

2003a
District FFA Career Development Event
Parliamentary Procedure

1. Ability: To suspend the rules
Business: To donate \$2000 to the Iowa FFA Foundation Enrichment Center Fund.
 2. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Organize and host a tractor pull in conjunction with the county fair to raise money for the Red Cross.
 3. Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: To host a petting zoo for the elementary students.
 4. Ability: To change the presiding officer
Business: To go on a Chapter Officer ski trip to Colorado.
 5. Ability: To appeal the decision of the chair
Business: To construct a float for summer parades.
-

Questions:

1. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member offered an amendment to the motion to lay a motion on the table? (34)
2. What is the advantage of the qualified motion to adjourn over the unqualified motion to adjourn for most business meetings? (26)
3. What are some valid reasons for the presiding officer to turn the chair over to another person? (70)
4. Can a motion be withdrawn after it has been voted on by the assembly? (59)
5. Which class of parliamentary motion receives the highest rank? (13)

All answers are in "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure," the 1994 edition. The page number to find the answer is specified after each question.

2003b
District FFA Career Development Event
Parliamentary Procedure

1. Ability: To receive a motion reconsider
Business: To take a chapter retreat to the YMCA Camp in Boone, Iowa.
 2. Ability: To lay a motion on the table
Business: To purchase a tractor for the FFA Chapter farm.
 3. Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: To make cookies and gift baskets for the elderly in the community.
 4. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To host an ice-fishing tournament and donate the proceeds to the United Way.
 5. Ability: To adjourn
Business: To purchase three computers for the Ag Classroom.
-

Questions:

1. What are four methods of voting on a main motion? (19 & 21)
2. As presiding officer, what would you do if a member appealed from your decision, and you are sure your decision was right? (53-54)
3. What are the common ways to amend a motion? (47)
4. What are some methods by which a countable vote can be taken? (21)
5. What are some valid reasons for the presiding officer to turn the chair over to another person? (70)

All answers are in "Mastering Parliamentary Procedure," the 1994 edition. The page number to find the answer is specified after each question.

2003 e
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How can precision agriculture technologies benefit crop production?
2. How can Iowa's economy benefit from value-added products?
3. How will United States agricultural exports change over the next decade?

2003 d
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How can biotechnology impact agriculture?
2. How important are niche markets to Iowa's agricultural economy?
3. How can outbreaks of livestock disease, in other countries, affect United States livestock production?

2003 c
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How important is biotechnology to the future of agriculture?
2. How do international markets affect local commodity prices?
3. How can agricultural production in South America affect Iowa markets?

2003 b
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. In what ways can GPS (Global Positioning System) technology influence a crop producer's efficiency?
2. How can a producer use the internet to improve his or her profit margin?
3. Is it ethical for the United States to influence third world countries into using our highly technological form of agricultural production?

2003 a
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How can an agricultural producer effectively use the internet to market their products?
2. Is it a good idea for some farmers to pursue niche markets because of the struggling hog, corn, and soybean markets? Why or why not?
3. How do the weather and growing season conditions in Brazil and Argentina affect Iowa agriculture?

2003 g
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. Why are precision agriculture technologies important?
2. How important are foreign markets to Iowa agriculture?
3. What do you think will be the future of United States agriculture exports?

2003 h
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How will cloning impact agriculture?

2. What marketing strategies can Iowa grain producers use to be more profitable?

3. How does agricultural production in Argentina and Brazil affect the Iowa markets?

2003 i
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How important is biotechnology to the future of agriculture?

2. In what ways can producers become profitable using forward contracting?

3. How does the weather/growing season conditions in Brazil and Argentina affect Iowa agriculture?

2003 j
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How do genetically modified crops change the management practices of the producer?

2. How do international markets affect local commodity prices?

3. Is it ethically right for the United States to influence third world countries to use our means of agricultural production?

2003 k
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. Are genetically altered agricultural products safe for human consumption?
2. How important are niche markets to Iowa agriculture?
3. How should the United States pursue world trade reform in order to reverse the declining agriculture export trend?

2003a
District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. In what ways can Global Positioning Systems assist in the decision making process of a farming operation?
2. Packer ownership of livestock has been a hot topic in legislation. How will this effect the local farm economy in Iowa?
3. How may genetically engineered varieties of corn and soybeans affect food safety and handling procedures?

2003b
District FFA Career Development Event
Extemporaneous Speaking

1. How may cloning affect Iowa's livestock industry?
2. What opportunities exist in specialty food markets, and how can agriculturalists best take advantage of these niche markets?
3. What effects may Brazilian agriculture have on our farm economy?

2003 d
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. What are some of the struggles of former years that you referred to in the first paragraph of the FFA Creed?
2. Who wrote the FFA Creed?
3. How can you exert and influence in your home and community?

2003 c
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. What part of the FFA Creed do you feel holds the best advice for the future of agriculture?
2. Define a progressive agriculturist
3. When was the FFA Creed adopted?

2003 b
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. What have you learned about the FFA and agriculture through your study and recitation of the Creed?
2. In the second paragraph you made the statement "...or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits..." What do you mean by other agricultural pursuits?
3. When was the FFA Creed adopted and revised?

2003 a
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. What can you do to provide leadership to others, as mentioned in the Creed?
2. You begin the creed with the phrase "I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds." What is faith born not of words but of deeds?
3. Who wrote the FFA Creed and when was it adopted?

2003 e
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. You begin the FFA Creed with the phrase "I believe in the future of agriculture..." What is the future of today's agriculture?
2. Do you think agriculturists serve the public's interest in producing and marketing the products of their toil?
3. Why do you believe in the FFA Creed?

2003 g
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. What are some of the struggles of former years that you referred to in the first paragraph of the FFA Creed?

2. What part of the FFA Creed do you feel holds the best advice for the future of agriculture?

3. What have you learned about the FFA and agriculture through your study and recitation of the Creed?

2003 h
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. Who wrote the FFA Creed?

2. In the second paragraph you made the statement "...or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits..." What do you mean by other agricultural pursuits?

3. Define a progressive agriculturist.

2003 i
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. When was the FFA Creed adopted?
2. You begin the FFA Creed with the phrase "I believe in the future of agriculture..." What is the future of today's agriculture?
3. How can you exert and influence in your home and community?

2003 j
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. When was the FFA Creed adopted and revised?

2. What can you do to provide leadership to others, as mentioned in the Creed?

3. You begin the creed with the phrase "I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds." What is faith born not of words but of deeds?

2003 k
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Freshman Creed Speaking

1. Who wrote the FFA Creed and when was it adopted?
2. Do you think agriculturists serve the public's interest in producing and marketing the products of their toil?
3. In the fifth paragraph, you said "...that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life..." What are some of those traditions?

2003a
District FFA Career Development Event
Creed Speaking

1. How can you exert and influence in your home and community?
2. In the second paragraph you made the statement "...or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits..." What do you mean by other agricultural pursuits?
3. Terms like biotechnology, genetic engineering, or global positioning system were not common when the creed was written. Does the underlying meaning of the creed still hold true or does the creed need to be revised to reflect today's hi-tech agriculture?

2003b
District FFA Career Development Event
Creed Speaking

1. Do you think agriculturists serve the public's interest in producing and marketing the products of their toil?
2. In the fourth paragraph, what is your interpretation of the words, "...in less need for charity and more of it when needed..."?
3. You began the creed with the phrase "I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds..." What is a faith born not of words but of deeds?

2003 c
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.
Business: To host a faculty breakfast.

 2. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To conduct a chapter SAE tour.
-

Questions:

1. Which officer is stationed at the Bust of Washington? (21)

2. When would the presiding officer use one tap of the gavel? (23)

3. At each meeting the secretary is required to have on hand four items for reference, please name all four of these items. (15)

4. What is the FFA Motto? (8)

5. What are the four duties required of the president? (15)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 c
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.
Business: To host a faculty breakfast.

 2. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To conduct a chapter SAE tour.
-

2003 a
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To rise to a point of order.
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.
 2. Ability: To refer to a committee.
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.
-

Questions:

1. When would the President use three taps of the gavel? (23)
2. Which officer is stationed by the Owl? (21)
3. The use of parliamentary procedure at chapter meetings ensures what four things?
(25)
4. What are the duties of the Vice President? (15)
5. What are the five symbols on the National FFA Emblem? (8)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 a
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To rise to a point of order.
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.

 2. Ability: To refer to a committee.
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.
-

2003 b
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.
 2. Ability: Table a motion.
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.
-

Questions:

1. What officer is stationed at the shield of friendship? (21)
2. What is the official salute of the FFA? (9)
3. What are the five purposes of a chapter Program of Activities? (17)
4. What are the duties of the Secretary? (15)
5. What are the two types of committee reports? (22)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 b
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion.
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.

 2. Ability: Table a motion.
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.
-

2003 d
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Purchase a handheld GPS unit.

 2. Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Send ten chapter members to the state leadership conference.
-

Questions:

1. Which officer is stationed at the ear of corn? (21)

2. What is unfinished business? (22)

3. What are two types of committee reports that can be presented at chapter meetings? (22)

4. What are the duties of the Treasurer? (16)

5. What are the official colors of the FFA? (8)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 d
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Purchase a handheld GPS unit.

 2. Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Send ten chapter members to the state leadership conference.
-

2003 e
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Construct a community welcome sign.
 2. Ability: To table a motion
Business: Host a chapter agriscience fair.
-

Questions:

1. What officer is stationed by the plow? (21)
2. What are the three divisions of an FFA Chapter's Program of Activities? (18)
3. What are the duties required of the Sentinel? (16)
4. What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)
5. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 e
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Construct a community welcome sign.

2. Ability: To table a motion
Business: Host a chapter agriscience fair.

2002
State FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sell pizzas to raise money for a local charity.
 2. Ability: Change the presiding officer
Business: Sponsor a chapter trip to the World Food Prize symposium.
-

1. What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14 & 15)
2. According to the FFA Manual, what are the ten essentials of a successful Chapter? (13-14)
3. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name all eleven of these. (12)
4. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
5. The use of parliamentary procedure at chapter meetings ensures what four things? (25)

2002 Conduct of Meetings Items of Business:

1. To host a faculty breakfast.
2. To conduct a chapter SAE tour.
3. Collect food for the local food pantry.
4. To sponsor a record book scholarship program.
5. Tour an agricultural research facility.
6. Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.
7. Purchase a handheld GPS unit.
8. Send ten chapter members to the state leadership conference.
9. Construct a community welcome sign.
10. Host a chapter agriscience fair.
11. Sponsor a chapter trip to the World Food Prize symposium.
12. Sell pizzas to raise money for a local charity.

2002 Conduct of Meetings Questions

1. Which officer is stationed at the Bust of Washington? (21)
2. When would the presiding officer use one tap of the gavel? (23)
3. At each meeting the secretary is required to have on hand four items for reference, please name all four of these items. (15)
4. What is the FFA Motto? (9)
5. What are the four duties required of the president? (15)
6. When would the President use three taps of the gavel? (23)
7. What officer is stationed by the Owl? (21)
8. The use of parliamentary procedure at chapter meetings ensures what four things? (25)
9. What are the duties of the Vice President? (15)
10. What are the five symbols on the National FFA Emblem? (8)
11. What officer is stationed at the shield of friendship? (21)
12. What is the official salute of the FFA? (9)
13. What are the five purposes of a chapter Program of Activities? (17)
14. What are the duties of the Secretary? (15)
15. What are two ways that new items of business are introduced at chapter meetings? (22)
16. Which officer is stationed at the ear of corn? (21)
17. What is unfinished business? (22)
18. What are two types of committee reports that can be presented at chapter meetings? (22)
19. What are the duties of the Treasurer? (16)
20. What are the official colors of the FFA? (9)
21. What officer is stationed by the plow? (21)
22. What are the three divisions of an FFA Chapter's Program of Activities? (18)
23. What are the duties required of the Sentinel? (16)
24. What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)

25. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)
26. Which officer is stationed at the Rising Sun? (21)
27. What officer is responsible for coordinating all committee work? (15)
28. Besides the officers identified in the Official Opening Ceremonies, what other officers might a chapter elect? (17)
29. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name 7 of them. (12)
30. Which officer is stationed by the flag? (21)
31. What are the duties of the Advisor? (16)
32. According to the FFA Manual, what are the ten essentials of a successful Chapter? (13-14)
33. What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14-15)
34. What is the mission statement of the FFA? (4)
35. What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14 & 15)
36. According to the FFA Manual, what are the ten essentials of a successful Chapter? (13-14)
37. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name all eleven of these. (12)

2002
State FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

- 3. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sell pizzas to raise money for a local charity.

 - 4. Ability: Change the presiding officer
Business: Sponsor a chapter trip to the World Food Prize symposium.
-

2003 g
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: Table a motion
Business: To host a faculty breakfast.

 2. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Tour an agricultural research facility.
-

Questions:

1. What officer is stationed by the plow? (21)

2. What are the three divisions of an FFA Chapter's Program of Activities? (18)

3. What are the duties required of the Sentinel? (16)

4. What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)

5. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 h
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: To conduct a chapter SAE tour.

 2. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: To sponsor a record book scholarship program.
-

Questions:

- 1.** Which officer is stationed at the ear of corn? (21)

- 2.** What is unfinished business? (22)

- 3.** What are two types of committee reports that can be presented at chapter meetings? (22)

- 4.** What are the duties of the Treasurer? (16)

- 5.** What are the official colors of the FFA? (8)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 i
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Collect food for the local food pantry.
 2. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Sponsor a chapter snowmobile party.
-

Questions:

1. What officer is stationed at the shield of friendship? (21)
2. What is the official salute of the FFA? (9)
3. What are the five purposes of a chapter Program of Activities? (17)
4. What are the duties of the Secretary? (15)
5. What are the two types of committee reports? (22)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 j
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To receive and dispose of a main motion
Business: Purchase a handheld GPS unit.

 2. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Host a chapter agriscience fair.
-

Questions:

1. Which officer is stationed at the Bust of Washington? (21)

2. When would the presiding officer use one tap of the gavel? (23)

3. At each meeting the secretary is required to have on hand four items for reference, please name all four of these items. (15)

4. What is the FFA Motto? (8)

5. What are the four duties required of the president? (15)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003 k
Sub-District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings

1. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Sponsor a chapter trip to the World Food Prize symposium.
 2. Ability: To rise to a point of order
Business: Sell pizzas to raise money for a local charity.
-

Questions:

1. Which officer is stationed at the Bust of Washington? (21)
2. When would the presiding officer use one tap of the gavel? (23)
3. At each meeting the secretary is required to have on hand four items for reference, please name all four of these items. (15)
4. What is the FFA Motto? (8)
5. What are the four duties required of the president? (15)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003a
District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings Questions

1. According to the FFA Manual, what are the ten essentials of a successful Chapter? (13-14)
2. Besides the officers identified in the Official Opening Ceremonies, what other officers might a chapter elect? (17)
3. At each meeting the secretary is required to have on hand four items for reference, please name all four of these items. (15)
4. What are the five purposes of a chapter Program of Activities? (17)
5. What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)

2003b
District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings Questions

1. What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14-15)
2. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name 7 of them. (12)
3. What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)
4. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)
5. What are the four duties required of the president? (15)

2003a
District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings Abilities

1. Ability: To refer to a committee
Business: Send two members on an international exchange trip to Germany.

 2. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Purchase an AgLeader GPS unit to start a grid-soil sampling business.
-

- 1.** According to the FFA Manual, what are the ten essentials of a successful Chapter? (13-14)

- 2.** Besides the officers identified in the Official Opening Ceremonies, what other officers might a chapter elect? (17)

- 3.** At each meeting the secretary is required to have on hand four items for reference, please name all four of these items. (15)

- 4.** What are the five purposes of a chapter Program of Activities? (17)

- 5.** What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

2003b
District FFA Career Development Event
Conduct of Meetings Abilities

1. Ability: To amend a motion
Business: Purchase ten acres of land for a FFA Chapter Farm.
 2. Ability: To table a motion
Business: Sponsor an FFA Officer trip to Canada.
-

1. What are the seven general duties expected of all officers? (14-15)
2. In the FFA Manual, there are eleven points outlined in the FFA Code of Ethics, please name 7 of them. (12)
3. What part of the National FFA Emblem signifies progress and holds a promise that tomorrow will bring a new day glowing with opportunity? (8)
4. What are two sources a chapter can use for reading and learning parliamentary procedure? (24)
5. What are the four duties required of the president? (15)

Judges should confer prior to the start of the contest to determine acceptable answers to the above questions. All answers are in the 2000-01 Official Manual. The page number and a possible answer are specified under each specific question.

Ag Broadcasting

AP Copy
2003

Sources:

www.ifbf.org

www.agweb.com

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

www.profarmer.com

www.iowafarmer.com

Interior Iowa Daily Grain Prices.

Closing cash grain bids offered to producers as of 2:30 p.m.
Dollars per bushel, delivered to Interior Iowa Country Elevators.

US 2 Yellow Corn generally 7 to 9 cents lower
for a state average of 2.11

US 1 Yellow Soybeans generally 22 to 23 cents lower
for a state average of 5.27

| Iowa Regions | US 2 Yellow Corn | US 1 Yellow Soybeans |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Northwest | 2.07 - 2.17 | 5.20 - 5.32 |
| North Central | 2.05 - 2.11 | 5.20 - 5.28 |
| Northeast | 2.01 - 2.25 | 5.11 - 5.30 |
| Southwest | 2.08 - 2.20 | 5.26 - 5.33 |
| South Central | 2.13 - 2.23 | 5.26 - 5.45 |
| Southeast | 2.09 - 2.19 | 5.22 - 5.35 |

Corn Basis to STATE AVERAGE PRICE for the CBOT Mar.
contract is -\$0.24

Soybean basis to STATE AVERAGE PRICE for the CBOT Jan.
contract is -\$0.37

This report was prepared by the Marketing Bureau, Iowa Department of
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at 800-383-3755.

Source: USDA Market News Des Moines, Iowa
515-284-4460
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_GR110

Iowa Dept of Agriculture
515-281-8604
www.agriculture.state.ia.us/dailygrain.html

16:00c sk

Live Cattle

| Date | Open | High | Low | Last | Chge | Previous Volume | Previous Open_Int |
|------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------------------|----------------------|
|------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------------------|----------------------|

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-------|
| 01/09/03 | *CASH* | 0 | 7799 | 7799 | 7799 | +79 | 0 | 0 |
| 01/10/03 | Feb 03 | 8162 | 8195 | 8130 | 8147 | -30 | 7912 | 49025 |
| 01/10/03 | Apr 03 | 7980 | 8005 | 7955 | 7985 | -2 | 6060 | 39035 |
| 01/10/03 | Jun 03 | 7185 | 7202 | 7162 | 7177 | -15 | 1715 | 17528 |
| 01/10/03 | Aug 03 | 6965 | 6972 | 6927 | 6932 | -45 | 197 | 5946 |
| 01/10/03 | Oct 03 | 7180 | 7192 | 7105 | 7105 | -57 | 244 | 1643 |

Lean Hogs

| Date | | Open | High | Low | Last | Chge | Previous Volume | Previous Open_Int |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 01/09/03 | *CASH* | 0 | 4519 | 4519 | 4519 | +7 | 0 | 0 |
| 01/10/03 | Feb 03 | 5245 | 5295 | 5240 | 5275 | -47 | 6836 | 17383 |
| 01/10/03 | Apr 03 | 5935 | 5935 | 5862 | 5895 | -62 | 3977 | 10956 |
| 01/10/03 | May 03 | 6375 | 6375 | 6330 | 6365 | -30 | 322 | 2612 |
| 01/10/03 | Jun 03 | 6465 | 6480 | 6415 | 6460 | -32 | 790 | 6171 |
| 01/10/03 | Jul 03 | 6210 | 6220 | 6180 | 6215 | -35 | 71 | 1714 |
| 01/10/03 | Aug 03 | 5960 | 5980 | 5930 | 5950 | -32 | 91 | 1406 |
| 01/10/03 | Oct 03 | 5390 | 5400 | 5350 | 5362 | -55 | 51 | 571 |
| 01/10/03 | Dec 03 | 5315 | 5315 | 5250 | 5272 | -48 | 2 | 139 |
| 01/10/03 | Feb 04 | 5535 | 5550 | 5530 | 5550 | unch | 0 | 9 |
| Composite | Volume | Open_Int | | | | | | |
| 01/09/03 | 12140 | 40961 | | | | | | |

Iowa Rep. King named to House ag panel

Republicans tentatively named 27 members to their side of the House Agriculture Committee, aides said on Friday, including Iowa Rep. Steve King, a freshman congressman.

The appointments were subject to final approval. A committee staff worker said there was still some unresolved competition for seats.

Virginia Republican Bob Goodlatte will be chairman of the 51-member committee.

Democrats will have 24 seats, the same as last session. Iowa Democratic Rep. Leonard Boswell should retain his seat on the committee. A list of Democratic appointees was not immediately available.

Tentatively selected as Republican committee members were: Goodlatte, Larry Combest of Texas, John Boehner of Ohio, Richard Pombo of California, Nick Smith of Michigan, Terry Everett of Alabama, Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, Jerry Moran of Kansas, William Jenkins of Tennessee, Gil Gutknecht of Minnesota, Doug Ose of California, Robin Hayes of North Carolina, Charles Pickering of Mississippi, Timothy Johnson of Illinois, Tom Osborne of Nebraska, Mike Pence of Indiana, Dennis Rehberg of Montana, Sam Graves of Missouri, Adam Putnam of Florida, Janklow, Max Burns of Georgia, Jo Bonner of Alabama, Mike Rogers of Alabama, King, Chris Chocola of Indiana, Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado, Devin Nunes of California.

State efforts to create air standards are premature, says Farm Bureau

Efforts to create air quality standards for Iowa are rushed and premature, the Iowa Farm Bureau said Jan. 6.

Standards for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia in areas around livestock confinement units are to be implemented under state law by December 2004 if field studies indicate a problem exists. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), however, is proposing strict standards before studies are completed. The standards will impact not only agriculture, but also business and industry, and municipalities.

"Despite the claim of completing a field study, the DNR's study in the summer of 2001 was unable to find the levels commonly known to cause a material and verifiable adverse health effect," said Iowa Farm Bureau President Craig Lang in written comments to the DNR.

"Additionally, the data being compiled at the Clarion and Williams sites provide further proof that air quality standards are unnecessary."

Even when the DNR's data collection procedures do not follow state law, there are no violations of human health standards set by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Lang noted. The ATSDR is a federal agency, consisting of medical doctors, that's a division of the Centers for Disease Control.

The Farm Bureau leader asked the DNR to proceed cautiously, and to gather and weigh scientific data.

"Air quality rules should not be used as a way to discourage agricultural production in Iowa," Lang stated.

Studies

Several studies in the United States support a cautionary approach, he said.

The studies and federal standards also suggest that Iowa's proposed standards are inappropriate. They include:

- ATSDR hazardous substances standards report that 30 parts per billion (ppb) and 300 ppb are the minimal risk levels for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, respectively. The Iowa DNR is proposing levels of 15 ppb and 150 ppb.
- An ATSDR-funded health study around a 96,000-head swine finishing operation in Missouri that found no adverse health effects from ammonia.
- Another ATSDR study of people within two miles of the IBP, Inc. livestock processing plant in Dakota City that demonstrated no statistically significant health effects from hydrogen sulfide exposures.
- A December 2002 Academy of Science report advised that "available estimates of emission factors, rates and concentrations are sufficiently uncertain and provide a poor basis for regulating or managing air emissions from animal feeding operations."

"If this is not a politically driven issue, but one of medical concern, the available science should be utilized to make this rule justifiable and credible," said Lang.

Ag groups

Also commenting last week were nine farm and commodity organizations. The groups questions procedures being used by the DNR to create air quality standards. The groups call themselves the Responsible Air Quality Coalition and include the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Turkey Federation, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association and the Iowa Poultry Association.

USDA: 2003 Could Be Biggest Yet for GM Corn

by [Julianne Johnston](#)

USDA's Agriculture Research Service (ARS), says if the EPA approves Monsanto's YieldGard Rootworm corn, 2003 could be the biggest year yet for genetically modified corn.

The new corn produces its own Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a natural bacterial insecticide, to kill corn rootworms. The corn rootworm triggers more insecticide use than any other single pest in U.S. agriculture.

The US Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing Monsanto's application for approval to sell the GM seed. Based on continuing research, the EPA, ARS and Monsanto would determine whether seed sold in a mixture may be a viable commercial alternative the company could eventually consider.

To address concerns about corn rootworms' developing resistance to the plant-produced insecticide, Wade French, an Agricultural Research Service entomologist at Brookings, S.D., and colleagues are working with Monsanto to develop the concept of mixing conventional and GM corn seeds.

In a 5-year cooperative research and development agreement that was renewed recently, the researchers have found the seed mix offered superior corn rootworm control to that of a conventional insecticide and may slow down the development of resistance to Bt.

Plants growing from the conventional seeds in the mix would serve as a refuge, to ensure there are some rootworm beetles not exposed to Bt available to mate with those that are.

This new GM corn has become more important since the corn rootworm has, in the past few years, become the first pest ever to evolve a way of foiling crop rotations. The rootworms either rotate the fields they lay eggs in or extend their egg-hatching time to match crop rotations.

ADM to Double Capacity at Brazilian Soybean Crushing Plant

by [Julianne Johnston](#)

Archer Daniels Midland Company announced today it will double the soybean crushing capacity at its Rondonópolis mill in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

“Incrementally adding to the existing infrastructure at Rondonópolis is the most cost effective way to increase our ability to process and add value to the continually expanding soybean crop in this area,” stated Paul B. Mulhollem, President and Chief Operating Officer of ADM.

ADM operates six crushing plants in Brazil and one in Bolivia. “South American soybean production is constantly increasing, and as a global processor and supplier, participation in this growth is a critical element of our strategy,” stated Mulhollem. ADM also has extensive grain origination, marketing, transportation and export operations in Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

USDA Announces Corn Sale

by [Julianne Johnston](#)

Private exporters reported to USDA export sales of 101,600 metric tons of corn for delivery to Japan during the 2002/2003 marketing year. The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA any export sales activity of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day to one destination, by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Economists: Grain Price Decline Aids Hogs

by [Julianne Johnston](#)

University of Missouri economists Glenn Grimes and Ron Plain say USDA's January crop reports have added to the optimism in the pork complex. The grain reports revealed higher-than-expected grain stocks, pushing grain prices lower and helping pork producers' bottom line.

"The futures market continues to be optimistic about summer hog prices," say the two in their weekly column. "The May, June and July contracts ended the week at \$63.65, \$64.60 and \$62.15, respectively. Each is more than \$20/cwt higher than today's carcass price for hogs."

"Although the seasonal trend favors a significant increase in hog prices from January to June, the predicted run-up this year is one of the largest," they add. "Since 1989, hog prices have increased an average of 18% from January to June. The biggest increase was 43% in 2001. Last year, barrow and gilt prices declined by 6% from January to June."

The economists say optimism surrounding summer hog prices is created by more than expectations of a drop in slaughter. "The total supply of red meat and poultry will be down by 1.7% according to USDA's latest forecast. Fed cattle prices were over \$77/cwt this week. That's \$11 higher than at this time last year," they add.

USDA World Production Highlights

by [Julianne Johnston](#)

USDA has released the following world production highlights:

South Africa: 2002/03 Corn Production Down Due to Poor Planting Conditions

Total corn production for 2002/03 is forecast at 8.0 million tons, down 1.5 million from last month and down 1.1 million or 12 percent from last year's crop. Harvested area is estimated at 3.3 million hectares, down 0.3 million from last month and down 50,000 hectares from last year.

Last month's forecast production estimate was above the 5-year average; this month's estimate has adjusted below the 5-year average, to account for a reduction in planted area and yield potential caused by dryness during November and early December. In the east portion of the Maize Triangle, planting was 3 or more weeks later than optimum, due to dry conditions in November. Many young plants were either stressed or died from the lack of moisture and excessive heat.

Other regions experienced significant delays in planting, due to the late onset of rains. Late plantings in the eastern region of the Maize Triangle will reduce yields, due to a shorter growing season and increase the risk of frost damage at harvest time. Planting conditions were better in the western region of the Maize Triangle where the rains arrived on time in mid-December. The Maize Triangle grows about 75 percent of South Africa's corn crop.

Argentina: 2002/03 Soybean Production Increases Due to Higher Area

Soybean production for 2002/03 is forecast at a record 33.5 million tons, up 1.0 million tons or 3 percent from last month and up 12 percent from last year's output of 30.0 million. Soybean area is forecast at a record 12.5 million hectares, up 0.2 million hectares or 2 percent from last month and up 1.1 million or 10 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2.68 tons per hectare, higher than the 5-year average of 2.60 tons. Argentina's soybean farmers have profited from a weaker peso and better international grain prices. They have responded by increasing soybean area by nearly 10 percent. Wheat and corn areas have declined to accommodate some of the soybean area increase. Additionally, new lands are being utilized in Argentina's northern provinces of Chaco and Santiago del Estero. Soybean planting was 95 percent complete as of January 3, 2003, slightly ahead of last year. The decrease in wheat area, especially in central Argentina, has led to a decrease in second-crop soybean area. Farmers opted to plant higher-yielding first-crop soybeans instead. Higher yields from first-crop soybeans more than compensate for increased soybean planting in marginal areas as yields in these areas are lower. The 2002/03 ratio of first-and second-crop soybeans is estimated at 82:18, the lowest proportion of second-crop soybeans in the last 8 years.

Argentina: 2002/03 Wheat Production Declines Due to Heavy Rains

Wheat production for 2002/03 is forecast at 13.0 million tons, down 0.5 million tons or 4 percent from last month and 16 percent lower than last year's output of 15.5 million. Wheat area is estimated at 5.9 million hectares, unchanged from last month, but down 13 percent from last year's area of 6.8 million. Yields are forecast at 2.20 tons per hectare, below the 10-year average. Argentina's wheat crop is 86 percent harvested as

of January 3, 2003, faster than last year's pace. Early harvest results indicate poor yields in central Argentina, where the harvest is nearly complete. The harvest has begun in the key areas of southern Buenos Aires Province, and there, too, the yields are disappointing. Heavy rains in November flooded some fields and have led to increased disease that has not been managed with fungicides. Fewer inputs were used for this year's crop due to the peso devaluation. Wheat planting occurred in May and June during the height of the economic crisis.

Pakistan: 2002/03 Cotton Production Increases Due to Higher Cotton Arrivals at Gins

Cotton production for 2002/03 is forecast at 8.0 million bales, up 0.2 million or 3 percent from last month, but down 4 percent from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 2.7 million hectares, down 0.4 million or 14 percent from year. The increase from 7.8 million bales to 8.0 million is based on cotton arrivals at gins. The total arrivals as of January 3, 2003, are 8.736 million Pakistan bales, with an average bale weight of 166.25 kilograms. The arrivals to date as a percentage of the final arrivals have averaged 84.5 percent for the previous 5 years, excluding 2001/02. Last year, the crop moved to gins late, adding 2.5 million bales to the January arrival report. Based on the previous 5-year average, 1.4 million bales could be added to the January 2003 report. This implies 86 percent arrivals to date, resulting in final arrivals of 10.136 million Pakistan bales. The 166.25-kilogram bale weight and assuming unreported production of 3 percent, suggests production of 8.0 million 480-pound bales. Cotton is produced primarily in the provinces of Punjab (85 percent) and Sindh (15 percent). Temperatures during the summer season were near normal in both provinces, suggesting no heat stress to the cotton crop. Cumulative precipitation analysis indicates below-normal conditions in both provinces, especially in Sindh. However, irrigation supplies were reported to be plentiful during the growing season.

Australia: 2002/03 Wheat Production Estimate Revised Lower

Wheat production for 2002/03 is forecast at 10.0 million tons, down 0.5 million or 5 percent from last month and down 14.0 million or 58 percent from last year. Area is estimated at 10.3 million hectares, unchanged from last month, but down 2.2 million or

22 percent from last year. Production is revised further downward due to lower than expected wheat yields especially in Western Australia. Reported receivals from farmers are below expectations across much of the country. However, the U.S. Agricultural Counselor in Canberra reports that more farmers are with holding crops from market channels due to the dramatic rise in domestic feed prices. This practice increases the difficulty in estimating production from receivals data.

Brazil: 2002/03 Corn Production Forecast Higher Despite Loss of Area to Soybeans

Brazil's 2002/03 corn production is estimated at 36.0 million tons, up 1.0 million or 3 percent from last month and up marginally from last year's drought-affected crop. Harvested area is estimated at 11.8 million hectares, unchanged from last month, but down 2 percent from last year. Summer corn yields were increased this month owing to plentiful rainfall in the primary producing states, and field reports indicating crop conditions are excellent. Summer corn production, therefore, increased 1.0 million tons from last month. A weak local currency combined with strong international soybean prices spurred Brazilian growers to expand soybean acreage again this year at the expense of corn. Brazilian farmers are responding to current foreign exchange and commodity market conditions by allocating greater land resources toward soybeans -- the crop with the strongest financial returns, greatest liquidity, and the least risk. Though domestic corn prices are currently at very high levels due to a drought- induced shortage, farmers are intent on reducing corn acreage during the main summer season in favor of expanding soybeans.

USDA World Weather Highlights

by [Julianne Johnston](#)

As part of this morning's reports, USDA has issued the following weather highlights:

EUROPE: Across most of Europe, near- to above-normal December precipitation maintained adequate to abundant soil moisture for overwintering winter grains and oilseeds. Heavy rainfall in late December and early January soaked crop areas and produced local flooding in Portugal, England, northern France, and southern Germany.

In eastern Europe, bitterly cold weather raised concerns about the potential for freeze damage to winter crops, especially in areas with a patchy snow cover. Unseasonably warm weather provided later-than-normal vegetative growth in northern France and northern Italy.

FSU-WESTERN: In December, bitter cold persisted over most of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltics, leading to the coldest weather in at least the past 24 years. In major winter wheat producing areas of Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia, lowest temperatures were observed from December 15-21, 2002. Snow cover in these areas was thin or patchy, leaving crops vulnerable to potential freeze damage.

Additional FSU highlights

SOUTH AMERICA: In Argentina, wet weather persisted in major summer crop growing areas, keeping crops well watered but hampering fieldwork. The exception was southern Buenos Aires, where a drying trend favored winter wheat harvesting. In Brazil, chronic wetness persisted in southernmost growing areas (Rio Grande do Sul to southern Parana), while warm, showery weather elsewhere maintained generally favorable summer crop prospects, despite periodic outbreaks of summer heat.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: In December, above-normal rainfall in Thailand slowed sugarcane and late main-season rice harvests. Above-normal showers in Vietnam boosted moisture supplies for vegetative winter-spring rice. In Java, Indonesia, below-normal rainfall lowered moisture supplies for main-season rice. Above-normal rainfall increased moisture supplies for oil palm in peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: In Morocco, below-normal December rainfall improved conditions for winter grain planting, following wet weather in November. In eastern Algeria and Tunisia, near-to above-normal rainfall maintained adequate moisture supplies for germinating to vegetative winter grains. Dryness lowered soil moisture in western Algeria.

EASTERN ASIA: In December, snow cover provided some protection from bitter cold in winter wheat areas in and around the North China Plain. In southern China,

unseasonably heavy rain was accompanied by very cold weather, delaying sugarcane harvesting and increasing concerns about possible crop damage. Near- to above-normal precipitation boosted long-term moisture reserves in Japan and on the Korean Peninsula.

[Additional China highlights](#)

UNITED STATES: In December, an El Niño-driven weather pattern featured heavy precipitation in the West Coast States and across the South, but mild, mostly dry weather prevailed from the northern half of the Plains to the upper Great Lakes region. Although precipitation aided winter grains and boosted high-elevation snow packs across northern California and the Northwest, mostly dry weather persisted in drought-affected areas from the Southwest to the central Rockies. Meanwhile, mild weather on the Plains benefited the dormant winter wheat crop. Rain and snow boosted soil moisture reserves on the southern Plains, but dry weather left wheat exposed to potential weather extremes on the northern and central High Plains. In the Corn Belt, mild, dry weather favored off-season fieldwork across the upper Midwest, while rain and snow replenished soil moisture in the Ohio Valley. Persistent rains across the South caused fieldwork delays and left some winter rains in standing water. Meanwhile, rain and snow eradicated lingering long-term drought in the Atlantic Coast States.

[Canadian highlights](#)

SOUTH ASIA: In December and early January, weather conditions favored cotton harvesting. Conditions also favored planting and early development of dry-season crops, including rice. Light showers in northern India aided winter grain and oilseed germination.

MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY: Near-to-above normal precipitation in December boosted moisture supplies. In northern Iran and central Turkey, snow cover protected dormant winter grains from bitterly cold weather.

AUSTRALIA: In December, showers in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland helped stabilize reservoir levels for irrigated cotton and sorghum. Mostly

dry weather in central and southern New South Wales maintained severe drought. Elsewhere in Australia, near-normal rainfall provided some drought relief, while only temporarily delaying late winter grain harvesting.

SOUTH AFRICA: Much-needed rain fell across the corn belt in December, boosting topsoil moisture and improving summer crop conditions.

Current Weather:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Wind: | N, 0 MPH |
| Temperature: | 19 F |
| Humidity: | 28 % |
| Dew Point: | -4 F |
| Barometer: | 30.29 in. |
| Conditions | Partly Cloudy |

ISU study targets sires with best meat quality

By Jennifer Bremer

Iowa Farmer Today

The Iowa Beef Center is closer to identifying beef sires that will produce tender-eating progeny.

After three years of collecting data, the center's Iowa Beef Tenderness Project has ended.

"Complete carcass data was collected on all steers, which included the Warner Bratzler Shear force values which was used to evaluate the tenderness of various animals and then in turn the sire summary was produced," says Daryl Strohbehn, Extension beef specialist for the center and project coordinator.

Strohbehn says information collected the past three years on about 450 head will help identify sires that not only produce productive progeny, but also have acceptable eating characteristics.

Along with the carcass data, feedlot performance and profitability was maintained.

For sires to develop an expected progeny difference (EPD) for tenderness, Strohbehn says an easy test will need to come in the form of gene markers.

"The National Carcass Merit project is trying to address the issue of gene markers, but it takes time to address," he explains.

"Tenderness EPDs are a reality in the Simmental breed right now. We have developed EPDs and we have developed EPDs for the bulls that were tested in this project."

He says the best way to evaluate a sire is to feed out a minimum of 15 progeny and evaluate them for shear force.

The heritability of tenderness seems to be moderate.

Strohbehn says many traits have genetic relationships to beef tenderness, but none of them has the perfect correlation.

"That means other factors, such as feeding program, management, harvest conditions, post-harvest management, cooking methodology, etc. have a great deal to do with the degree of tenderness."

He says recent and past studies have suggested marbling is related to tenderness. Higher degrees of marbling is seen as being desirable.

Australian scientists suggest cattle disposition also relates to tenderness.

"Keep in mind, just because a factor is related to tenderness does not mean we can have a major impact on improvement of that trait," Strohbehn says.

"For instance, if the genetic correlation between tenderness and disposition is .4, that means only about 15 percent of the variation in tenderness is due to cattle disposition," he says.

The ultimate question is how consumers will feel about these findings.

In some studies, Strohbehn says consumers were willing to pay a premium for guaranteed tender beef.

Kansas State University research also shows people would pay a premium for a tender steak.

Researchers performed two experiments. In one, consumers were not told which steak was more tender. In the other test, they were told which one was tender.

In the blind test, 69 percent preferred the tender steak, and 36 percent were willing to pay a premium for the tender steaks. Those consumers said they would pay \$1.23 more per pound.

In the labeled test, 84 percent of the consumers preferred the tender meat. Of those, 51 percent said they would pay \$1.84 more per pound.

The Kansas State University research shows consumers might be willing to pay up to \$2.67 or more per pound to buy a tender steak.

Strohbehn hopes all breeds will develop EPDs for tenderness. This would enable producers to use them when making breeding decisions which will affect the consumer's palate.

Grassley returns to Senate ag committee

By Gene Lucht

Iowa Farmer Today

Supporters of a ban on packers owning livestock or of stricter farm program payment limitations will have more support in the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, thanks to a move by the Republican Senate leadership to allow Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, to rejoin that committee.

Grassley, a vocal supporter of those two items, lost his seat on the Agriculture Committee when he became chairman of the Senate Finance Committee two years ago.

Senate rules did not allow him to be a chairman while remaining a member of three 'A' level committees. However, a change in those rules allowed Grassley to get permission from the Senate majority leader to rejoin agriculture.

Grassley told reporters Tuesday he approached former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and new Majority Leader Bill Frist in the past month with his request and it was granted this week "by the good grace of the Senate majority leader."

While Grassley says his priority will remain with his work on the Finance Committee, he will use the ag post to push value-added agriculture, as well as his packer ban proposal and payment-limit legislation.

Farm programs should target medium and small farmers, he says. Grassley argues any program sending two-thirds of the payments to only 10 percent of the farmers, as the present one does, is in for trouble in the long run.

He says he doesn't know how his move will affect legislation regarding payment limitations or the packer ban, conceding the GOP committee chairman, Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, and several Southern Democrats on that committee have opposed such legislation.

"It's very tough," he says of the effort.

He joined forces Tuesday with Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., and Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., in re-introducing the bill to ban packer ownership of livestock.

He was also joined by Harkin and Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., in re-introducing legislation to ban mandatory arbitration clauses in contracts.

Grassley said his biggest concern in the area of payment limitations is the use of generic certificates, items used much more in the South than in Iowa.

Childs keeps his crown

By Dan Zinkand

Iowa Farmer Today

Just a few years ago, Francis Childs set his sights on 400 bushels an acre and wanted to keep a 50-bu./acre cushion between himself and his nearest competitor.

This year, the Delaware County farmer grew 442.1438 bu./acre in the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Contest. He not only won the non-irrigated category in the NCGA Yield Contest for Cornbelt states, but also topped all the entries ... irrigated and non-irrigated.

In November, Childs of Manchester told Iowa Farmer Today 11 of the 14 hybrids in his visitors' plot exceeded 500 bu./acre, and one hit 577.

These hybrids were planted in 24-row wide strips, on 20-inch spacing, 472 feet long. To be eligible for the NCGA yield contest, entries must be 10 acres or more.

Childs recorded the highest yield in the national contest for the fifth year in a row, the NCGA announced Dec. 20. Childs topped his winning yield of 2001 ... 408.2 bu. ... by almost 34 bu.

The corn-growing world has come to expect winning yields from Childs. However, it's easy to lose sight of how astounding his yields are.

In this year's contest, the second highest yield came from a New Mexico farmer who irrigates. Irrigators can turn on the rain and fertilizer precisely when the corn needs it.

The winning irrigated yield of Bruce McDaniel of Clayton, N.M., weighed in at 306.3938 bu./acre. That's 135.75 bu. less than Childs' yield.

In head-to-head competition in the Cornbelt, non-irrigated category, Childs' winning yield was 159.65 bu. more than that of Daniel Kamps, the Darlington, Wis., farmer who grew 282.48 bu.

Third place went to Catherine Miller of Sperry. The Southeast Iowa farmer's entry was measured at 269.20 bu.

This year's NCGA contest had 3,826 entries from 46 states.

"The corn yield contest is not only a chance to highlight competition among our growers to strive for excellence and to get the most they can per acre, it's also an opportunity for them to learn some cultural practices that some growers have seen success with and have an opportunity to use those practices in the future," NCGA president Fred Yoder said in a news release.

Childs won the NCGA contest with Pioneer 34N44, a 109-day relative maturity Bt. He planted the winner on May 3, using a population of 44,000 kernels/acre.

This yield broke his world record, set in 2001, by 12 percent. This year's winner moves the Northeast Iowa farmer closer to his goal of growing 500 bu./acre.

Childs has been pushing corn yields higher since 1967. That year, he won the Iowa Master's Corn Growing Contest with 196.7 bu.

He then suffered through a 23-year drought before winning again in the Iowa contest in 1990.

Just 12 years ago, his winning yield in the Iowa contest was 224.72 bu. He won the Master's again in 1992, and then won the contest every year from 1995 through 2001.

The state contest was discontinued after last year.

Childs broke the 300-bu. mark in 1996 with 310.63 bu./acre, a 47.38-bu. increase over his 1995 yield.

In 1999, he broke the world record held by legendary Illinois corn grower Herman Warsaw. Just three years ago, Childs' world champion yield was 393.74 bu.

He now has raised the mark by almost 50 bu. an acre since then.

Like 2001, Childs used a Case IH 1200 planter, but this year he deployed a custom-built model with 20-inch row spacing.

To read the November Iowa Farmer Today article on the 500-bu. acre/plus yields in Childs' visitors plot: visit www.iowafarmertoday.com/02/021109/500bu.htm.