

CORN RESOLUTION

Delta Council acknowledges the important role which corn production plays in the economic outlook of agriculture for our region. Cotton, rice, and soybean growers have conclusively agreed over the years that advancements in the area of corn production research are essential for the sustained growth of this emerging, major Mississippi crop. Delta Council stresses the importance of Mississippi State University and USDA/ARS continuing their focus on the most effective methods for accelerating and expanding corn production research which is adapted to Delta and State-wide environmental and agronomic conditions.

Delta Council also endorses the concept of establishing a producer-driven assessment program aimed at strengthening production research, market development, and public policy relating to the future of corn production in the State of Mississippi.

Consensus must be reached on many important views in order to develop the major principles and guidelines for the establishment of a corn checkoff program. Delta Council applauds the Mississippi Legislature for establishing such a program that follows the same principles as existing soybean and rice checkoff programs. Some of the considerations which should be maintained in a corn checkoff program are as follows:

- Levy a one-cent per bushel checkoff, which is estimated to derive approximately one-half million dollars annually,
- Support a uniform assessment,
- Collect the assessment at the first point of sale,
- Collect the assessment on corn which is produced in Mississippi,
- The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce should play the same role in the corn checkoff as they very capably do in other checkoff programs,
- Revenues should be utilized for research, market development, and public policy at the federal level,
- Establish a third party administrator for the corn checkoff revenues, similar to those established or planned for rice and soybean checkoff programs,
- Propose that these principles are maintained in Mississippi State law, and
- Attempt to achieve the objective of enacting a State law for a corn checkoff program during the 2006 legislative session.

Delta Council expresses appreciation to Chairman Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chairman Bo Eaton, the Governor, and members of the Mississippi Legislature for enacting the Mississippi Corn Research and Promotion Program.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
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