



# Political Papers

JANUARY 2016

## CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

Jan 1: Federal Holiday

Jan 5-13: In Session

Jan 11: Senate Convenes

Jan 18: Federal Holiday

Jan 25-Feb 12: In Session

Feb 15: Federal Holiday

Feb 23-Mar 3: In Session

Mar 14-23: In Session

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

Jan 27: State of the State

Feb 17: Governor's Budget Address

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## GREAT FEEDBACK FOR CORN FARMERS!

During the November 2015 threat to crop insurance in Congress, we issued an action request, asking farmers to call their elected officials and make sure everyone knew how important crop insurance is for your farm and your family.

Corn farmers called! We got great responses from the IL delegation and corn lobbyists in DC that your calls and the massive turnout we experienced really made the difference!

This is exactly the sort of action we need whenever legislative actions threaten

the family farm.



## IL Corn PAC Auction Raises Over \$50,000

The eighth annual Illinois Corn Growers Association Political Action Committee (PAC) Auction was held on November 23, 2015 in Bloomington. In total, the event raised \$57,810 for the IL Corn State and Federal PACs.

The event featured a casino night, bucket raffles, and a drawing for several John Deere donated items.

In addition, Congressman Darin LaHood came to join the group for dinner and spoke about his first few months in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Winners of the major auctions items were:

Spencer Janssen, Litchfield—50 hours CASE tractor

Art Bunting, Dwight—JD Small Frame Generator

John Errthum, Manhattan—JD Genesis Gas Grill

Bruce McQuigg, Rankin—JD Portable Heater

Mark Fletcher, E. St. Louis—CornBelters Suite

The funds raised will be used throughout the year to contribute to campaigns of those running for office or those currently in office that support ag policies and points of view.

**The IL Corn PAC supports candidates that you support. We match member contributions to ensure that our PAC funds are 100% member directed.**

# Political Action Committee 101



PACs are highly regulated and have a variety of rules that apply. For ICGA's PAC, the federal guidelines are the ones we most concern ourselves with. State guidelines vary by state and Illinois has a more open structure regarding how state PAC monies are solicited, collected, and distributed.

Federal PACs are restricted on the sort of monies that they accept. Only personal checks, personal money orders, or

personal credit cards may be used to make a Federal PAC donation.

Also, donations to the Federal PAC are not tax deductible.

During our yearly PAC solicitations, ICGA clearly states that personal checks must be used if you plan to donate to the PAC. However, occasionally some company/farm checks are sent in as an oversight by the donor.

Because our Illinois guidelines

are more relaxed, we are able to accept farm checks or credit cards and we place those donations into our State PAC.

If you do decide to donate to the ICGA PAC, please always consider using a personal check. With the Federal guidelines being more strict, Federal PAC dollars are hard to come by and we always appreciate those personal checks or credit card contributions.

# CORN FARMERS COALITION HONORED

For the last seven years, the Corn Farmers Coalition has been working in Washington, DC to change the minds of elected officials, thought leaders, and others in the beltway about who farmers really are and the innovative ways they are growing corn while minimizing their impact on the environment.

panies for innovative and leading-edge creative work that uses strategy and results-based effectiveness to create solutions in today's marketplace.

The award is especially welcome given that the group's long and infamous history of dominating all the ads in various metro stations all over DC was not an option this year.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious award, particularly for the work done in the summer of 2015," said NCGA Senior Communications Manager Mark Lambert. "When we first heard that we would not be able to continue placing our work in DC Metro stations due to outside political circumstances, we grew concerned about our reach. Through the dedication of the team to creating a new, effective approach, we managed to continue reaching our nation's capital with messages about modern corn farmers and the advances they have made. This

award serves as proof that, through hard work and flexibility, we can remain impactful no matter the challenges that we face."

Many Illinois farmers have been featured in this campaign over the years, including John and Sue Adams of Atlanta, Scott and Connie Sterling of Martinton, Lou and Sue Lamoreux of Lanark, Grant and Logan Noland of Blue Mound, and Justin and Rachel Durdan of Utica.

The Corn Farmers Coalition builds awareness of the value of family corn farmers. The program, which is managed by a team of state corn communicators, was also selected for inclusion in the Smithsonian American History Museum's new American Enterprise Exhibit which opened in July. With nearly 40 million impressions with Capitol Hill elites in 2015, it serves as a constant reminder of the importance of agriculture to our nation's economy.

Email [lmitchell@ilcorn.org](mailto:lmitchell@ilcorn.org) for a Corn Fact Book produced by the Corn Farmers Coalition!

**INNOVATION IS GROWING**  
In The Corn Fields Of America.

There is more you should know about America's biggest crop.

**CORN FARMERS COALITION**

Read for yourself how America's corn farmers are part of the technological revolution at [CornFarmersCoalition.org](http://CornFarmersCoalition.org).

In 2015, the joint program of state corn grower organizations, including Illinois Corn Marketing Board, and the National Corn Growers Association was recognized for marketing effectiveness with the Summit International Platinum Award in the Public Service/ Advocacy category. This award recognizes and rewards com-

# INDEPENDENT MAPS IN ILLINOIS

**The Independent Map Amendment will create a system where the voters choose their representatives instead of the representatives choosing their voters.**

It would establish a non-partisan, independent commission responsible for drawing state legislative districts in a way that is transparent and open to the public and would end the current redistricting process controlled by legislators with little public involvement.

By adopting the Independent Map Amendment, the redistricting process in Illinois will:

- Produce Illinois House and Senate districts drawn without regard to incumbency or partisanship;
- Attract more candidates for the General Assembly and more competition for legislative seats, resulting in more choices for voters;
- Protect the voting rights of racial and ethnic minorities and prohibit drawing maps that dilute or diminish the ability of racial or language minority communities to elect the candidates of their choice;
- Respect communities with shared interests and avoid breaking through political and geographic boundaries; and
- Allow the public to view and par-

ticipate in redistricting. Illinoisans deserve legislative elections where issues are debated, candidates listen to their constituents and voters have choices.



Petition are available at every county Farm Bureau in Illinois. To sign a petition (almost 300,000 signatures are needed!) visit your local CFB or [www.independentmap.org](http://www.independentmap.org).

## AGRICULTURE & ILLINOIS—THE GOOD & AND BAD

Governor Rauner promised a more business friendly climate for Illinois and agriculture is certainly seeing that if livestock growth is any indication.

panding livestock facility must complete per the Livestock Management Facilities Act) in 2015 which equates to about \$70 million in new investment in Illinois.

Because of the lack of a state budget, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is unable to release \$12 million in federal Biofuels Infrastructure Program funds that Illinois Corn helped secure for the state.

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These federal funds will help build infrastructure for higher blends of ethanol all across the state, by upgrading fuel pumps to handle higher blends.

The infrastructure program cannot proceed until the state passes a state budget and approps bill.

It seems that agriculture will continue to see a mix of positive and negative as Illinois works through the growing (or shrinking!) pains of trying to live within our means.

Anderson also reports an overall positive feeling among livestock farmers and ag professionals in their dealings with the Illinois government.

While a few livestock facilities are currently in public hearing processes, Anderson noted several other facilities that are moving forward with virtually no opposition. As an example, egg and poultry producers are expanding into east central Illinois, including the construction of a new \$30 million feed mill which will allow further expansion.

Sadly, the positive feelings aren't all inclusive as the state struggles through a budget impasse.

**ILLINOIS** is one of the



**TOP 5 STATES**

in ag cash income and crop cash receipts

The Illinois Livestock Development Group's Nic Anderson reported about 120 Notices of Intent to Construct (the filing with the Department of Ag that a new or ex-

## Illinois Corn Growers Association

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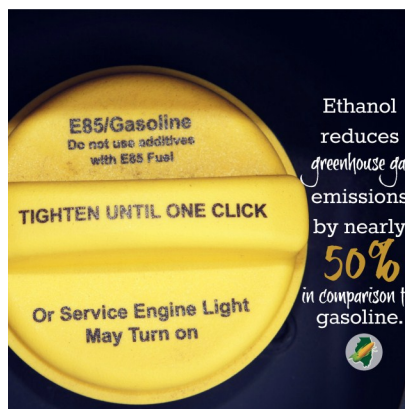
## EPA DEALS FARMERS ANOTHER BLOW

Jeff Jarboe, a farmer from Loda, Ill., and Illinois Corn Growers Association President, released the following statement after learning of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final decision regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) for 2014, 2015, and 2016.

"The Administration and EPA have struck another blow against agriculture with their final rule on the RFS RVO numbers. The only acceptable decision by EPA would have been a return to the volumes Congress wrote into law. Instead, President Obama is handing Big Oil a victory by turning away from reduced greenhouse gas emissions just as he's attending the climate change talks in Paris.

"In addition to the detrimental air quality impacts of reducing the amount of ethanol in our nation's fuel supply, the

EPA's reduced RVO numbers also carry a negative impact to farmers' bottom lines. Illinois farmers are expected to experience a 47 percent decline in farm income since 2012. In fact, net farm income in Illinois is forecast to decline by a whopping 68 percent from a 2013 high. For these reasons, I'm baffled by the Obama Administration's decision to change course on the RFS."



## DONATE

Donating to the ICGA PAC is easy!  
Simply complete your personal check  
and fill out the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

PAC contributions are not tax deductible and cannot be treated as a business expense. For ICGA's PAC Policies and Guidelines, contact the ICGA office at 309-557-3257.