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### **Meet Our Partner – The Kansas Corn Commission**

*The IGP Institute partners with the Kansas Corn Commission to create a preference for U.S. and Kansas corn.*

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Corn production in Kansas is on the rise, and continues to improve with changing markets and farming technologies.

According to the Kansas Corn website, in 2016, Kansas produced the largest crop ever at 699 million bushels, with a yield of 142 bushels per acre. Kansas corn acres have doubled in the past 20 years, with nearly all of the increase coming from non-irrigated acres. Although about two-thirds of the corn crop stays in Kansas and is used primarily for livestock feeders and ethanol plants, exports are very important to Kansas corn producers with one-third of the crop going to other states and internationally. Corn exports represent a promising growth market for U.S. and Kansas corn producers.

The Kansas Corn Commission staff work closely with the Kansas Corn Growers Association in their promotional and educational efforts. The IGP Institute helps with their efforts for international outreach.

In 2016, the IGP Institute hosted 10 corn-related distance courses for 258 participants, and led 16 corn-related, on-site and on-location courses for 453 participants.

Seeing the benefits of this training firsthand was Terry Vinduska, a Kansas corn commissioner and producer from Marion, Kansas. He spoke about a trip to Egypt where he met with U.S. trained professionals. He shared that a group of workers at the grain inspecting port they were touring denied a shipment of corn from Argentina. The workers at the port explained that because of their training from grain-grading courses, they could catch the poor-quality crop, and instead accepted a shipment from the U.S.

“Without providing the overseas groups with that education, we would have missed an opportunity to sell to that country,” Vinduska says.

Kansas corn producers and their continuous innovations for production is key to the foundation for the IGP Institute and several of its programs today. With new technologies in crop production, IGP offers processing and management trainings to fit the needs of industry producers and experts.

As IGP Institute’s mission states, “to provide innovative and relevant education and technical programs to enhance the market preference,” the institute stays loyal to working with its supporting commodity groups.

“The partnership we have with Kansas Corn allows us to connect the Kansas farmers with international customers,” says Jay O’Neil, IGP Institute grain processing and risk management curriculum manager. He continues, “by working together, we are able to not only create a preference for Kansas feed grains, but also create long-term relationships with international buyers.”

Vinduska adds, “I am very proud to say I am from Kansas when I talk to groups overseas and they have heard of our training programs, and it also helps reinforce the great programming that’s offered at K-State and at IGP.”

To learn more about the Kansas Corn Commission, please visit its website at: <http://www.kscorn.com>.

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