



2012 Innovative Youth Corn Challenge

Eligibility

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

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 needs a minimum of two, two-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. Participants planting randomized and replicated plots are encouraged and if completed correctly will receive "bonus points". Both irrigated and dryland fields are eligible and will be scored accordingly.

Materials for participants will be sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board for 2012.



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, 2, & 3rd place teams.

Awards include:

- 1st Place Corn Challenge - \$1,000
- 2nd Place Corn Challenge - \$500
- 3rd Place Corn Challenge - \$250

- Data Completion Award - \$200
- Innovation Award - \$200

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

Limited to 20 teams on a first come, first served basis.

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.

Potentially, participants could obtain FREE....

- Soil testing for nutrients in all plots.
- Each team would receive a complimentary subscription to UNL Extension’s Hybrid Maize model

| Example Plot layout (minimum required) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Treatment (2.5 ac minimum) | Check (2.5 ac minimum) | Treatment (2.5 ac minimum) | Check (2.5 ac minimum) |

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 plot GPS coordinates must be reported to the Yield Challenge officials by July 1, 2012.

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 five-acre 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 five-acre plot is designated as the “Yield Challenge plot,” in which growers use an innovative treatment or set of treatments that could enhance yield.

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

In order to determine accurate yield estimates, each participant must select a two-acre harvest area from each five-acre plot. The harvest area can be designated in various ways as long as a minimum of two acres is harvested from the check and the treatment.

Harvest operations must be witnessed by one or more harvest supervisors and be calculated on the basis of No. 2 yellow corn corrected to 15.5% moisture, then converted to bushels per acre. Yields should be 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 Student Team Yield Challenge 2012.

Name:

4-H/FFA Name: _____

Street Address:

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: _____

(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:

UNL Extension-Fillmore Co.
Attn: Corn Challenge
972 G Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Deadline: all entry forms must be postmarked by March 1, 2012.

Challenge Implementation

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

Challenge Rules

Fields must be located in Nebraska. Participants agree to allow UNL 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 or Aaron Nygren at bvandewalle2@unl.edu or (402) 759-3712 or anygren2@unl.edu or (402) 352-3821

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 1, 2012

