2024 – February 9th

75th Annual Corn Improvement Conference Business Meeting

New Business:

* Meeting was moved from the previous named the “Northeast Corn Improvement Conference” to just the “Corn Improvement Conference”. Was the first year the meeting was hosted in West Lafayette, IN in conjunction with Purdue University.
* Meeting Attendance increased by >200% from 2023 to 2024. In addition, meeting had strong attendance from industry and media members (Corteva, Becks Hybrids, Channel Seeds, Indiana Prairie Farmer), graduate students, and faculty members. Overall, the sentiment is that the conference is expanding and attendance will continue to increase.
* Meeting attendees encompassed 8 different states (South Dakota, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Vermont, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky) and 2 countries (U.S. and Canada).
* Graduate student poster competition was added in 2024 and was determined a success.
* Indiana Corn Marketing Council provided $1500 for support of the conference.
* Conference funds are currently housed in an independent account with Purdue University. Current funds available for the conference are ($5,918). Will be important to solicit additional sponsorships for future meetings.

Conference Planning Member Updates:

* **Quinn –** discussed the changes with this year’s conference (e.g., graduate student poster competition) and it was determined with the planning team that this competition will stay with future conferences. Also, it was suggested that we needed to have more industry involvement in the conference for future years (presentations, posters, etc.). Lastly, Dan Quinn is working to solicit involvement/funding from National Corn Growers Association for this conference for future meetings and Dan Quinn will work directly with Daniela Carrijo to help plan the 2025 meeting.
* **Carrijo –** Daniela Carrijo volunteered to host the meeting at Penn State University in 2025. In addition, it was suggested to have the meeting scheduled for 2026. Also, it was suggested to have the host “in waiting” to assist the planned host with planning, proceedings, etc.
* **Kebede –** agreed to host the meeting in Ottawa, Canada in 2026 to expand the international presence of the conference. Also, agreed to help Daniela with planning for the 2025 conference.
* **Lindsey –** suggested having an organization team for the meeting in the future. Having members with actual roles in the conference planning, organization, etc. would help the conference improve.
* **Lindsey and Ortez –** suggested having the conference continue to be solicited to include additional members from the Midwest USA. Look to include member from Iowa State, Nebraska, Missouri, etc.
* **Overall, conference feedback was very positive and plans are in place to continue conference expansion, attendance increases, member involvement, etc.**