

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.

CORN RESOLUTION

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

Delta Council endorses 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 and applauds the Mississippi Legislature for taking these steps.

Delta Council expresses appreciation to the Mississippi Legislature for establishing a program that follows the same principles as the soybean and rice checkoff programs. Some of the considerations which should be sustained in any corn checkoff program are as follows:

- Levy a per-bushel checkoff,
- Support a uniform assessment,
- Collect the assessment at the first point of sale,
- Collection of 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 for rice and soybean checkoff programs, and
- Propose that these principles are maintained in Mississippi law until such time as the Mississippi Corn Growers Association, Farm Bureau, Mississippi Feed and Grain Association, and Delta Council request such changes.

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Corn Resolution

Delta Council specifically urges USDA, Mississippi State University, and private companies to accelerate emphasis on the development of varieties that possess characteristics for aflatoxin resistance which include competitive yields.

And finally, Delta Council urges Mississippi State University and USDA to build the necessary research and extension education support at the Delta Research and Extension Center to serve the unique and distinctly different agronomic conditions and irrigated cropping systems for producing corn in Northwest Mississippi. The need for a corn agronomist at the Delta Research and Extension Center-Mississippi State University is ~~becoming~~ a vital *to producers* need in Northwest Mississippi.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
June 7, 2019

