President Bush. This is only the 107th time in the nation's history a veto has been overturned.

## ACRE in the Farm Bill

ICGA members asked for a revenue-based safety net in the new farm bill and ICGA, with the able assistance of the National Corn Growers Association, led the charge on your behalf. The result is the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. This program, sur-

face and championed by Corn Growers, will be available for you to elect for your 2009 - 2012 crop years. All ICGA members received a guide to the 2008 Farm Bill and a calculator to assist in your decision making.

## Food and Fuel

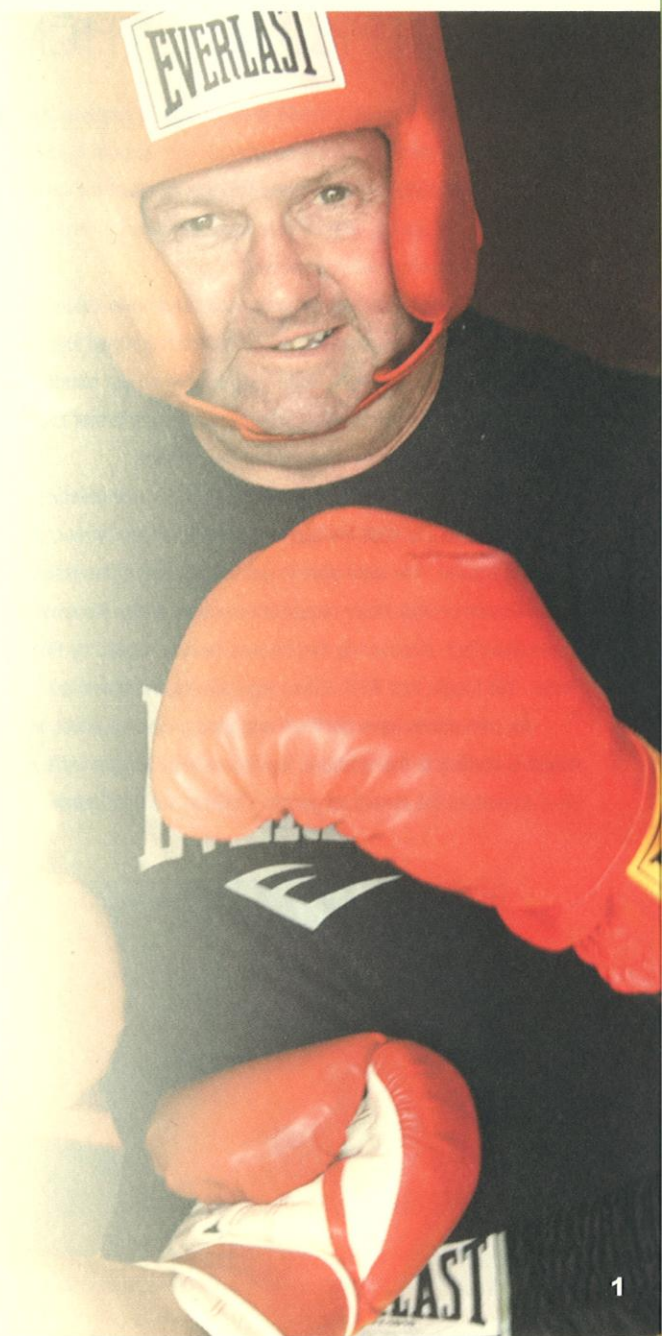
When the Grocery Manufacturer's Association attempted to blame corn growers for escalating food prices, ICGA teamed up with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board to get the right information to decision makers and the public. ICGA launched a boxing themed Growers Fight Back campaign that resulted in numerous letters to Congress, letters to the editor, and a statewide radio effort featuring "The Food Dude" and "Fill'er-up Phil." Time and falling corn prices have proven our argument and added even more to the stature and credibility of Corn Growers.

The pace of change in our industry, the public spotlight on corn and ethanol, and the transition to a new administration in Washington, DC assures ICGA will have plenty to tackle in the year ahead. I am sure we are up to the task if our membership stays engaged.

We are definitely on the right path, with ICGA membership growing by more than 300 members this year.

As I approach the end of my presidency I want to thank the membership, my fellow officers and the board of directors for your confidence and assistance. It has been a great opportunity for me personally. I have met great people and have had wonderful experiences I never would have had without your support.

Art Bunting



# FEED, FOOD & FUEL ... WE CAN PROVIDE THEM ALL

Perhaps our biggest obstacle to overcome throughout 2008 was the thought that there would not be enough corn to both feed and fuel the world. This myth began to creep into the minds of the general public during the spring, when heavy rains kept most growers out of the fields until summer weather arrived.

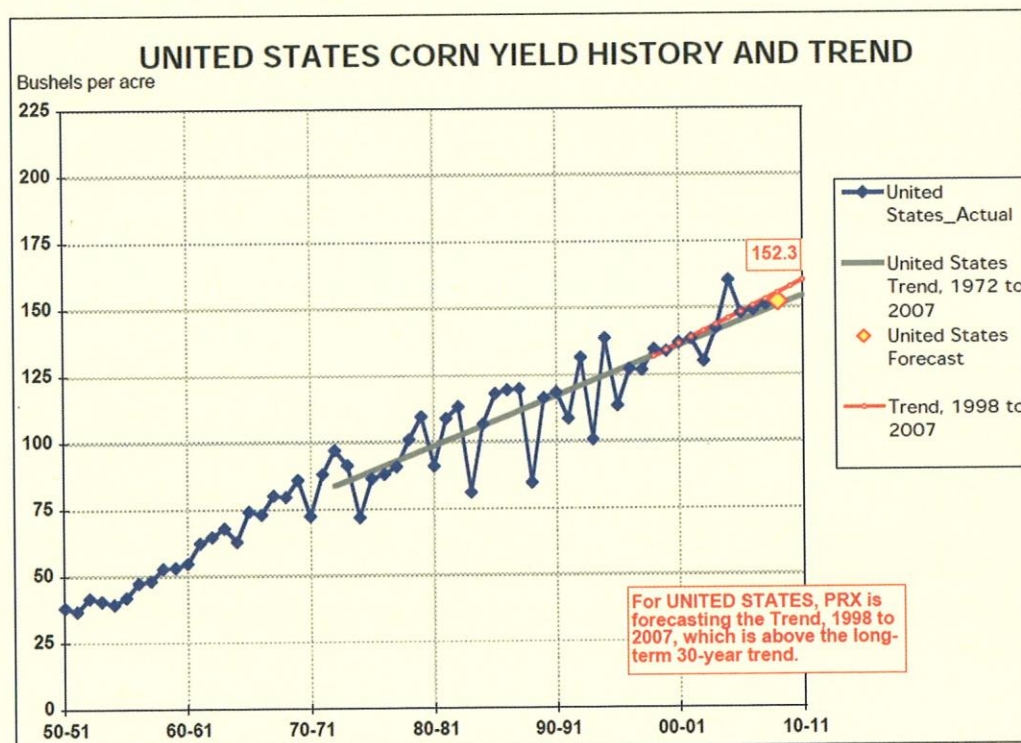
Producers felt attacked. Negative ads and news columns overwhelmed the media as more and more reporters jumped ship and turned against us. We had a huge image issue on our hands as consumers struggled to believe that the American corn farmer really was doing what was in the best interests of the country.

Finally, when NCGA uncovered the Grocery Manufacturer's Association's plot to stick the blame on the American farmer, the truth began to prevail. We were able to get to the heart of the issue when Texas Governor Rick Perry requested a waiver of the Renewable Fuels Standard, discovering that he was heavily funded by Pilgrim's Pride. We fought that RFS waiver legislatively and prevailed.

As corn prices have declined and food prices have not, the real culprit is coming to the forefront, leaving us with serious work ahead of us to restore the American people's faith in the corn grower.



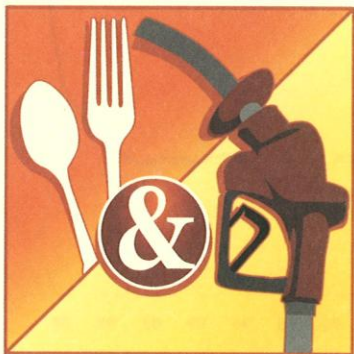
The Illinois Corn Growers Association wasn't going to take GMA's attack lying down. We asked corn growers across the state to get in our corner and we put up a fight with a "boxing" themed media campaign that resulted in letters to the editor, radio commercials and direct contacts with state and federal legislators to provide the facts about the food and fuel issue. We ended 2008 with a membership increase of about 7 % as another result of this campaign.



By showing legislators and consumers that corn yields continue to increase, we hope to teach them that there will always be enough corn for feed, food, and fuel. We still have a long road ahead of us and we intend to continue our active partnership with ICMB in 2009 to educate the public.



*The Illinois State Fair is an important place to be sure that Illinois agriculture is heard. Bunting joined Congressman John Shimkus and Illinois Farm Bureau President Phil Nelson to discuss Food and Fuel at the Commodity Pavilion, hoping to catch the ear of consumers that might not have heard the truth about corn-based ethanol.*



*Part of our battle was legislatively preventing the waiver of the Renewable Fuels Standard. ICGA members, including Vice President Rob Elliott, joined together to send boxes of corn products to their legislators, proving that farmers only receive pennies to the dollar on these retail prices.*



## REVENUE BASED SAFETY NET INCLUDED IN 2008 FARM BILL

Our membership indicated a need for a new type of farm program, one that would provide a revenue-based safety net for growers in the event of a low price year. We listened.

During the Farm Bill discussions in early 2008, the National Corn Growers Association was the only agricultural association that championed a revenue-based safety net, and the Illinois Corn Growers

Association worked hard to back them up both in Washington, DC with lobbying efforts and also with information and data to support our program.

The Average Crop Revenue Election program is the outcome of our efforts, providing a market-based state level crop revenue protection program, which is based on the five-year state average yield and

the rolling two-year national average price.

And in the fall of 2008, ICGA took the desires of our membership one step further, offering a Farm Bill Calculator to all members.

Designed by the University of Illinois, the program was later provided to all growers on the [www.farmdoc.com](http://www.farmdoc.com) website.

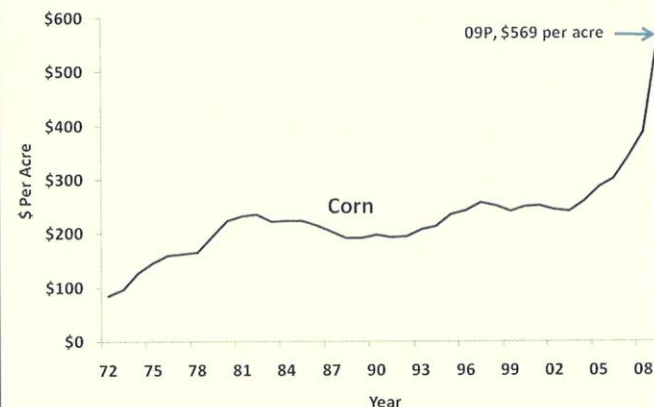
*"ACRE has significant potential benefits for our membership."*

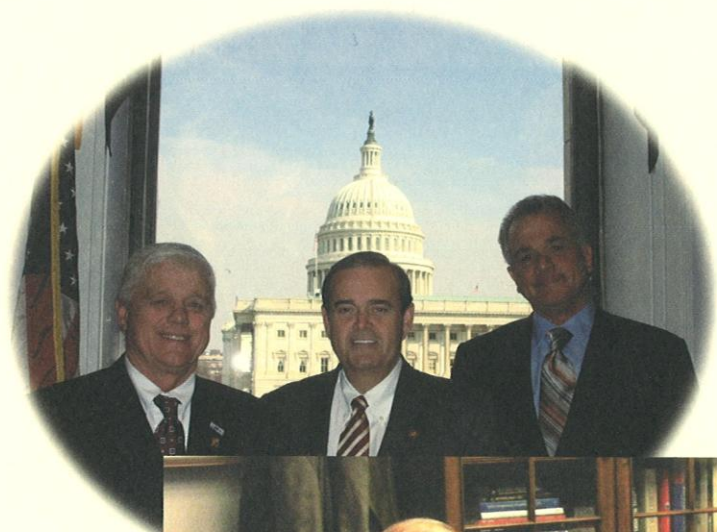
*- Art Bunting, President*



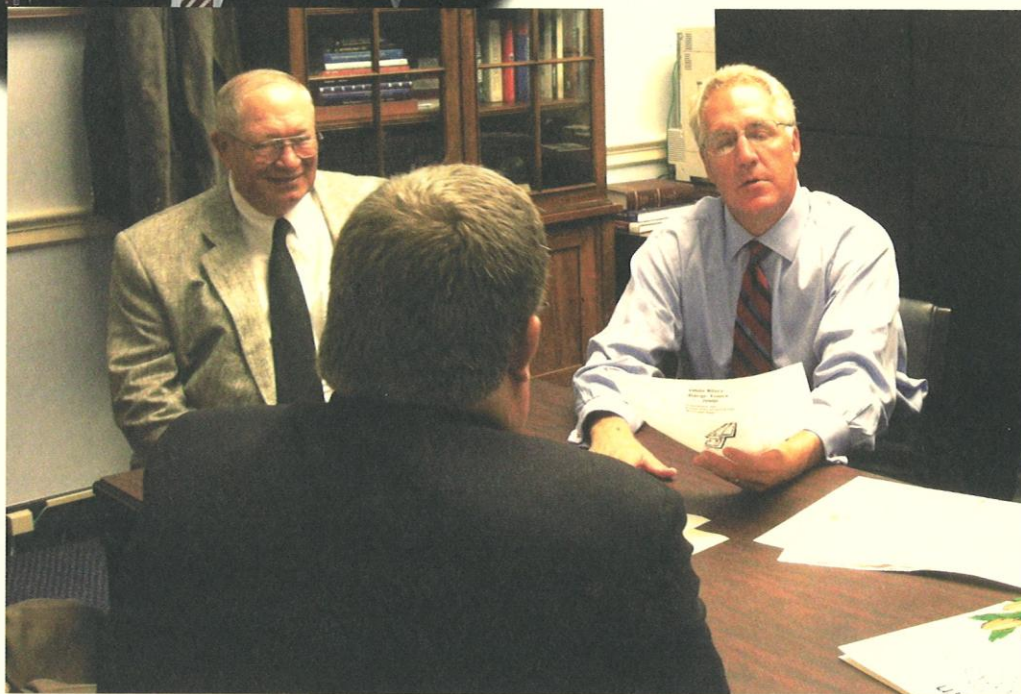
*As input costs continue to increase and commodity prices fall, the Average Crop Revenue Election program and the revenue-based safety net that it provides will be invaluable to Illinois corn growers.*

**Corn Non-Land Costs, Central Illinois, High Productivity Farmland, 1972 – 2009P**





*ICGA spearheaded the effort to produce this Farm Bill Calculator. This program analyzes individual farm data and provides producers with expected returns at varying corn prices under both the traditional farm programs and the new ACRE program.*



*Illinois growers traveled to Washington, DC in July 2008 and spoke with our legislators about the need for a Farm Bill to be passed before growers began to plan for the 2009 crop year.*

## GUIDE TO THE 2008 FARM BILL

An Overview of the 2008  
Farm Legislation



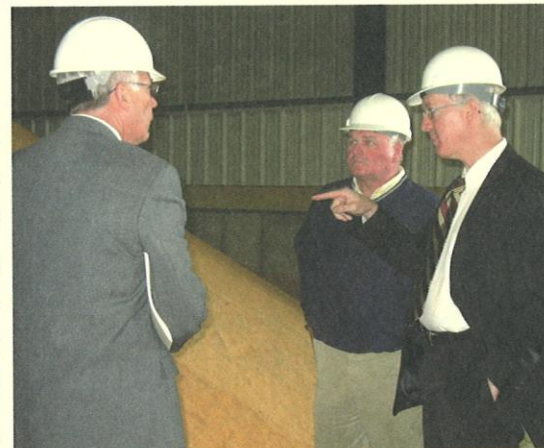
**NCGA**  
[www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com)

## LESSONING OUR RELIANCE ON FOREIGN OIL WITH THE RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD

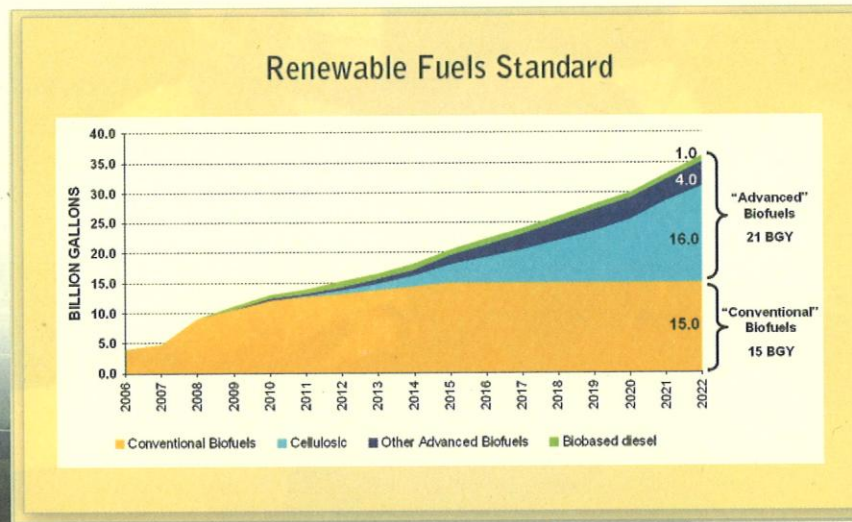
The Illinois Corn Growers Association seeks to provide new markets for Illinois corn and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 does just that by proposing to expand ethanol use to 15 billion gallons by 2015. An amendment to the act in 2007 extended that growth to 36 billion gallons by 2022.

ICGA continues to work to set the stage for corn-based ethanol to capture as much of this market as possible. Current projections are that we will be well over both of those marks by the suggested dates.

*Congressman Bill Foster who replaced Dennis Hastert after his retirement, visited Patriot Renewable Energy in October 2008. ICGA is actively seeking to educate new legislators about the value of corn-based ethanol to the Illinois economy and the nation's energy independence.*

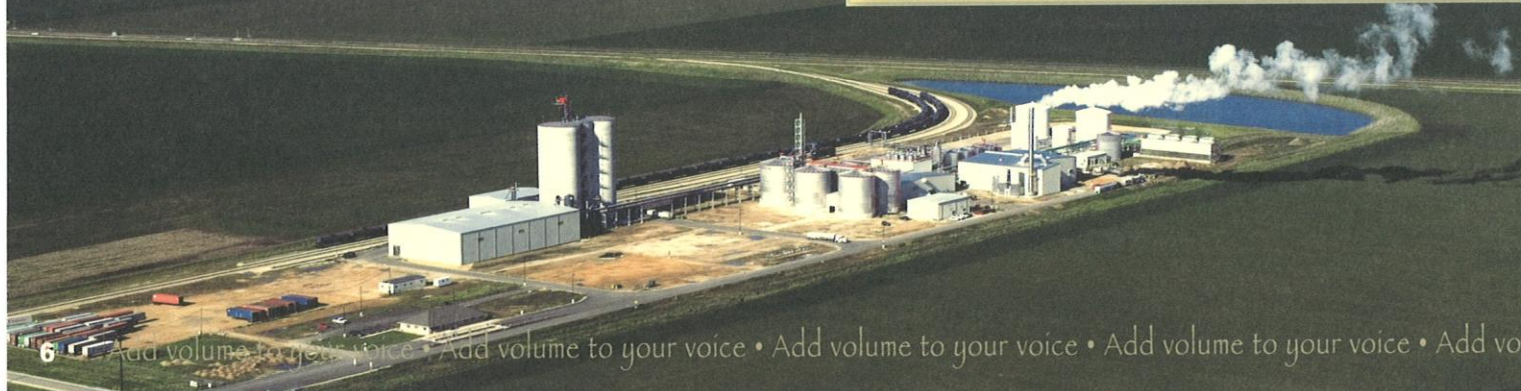


*By August 2009, Illinois plans to have added three more plants for an additional 237 million gallons of ethanol production and an expansion for another 55 million gallons for a grand total of 1.5 billion gallons. These plants will utilize around 550 million bushels, which would be about 27% of the corn production in Illinois. Pictured is Illinois River Energy in Rochelle which opened in January 2007 and produces 55 million gallons per year.*



As described by NCGA, the Renewable Fuels Standard estimates that by the year 2022, 16 billion gallons of ethanol will be provided by advanced biofuels such as cellulosic ethanol from grasses or corn stover. As yields con-

tinue to increase and we prove the efficiencies with which we are able to make corn ethanol, ICGA plans to show our legislators that corn based ethanol can easily capture some of the advanced biofuel market.



# ILLINOIS ETHANOL INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO GROW

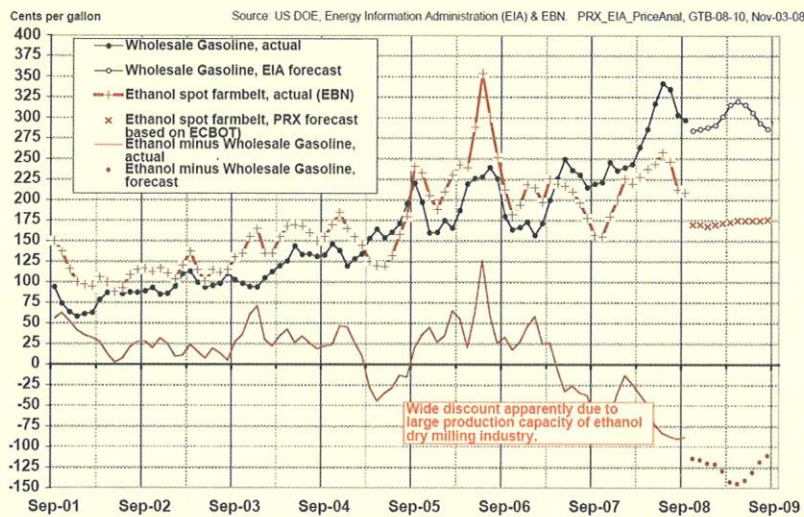
Patriot Renewable Energy in Annawan, IL held its grand opening in early November, 2008 becoming the 11th ethanol plant within the state. Marquis Energy in Hennepin also celebrated its opening this year, helping Illinois to continue our ethanol industry growth.

Continued growth in Illinois' ethanol industry will be hindered by the availability of credit as our nation's economy declines. However, Riverland Biofuels in Canton, and Big River Resources in Galva, and One Earth Energy in Gibson City currently plan to be producing ethanol by August 2009 increasing Illinois' ethanol capacity to about 14% of the US capacity.



At the Patriot Renewable Energy grand opening, tours were available for an excited public as the education of consumers about the value of ethanol continues. The American Lung Association was present at the event, showcasing ethanol's health benefits and Monsanto led visitors through their mobile learning center, teaching about breeding varieties that lead to increased ethanol production.

**ETHANOL & WHOLESALE GASOLINE PRICE, Past Six Years by Month**



Because of the increasing supply of ethanol, ethanol plant profits are at an all time low. ICGA looks forward to working on increasing demand for corn based ethanol in 2009 by creating more E85 markets and working to make E12 or E15 available to the general public. Also, ICGA continues to assure that distribution and blending infrastructure is put into place and that flex fuel vehicles are available to consumers.



ICGA is excited to see more and more fueling stations make E85 an option for their patrons. This Petrol station grand opening in Rochelle, offers an E85 pump at every island. It also features ethanol produced at Illinois River Energy in Rochelle offering patrons a chance to fuel up while supporting their local economy.

## AFTER A THIRTEEN YEAR FIGHT, WE ACHIEVED STEP ONE!

Record exports in 2008 are taxing our river transportation system; upgrades to the lock and dam system on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers are needed to move product. Additionally, because the leaders of our nation continue to tell us that we need to produce more renewable energy, by-products to ethanol production have to move too.

November 2007 brought a landmark decision that ICGA has worked to achieve for thirteen years. The Water Resources Development Act was passed, authorizing seven new 1,200-foot-locks and ecosystem restoration on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Waterways. And not only was it passed, it was the 107th presidential veto override in our nation's history!

But our work here has really just begun. The nation's economy has plummeted and we will have a new administration taking over in January 2009. Budget cuts are called for and it looks like there will be no appropriations to make the WRDA 2007 projects a reality.

ICGA will work in the coming year to secure pre-engineering and design funds to begin the planning and development stages of our new 1,200-foot-locks. And we will continue to educate our legislators and the public on the need to move all kinds of products via the river system to maintain a vibrant economy.

*For years, ICGA has held barge tours on the Illinois River hoping to educate the public about the need to upgrade our lock and dam system. This year, we moved our tour to the Ohio River and visited the new Olmstead Lock which will eventually replace locks 52 and 53 and captured a new audience in southern Illinois. Currently, these outdated locks move large quantities of Illinois corn and southern Illinois growers anticipate large efficiency gains when the new lock is finally operational.*



*Indiana Corn Growers Association was excited to partner with ICGA this year, hosting a barge tour on the Ohio River for their legislators and general public. Congressman Brad Ellsworth (IN-8) answers questions from the crowd. The tour was very successful, hosting 264 people during a morning and afternoon tour.*





## CREATE ADDRESSES INFRASTRUCTURE

Specifically addressing the rail efficiency issue, the Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program hopes to alleviate bottleneck problems in the Chicagoland area. Anticipated growth in volumes of exports and new imports from China, Southeast Asia, and emerging India suggest that any current problems will only escalate.

Additionally, CREATE will sustain 17,000 jobs in the next 20 years, employ 18,638 people statewide, assure Illinois continues to account for half the corn shipments to West Texas, and assure Illinois continues to efficiently service one quarter of the corn shipments to Mexico.

ICGA is excited about the support we have been able to offer CREATE in 2008 and looks forward to working with the coalition more in 2009 to secure funding and incentives for upgrading and expanding rail infrastructure. This is one way we plan to provide infrastructure to allow for 35% more corn to travel efficiently within the state, country, and across the globe.

## EXTREME HOMEPAGE MAKEOVER COMPLETE AT WWW.ILCORN.ORG

In August, the Illinois Corn Growers Association launched our new website, complete with an interactive calendar, general audience podcasts, and the ability to join online.

Additionally, ICGA has more control over the content of the site, so we are now able to respond to current issues and events, giving our audience more information at a quicker pace. This ultimately means the general public is able to see our point of view as soon as they enter the site and hopefully this will help provide the facts and change perceptions about Illinois corn growers.

Since the site launched, traffic has continually increased, hitting a high in October with 182,607 total hits and 12,745 visits from individual computers. Additionally, we've received visits from various international locations including Japan, Mexico, Thailand, Canada, Russia, Italy, Ireland, Australia and many more.

We plan to continually update the website in 2009, using it to provide more information to media and key legislators as we attempt to educate the public and restore the image of the Illinois corn grower. The site also provides a quick and easy way for members to track issues, catch up on ICGA activities and even contact legislators.



*The new look of the Illinois Corn Growers Association/Illinois Corn Marketing Board joint website, both caters visually to the eye and provides up to the minute information about our events, issues, and involvement in Illinois agriculture.*

## SPEED, FEED, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A recently released analysis by Argonne National Laboratory provides further evidence of the rapidly evolving nature of the American ethanol industry. According to Argonne, ethanol facilities are significantly improving on ethanol's already green footprint.

### ETHANOL EFFICIENCY INCREASING

- **Water consumption down 26.6%**
- **Grid electricity use down 15.7%**
- **Total energy use down 21.8%**

Argonne National Laboratory



ICGA sponsored the E85 Mustang Challenge at Gateway International Raceway near St. Louis to keep the spotlight on E85 in the racing world. This event featured Mustangs optimized to run on E85 fuel, and with the fastest run at 154 mph in the quarter mile, E85 is giving racing fuel a run for its money. This event was featured in 5.0 Mustang and Super Fords Magazine.

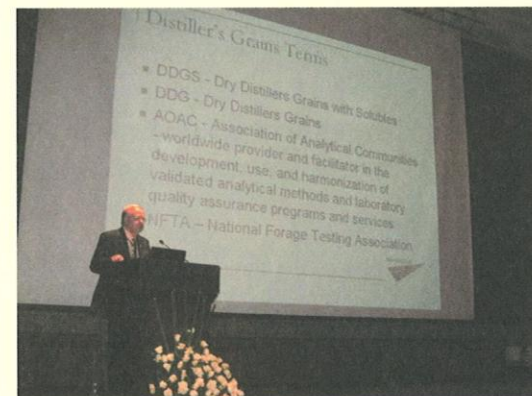
At [www.value-added.org](http://www.value-added.org), ICGA is working with Western Illinois University's Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs to make ethanol by-products more usable for our livestock customers.

The site is a one stop resource for information on the nutritional components of all by-products from various ethanol plants across the state. Plans to expand the information offered on this site will be executed in 2009.

By-Product	Protein	Starch	Oil	Cellulose	Hemicellulose	Lignin	Other
Distillers Grains	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
DDGS	28.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	12.0	18.0	2.0
DDG	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0
AOAC	25.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	10.0	15.0	5.0

Collaboration between the Vietnamese Feed Association and Illinois Corn Growers Association has increased since February when NOVECTA participated in a seminar in Vietnam. Pictured is Gary DeLong, NOVECTA's director, speaking to members of the Vietnamese Feed Association. The purpose of the presentation was to provide the Vietnamese with suggested risk management tools to be more competitive, as well as the newest developments, protocols and technical applications.

NOVECTA's involvement in providing assistance and guidance throughout the industry to standardize various procedures has been invaluable to agriculture in Illinois.





The Illinois Livestock Development Group continues to be an important part of ICGA's efforts to serve their largest customer, the livestock industry. Through this multi-commodity organization, ICGA has seen growth in the Notices of Intent to Construct filed with the Illinois Department of Ag, indicating that new livestock facilities and expansions are occurring within the state. Nic Anderson will also continue his valuable work into 2009, by helping livestock owners through the process of following the Livestock Management Facilities Act and making expansion or the siting of a new facility less daunting.



The ICGA Political Action Committee (PAC) has increased its involvement in 2008, hosting six fundraisers for candidates in the November elections such as the one pictured right of Jim and Pam Robbins with Debbie Halvorson who will replace Jerry Weller as Congressman in the 11th district. The PAC also contributed to several state elected officials such as Illinois Senator Gary Dahl, pictured above with Donna Jeschke and Jim Rapp. Showing support for candidates gets ICGA off on the right foot when those candidates are elected into office and begin their education on Illinois agriculture issues.

ILLINOIS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION'S

## Political Papers

SEPTEMBER 2008

**ICGA Travels to Washington DC for YOU!**

Over the past year, the ICGA Board of Directors has made several trips to Washington, DC. The purpose of these trips is to talk about upcoming issues and act as a resource for our Illinois Congressional Delegation.

Most recently, food and fuel has been on the minds of our elected officials. ICGA Board Members were able to provide our delegation with talking points and information proving that corn played a normal role in skyrocketing food prices.

We have also discussed needed appropriations for the Water Resources Development Act and have thanked them for their vote to authorize the funding for bulk upgrades in the first place. The first authorisation vote was a

Historical occasion; it was only the 19th presidential veto override in our nation's history!

Additionally, the board has worked with elected officials to

ICGA thanked our Illinois delegation for passage of the Water Resources Development Act and the 2008 Farm Bill. Pictured left to right: Gary Neimeyer, Mark Doglio, Congressman John Shimkus, and Andy Gulevich.

**PAC Fundraiser Exceeds Expectations!**

The Illinois Corn Growers Association Political Action Committee completed our first fundraiser event on August 19 and ended the evening with an additional \$9000 to spend during the coming election and next year!

Raffle winners were Jeff Soles, Streamstown, who won a \$1000 gift certificate for G20, Steve Papp, Rutland, who won five bags of Pioneer seed corn, and Tronnie Fickert who won a \$1000 gift certificate to Star's Express.

Fickert then donated her winnings back to the PAC and the Star's Express gift was auctioned to Ken Greene, Danard,

resulting in an additional \$1000 cash donation to the PAC!

The evening also featured a live auction where Betsy Sellers for the M&J and a long weekend at Martin Burke's Kentucky home were sold.

In addition to raising extra

With the ICGA PAC's increased activity, we've also had to increase fundraising opportunities. In August, ICGA hosted the first PAC auction and was successful in raising an additional \$9000 to donate to elected officials and candidates! Additionally, with increased activity comes increased reporting back to membership. A PAC newsletter was sent in September with plans to send a quarterly update in 2009.



## 2008 DIRECTORS AND DISTRICTS

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### DISTRICT XIII

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### DISTRICT XIV

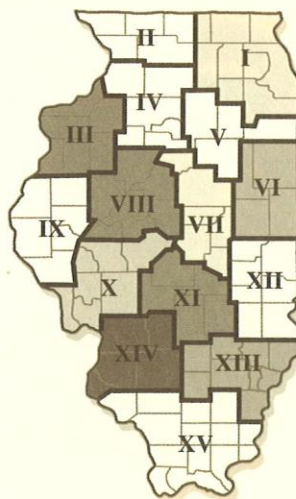
Kenneth Hartman, Jr. • 618-939-7073 • glendell@htc.net

### DISTRICT XV

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*ICGA 2007-2008 Officers pictured left to right are Andrew Goleman, Secretary; Rob Elliott, Vice President; Art Bunting, President; and Paul Taylor, Treasurer.*



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\* Indicates NCGA CAT or Committee Member

# Illinois Corn Growers Association

Bloomington, Illinois

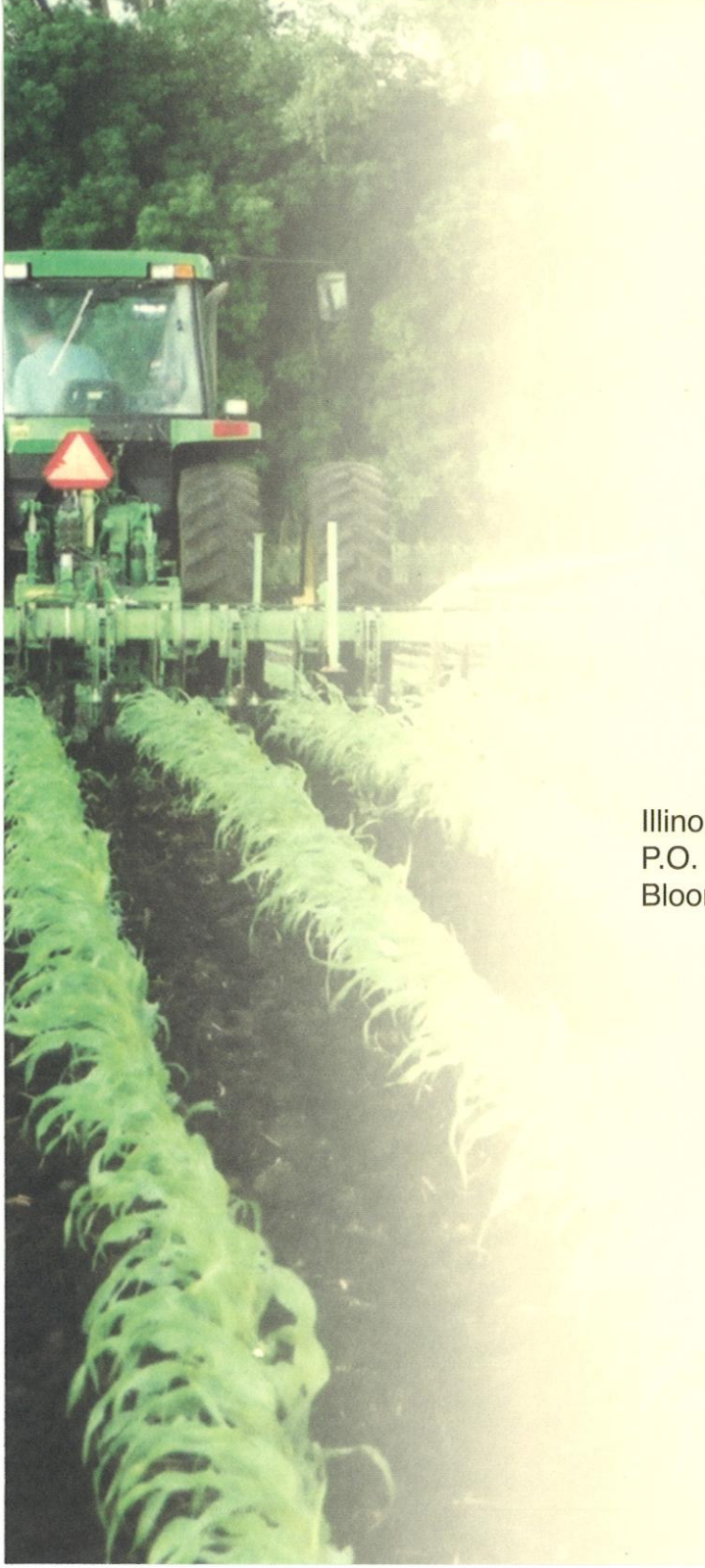
Year Ended September 30, 2008

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>ASSETS</u>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 34,250
Accounts Receivable	60,376
Prepaid Expenses	<u>5,809</u>
Total Current Assets	100,435
Investments	746,619
Land and Building	
Land	53,931
Building	610,038
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(108,587)</u>
Net Land and Building	<u>555,382</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>1,402,436</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 69,499
Accrued Real Estate Tax	7,600
Deferred Dues Revenue	89,565
Deferred Project Revenues	104,761
Total Current Liabilities	271,425
Long-Term Liabilities	
Accrued Post Retirement Benefit Obligation	133,526
Deferred Rental Revenues	<u>222,961</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	356,487
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	<u>774,524</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ <u>1,402,436</u>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES:	
Dues	\$ 159,083
Corporate Partners	4,840
Interest	27,463
Project Funding	946,001
Rental	14,009
Special Projects	23,019
County Projects	30,000
Equity Income	(59,135)
Other	<u>35,519</u>
Total Revenues	1,180,799
EXPENSES:	
Exports	386,555
Grassroots	267,453
Industrial	417,475
Special Projects	44,540
General and Administrative Management and Clerical	53,095
Building Repairs and Maintenance	(31)
Real Estate Tax	2,579
Depreciation	2,223
Post-Retirement Health Benefit	6,573
Rent and Utilities	418
Equipment/Maintenance	9,274
Staff Travel	4,974
NCGA Travel Corn Congress	76,981
Telephone	1,096
Internet Website	226
Office Supplies and Postage	3,926
Printing Expense	114
Illinois Corn Growers Newsletters	1,465
Audit and Legal	1,237
Insurance	1,372
Country Grants and Activities	15,639
Miscellaneous	<u>216</u>
Total General and Administrative	181,377
Total Expenses	<u>1,297,400</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>(116,601)</u>



Creating and maintaining opportunities  
for Illinois Corn Growers to  
capture more value for  
their product.

Illinois Corn Growers Association  
P.O. Box 1623  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702

Auto First Class  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 19  
Heyworth, IL