**KEY TAKE-AWAYS FROM JULY 2019 ICMB MEETING**

1. The USDA Acreage Report released June 28 had corn planted area for all purposes in 2019 estimated at 91.7 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. In IL, the report indicated no change in planted acres from 2018 (11,000) and only 50,000 fewer acres harvested from 2018.

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1. Several reference materials made their way to IL corn farmers and ICGA members in the past month. Most notable are the Unlocking Potential Booklet and the PCM Research summary.

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1. The USEPA’s 2020 RVO rule did not address small refinery exemptions (RFE). Since early 2018, the EPA has granted 53 RFS exemptions totaling 2.61 billion ethanol-equivalent gallons of renewable fuel. There are currently 38 pending petitions for 2018. The RVO numbers are not increasing market opportunities for corn ethanol.

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1. Elevators are holding good corn back to blend, causing grain flow issues. Basis issues are also a concern: IN is already paying over $0.60 basis. The river has finally opened and the basis level in New Orleans has softened.

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1. One of our highest priorities remains a high-octane low carbon fuel standard that will help auto manufacturers design the vehicles of the future to run on higher blends of ethanol.

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