

# 2016 Innovative Youth Corn Challenge

## Eligibility

4-H members (age 10 & older as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>) or FFA members (in-school members) may participate as a team. Yields, cropping history, and production information will be included in the Corn Yield Challenge management summary. (No limit on teams/county or FFA Chapter)

### 4-H Members

4-H'ers from each county are challenged to produce the most economical, highest yielding corn. The team with the highest percent yield increase over their local county average will win cash awards for their 4-H project to be used for plant science or leadership based programs.

### FFA Members

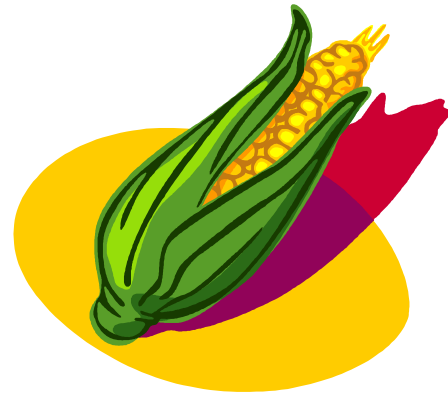
FFA members from each chapter are challenged to produce the most economical, highest yielding corn. The team with the highest percent yield increase over their local county average will win cash awards for their FFA project to be used for plant science or leadership based programs.

## Requirements for Participation

Each participating team should have a minimum of two, one-acre plots, which will be harvested for the Challenge. The plots can be on privately or publicly owned land but youth should be involved in the planning, managing, and harvesting of the plots. Both irrigated and dryland fields are eligible and will be scored accordingly.

Planting randomized and replicated plots is encouraged and receives "bonus points". Youth can use plot designs from the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network\* or they can design their own.

\*Found at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/web/farmresearch/>



## Awards/Recognition

Money is encouraged to be spent on furthering their projects which could include participation in activities such as workshops or agricultural tours, or next year's project, etc. Team plaques will be given to the top 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams.

Awards include:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Corn Challenge - \$1,000

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Corn Challenge - \$500

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Corn Challenge - \$250

Sustainability Award - \$150

Crop Scouting & Records Award - \$150

Extra Mile Award - \$150

All teams will receive \$50 and a certificate of recognition.

Limited to 25 teams on a first come, first served basis.

Materials are sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board.

As rural communities struggle to keep young people in their communities, the **Innovative Corn Challenge** is a project designed to encourage youth to pursue an agricultural career and return to rural Nebraska.

## Project Purpose

1. To achieve new and innovative crop production methods to improve yields and provide research data for producers to implement in their operations which are economically feasible.
2. To disseminate data to corn producers, researchers, and agri-businesses to examine and decide whether the practices used will help their operation achieve higher yields.
3. To introduce youth to a variety of agronomic professionals, including corn producers. Youth will be working with an adult to mentor them through the process. These adults could be extension faculty, ag teachers, or other qualified agronomy professionals.
4. To teach youth all aspects of corn production, as well as a variety of agricultural careers related to corn production.

## Benefits

Both youth and producers will benefit from on-farm research interaction through exchange of ideas, knowledge gained and relationships created.

*Additionally, participants could obtain FREE...*

-A complimentary subscription to UNL Extension's Hybrid Maize model.

Example Plot layout (minimum**)	
Treatment (1 ac. minimum)	Check (1 ac minimum)

**\*\*Randomized, replicated plot research receives bonus points.**

## Project Requirements

Participants are required to set up two plots for entry into the Corn Challenge. These plots must be adjacent to each other.

The two side-by-side plots should be located on ground that is as similar as possible in order to effectively compare and identify strategies that may contribute to yield increase.

Participants grow the same variety of yellow corn in each plot and plant the plots on the same day.

One plot is designated, as the "Check plot," in which no novel treatments are performed and corn is grown as normally as would be by the participant.

The other plot is designated as the "Yield Challenge plot," in which participants use an innovative treatment that could enhance yield.

Participants planting randomized and replicated plots correctly receive "bonus points".

Participants are required to keep records of management practices for both the Check (normal practice) and Challenge plots. Participants provide routine crop scouting records and crop management records throughout the season for both the Check and Challenge plots.

A minimum of one acre is harvested from the check and the treatment.

Harvest operations must be witnessed by a harvest supervisor and calculated on the basis of No. 2 yellow corn corrected to 15.5% moisture, then converted to bushels per acre. It is encouraged that yields are weighed on a calibrated scale (weigh wagon or local elevator).

Any management used by participants in the Corn Challenge cannot violate any State, Federal or local laws. Participants who fail to comply lawfully and/ or ethically as determined by a Corn Challenge review panel are ineligible for further participation or awards.

# Are YOU up for the challenge?

Corn  
Challenge

## Entry Form

**Step 1** –Complete the information:

I am entering the Team Yield Challenge 2016.

Names:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4-H/FFA Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

(Primary Contact) Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

County of field location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2** – Provide contact information for your sponsor:

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

**Title:** Extension Educator/FFA Advisor/Crop  
Consultant (circle which)

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that a harvest supervisor, I will verify yield results. I hereby certify the information provided on this entry form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and agree. All Challenge information shall become the property of the Nebraska Corn Board and can be used at the discretion of sponsors.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Entry Form Instructions:

Complete a form for EACH youth, and then mail the forms to the following address:

NE Extension-Fillmore Co.

Attn: Corn Challenge

1340 G Street

Geneva, NE 68361

Deadline: Entry forms postmarked by March 15.

## Challenge Implementation

This program is implemented through Nebraska Extension with financial assistance from the Nebraska Corn Board. Extension faculty, agriculture education instructors and crop consultants may serve as harvest supervisors and assist with data collection.

## Challenge Rules

Fields must be located in Nebraska.

Participants agree to allow Nebraska Extension, FFA Advisors, and the Nebraska Corn Board to use production data for promotional or educational materials as well as activities and events.

Questions can be directed to Brandy VanDeWalle ([brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu](mailto:brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu)) at 402-759-3712, Aaron Nygren ([anygren2@unl.edu](mailto:anygren2@unl.edu)) at 402-352-3821 or Amy Timmerman ([atimmerman2@unl.edu](mailto:atimmerman2@unl.edu)) at 402-336-2760.

## Sponsor Orientation

An orientation will be available to help the sponsor and/or team members understand how to plan, implement and record their plots and to provide tips on how to maximize the educational component of this program.

**Deadline March 15**

