

New Corn Coalition Gets Facts To News Media And Policy Makers



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Ever get tired of all the misinformation in the media? . . . those national news stories that are just not factual, the misquoted information, the slanted information from special interest groups, or misguided university information. It's frustrating to those of us in agriculture, especially when we can't get the facts out to the non-ag public.

To help address this problem, a new group has been formed – the Corn Farmers Coalition. This group, which just went public on March 2, is made up of corn growers associations from 10 states, in alliance with the National Corn Growers Association. The Coalition's purpose is not to lobby or promote an "agenda" but rather to provide facts and a contact list of knowledgeable individuals from the farm fields who would be reliable sources of information for policy makers and the news media.

Recently, I spent several days in Washington D.C. with the Corn Farmers Coalition in order

to help correct the misinformation problem on the "food versus fuel" debate. During the trip, we provided news agencies, government agencies and environmental groups with sources of agriculture facts and contacts so they could make informed decisions regarding policy and news stories.

We met with a wide range of groups and media outlets including USA Today, Bloomberg News, Fortune Magazine, Greenwire, Roll Call, Congressional Quarterly and the Environmental Defense Fund. It was amazing how interested everyone was in getting this information. I have already received several requests for sound, science-based information from university trials that can be used in news stories and on websites.

Check out the Corn Farmers Coalition website to see what this educational effort is all about, <http://cornfarmerscoalition.org/> . Take a look at the Corn Fact Book, which is specifically written to help the non-farmer understand the importance and impact of modern agriculture. Δ

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The Syngenta logo, featuring the word "syngenta" in a lowercase, sans-serif font with a green leaf icon above the letter 'y'.

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