



# CORN INDUSTRY

# US LARGE PRODUCER

The United States is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of corn. Corn is grown in most U.S. States; on average, U.S. farmers plant about 90 million acres of corn each year, with most of the crop grown in the Heartland region (from the Great Plains through Ohio).



# HISTORY OF CORN

Corn has been grown for the past 10,000 years, starting from ancient farmers who carefully selected kernels from a wild grass plant called teosinte in Mexico. Native Americans brought corn up the Mississippi River, and over time, the corn plant evolved through selective breeding. Iowa's soil was found to be perfect for corn cultivation, and Native Americans used bone hoes and wooden digging sticks to cultivate it. Today, modern Iowa farmers can produce a bushel of corn in just six minutes of manual labor.

<https://www.lhf.org/learning-fields/crops/corn/>



# TOP CORN PRODUCING STATES

Top corn-producing states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Corn Belt states: Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Corn production has increased six times since 1930 due to newer growing methods and technology. In 2016, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska alone produced over one billion bushels of corn.

	Top 5 States - By Production							
	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	(1,000 Acres)	% Δ PY	(1,000 Acres)	% Δ PY	(Bushels/Acre)	% Δ PY	(1,000 Bushels)	% Δ PY
Iowa	13,100	↑ 1.6	12,600	↑ 2.0	200		NC 2,520,000	↑ 2.0
Illinois	11,200	↑ 3.7	11,000	↑ 3.8	203	↓ 5.1	2,233,000	↓ 1.6
Nebraska	9,950	↑ 3.6	9,590	↑ 8.7	173	↑ 4.8	1,659,070	↑ 14.0
Minnesota	8,600	↑ 7.5	8,200	↑ 9.5	181	↓ 7.2	1,484,200	↑ 1.6
Indiana	5,500	↑ 4.8	5,380	↑ 4.9	200	↑ 5.3	1,076,000	↑ 10.4

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

November 9, 2021

# CORN USES

Most corn produced in the United States is not eaten by people. The largest amount of corn produced by U.S. farmers is used as feed for animals. Another 30.5 percent is converted to ethanol, and 12.9 is exported. The rest is turned into sweeteners, starch, and alcoholic beverages (1 percent). Only 1.5 percent is used to make cereal and other foods. These percentages are based on USDA data for the 2014 harvest.



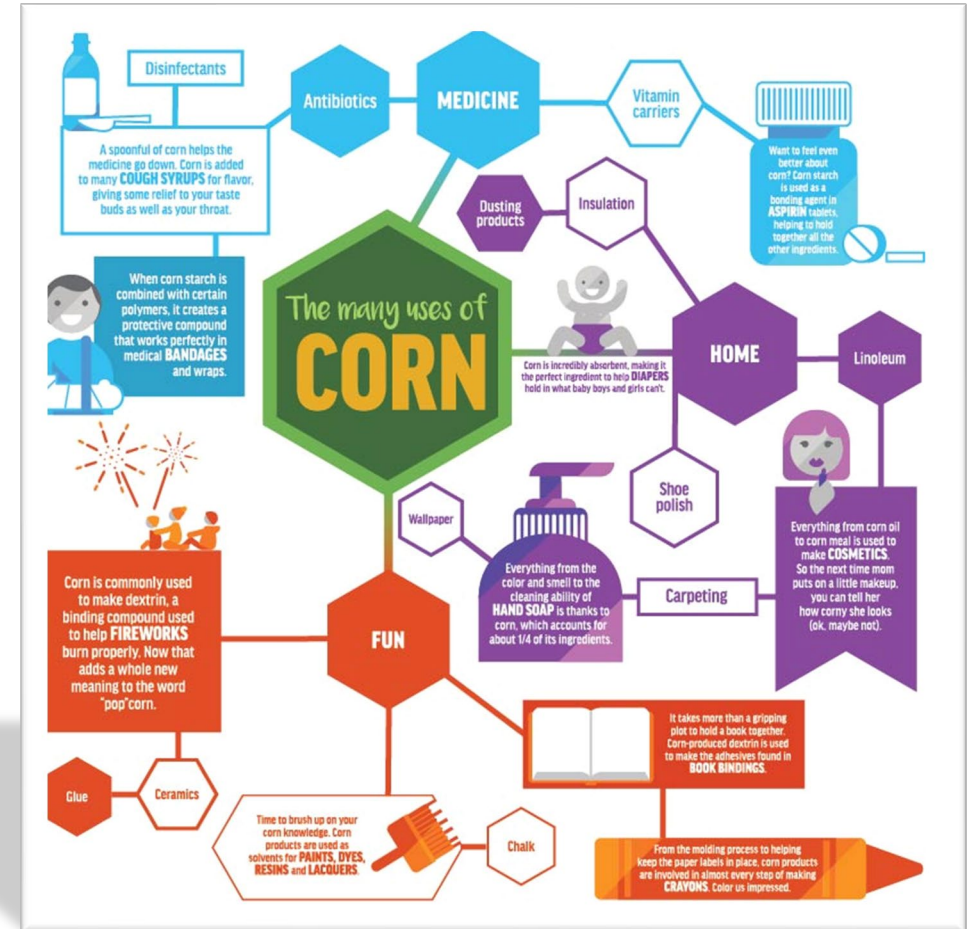
# CORN USES

- Corn is a versatile crop used to make popcorn, cereals, bakery items, grits, tortillas, chips, sweeteners, gum, peanut butter, and other food products.
- Apart from being a source of food, corn is also used to feed animals and produce renewable energy in the form of fuel ethanol, which is a fuel that can be mixed with gasoline to power cars.



# CORN USES

Corn is also environmentally friendly and can be used to create biodegradable products such as packaging, straws, and even fashion items. For instance, Reebok released a shoe made entirely from cotton with a corn-based sole. Corn is also used in many everyday products such as aspirin, diapers, fireworks, glue, hand soap, ink, laundry detergent, lipstick, matches, paint, toothpaste, and wax paper.



# FOUR TYPES OF CORN



**Dent corn**, or field corn, is the most common corn type in the US. It's used for animal feed.



**Sweet corn** is picked before it's fully grown, making it high in sugar and sweet in taste.



**Flint Corn:** Sometimes, it is used for food, but it is usually dried and used for decoration.



**Popcorn** is a type of corn with a hard shell and moist center. When heated, the moisture inside causes pressure, making it pop.



# PLANTING CORN

Farmers plant corn seeds with a piece of equipment called a planter. The planter injects each corn seed into the ground, ensuring each kernel is evenly spaced and at a consistent depth. This prevents the seeds from competing with one another for moisture and nutrients.

It's not unusual for farmers to hire workers during planting or harvest. These hired hands could be driving a grain cart, combine, or anything else that helps harvest the crop at the proper time.



# PARTS A CORN PLANT

- **Tassel:** It is at the top part of the plant.
- **Ear:** Corn ears cover the silk, husk, kernels, and cob of the corn plant.
- **Silk:** The silk on the ear grows out of the top of the cornhusk and may be colored green, yellow, or brown, depending on the corn variety.
- **Husk:** It is the green leaves surrounding the corn ears. These protect the kernels of the corn.
- **Leaves:** corn plants can have numerous leaves on the stalk.
- **Stalk:** It is the main body of the plant.
- **Roots:** Holds the corn crop in place in the ground.



# HOW DOES CORN GROW?

Corn is a crop that grows on stalks, regardless of whether it is grown for fresh consumption, processing, silage, or creating a corn maze. The growth process of all corn is the same. Corn plants go through different growth stages until they reach the silking stage, where they have both male and female flowers and can self-pollinate.

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2016/08/night-harvest-in-the-corn-field/>



# FRESH MARKET CORN

Corn that is harvested for the fresh market, is harvested by hand using a knife.

The corn is typically harvested at night due to the condition of the corn stalks. These stalks can grow as tall as six to eight feet, and since harvesting usually occurs during the hottest months of the year when temperatures can reach up to 100°F, it is preferable to harvest at night when it is cooler.



# CORN SILAGE HARVESTING

Corn silage is harvested when moisture content is around 60-70%. A scientific sampling and drying technique is used to determine the actual moisture content. Two workers are used one to drive the harvesting machine that chops the entire plant, while the other drives the adjacent trailer,

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/10/corn-silage-production/>



# CORN SILAGE HARVESTING

A combine machine is used to separate kernels from the stalk. The kernels are then transported to the processing facility via a hauling trailer. The process is used for different colored corn, and the harvester is paid based on harvested weight.

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2019/02/corn-combine/>



# CORN SILAGE HARVESTING

Corn silage is primarily used as feed for dairy cows. The corn plants are grown for a year, harvested, and then fermented to produce corn silage. Unlike other harvesting methods, when the corn is harvested for silage, the entire plant is chopped into small pieces, leaving no waste.

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/10/corn-silage-production/>



# CORN QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES

- Preparing fields
- Counting
- Planting
- Sorting
- Weeding
- Harvesting
- Irrigating
- Packing
- Detasseling
- Hauling
- Rouging
- Spraying
- Weighing
- Husking
- Loading/Unloading

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/10/corn-silage-production/>





# RECRUITERS TIPS

---

- To build trust with farmers, recruiters should stay updated with the latest trends in the industry and have informed conversations with them. It's important for recruiters to provide farmers with MEP information and details about community agencies that serve the same population as we do. Furthermore, recruiters should connect with organizations involved in the corn-growing industry.



# CORN ASSOCIATIONS

Alabama Soybean and Corn Association

[alabamasoycorn.org](http://alabamasoycorn.org)

Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Board

[www.corn-sorghum.org](http://www.corn-sorghum.org)

Colorado Corn Council

[www.coloradocorn.com](http://www.coloradocorn.com)

Corn Producers Association of Texas (CPAT)

<http://www.texascorn.org/>

Georgia Corn Growers Association

[georgiacorngrowers.org](http://georgiacorngrowers.org)

Illinois Corn Growers Association

[www.ilcorn.org](http://www.ilcorn.org)



# CORN ASSOCIATIONS

Indiana Corn Growing Association (ICGA)

[www.incorn.org/icga](http://www.incorn.org/icga)

Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC)

<http://www.incorn.org/index.php/icmc>

Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA)

<http://www.iowacorn.org/>

Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA)

<http://kscorn.com/>

Kentucky Corn Growers Association (KyCGA)

<https://www.kycorn.org/>

Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA)

<http://www.marylandgrain.org/>



# CORN ASSOCIATIONS

---

- Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA)  
• <http://www.micorn.org/>
- Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA)  
• <http://www.mncorn.org/>
- Mississippi Corn Growers Association (MCGA)  
• <http://mscorn.org/about-us/>
- Missouri Corn Growers Association (MCGA)  
• <http://www.mocorn.org/>
- National Corn Growers Association  
• <https://www.ncga.com/>
- Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA)  
• <http://www.necga.org/>



# CORN ASSOCIATIONS

- Nebraska Corn Board (NCB)  
<http://www.nebraskacorn.org/>
- New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association  
<https://www.nycornsoy.org/>
- Corn Growers Association of North Carolina  
<http://nccorngrowers.com/>
- North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA)  
<http://www.ndcorn.org/>
- Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association  
<http://www.pacorngrowers.org/>
- South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association  
<http://www.sccsafarms.org/>



# CORN ASSOCIATIONS

South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association

<http://www.sccsafarms.org/>

South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA)

<http://www.sdcorn.org/>

Tennessee Corn Growers Association (TCGA)

<http://www.tncorn.org/>

Virginia Grain Producers Association

<http://www.viriniagrains.com/>

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association (WCGA)

<http://www.wicorn.org/>

Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA)

<http://www.ohiocornandwheat.org/>

