

American Corn Growers Foundation

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 911, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 835-0023, E-Mail: www.acgf.org

Embargoed until May 16, 8:00 a.m., EDT

Contact: Dan McGuire (402) 770-5237
Larry Mitchell (202) 255-0990
David Senter (202) 331-4348

AMERICAN CORN GROWERS CO-SPONSOR NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST EVER WIND CONF.

U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY WIND POWERING AMERICA PROGRAM PRAISED FOR AG OUTREACH

DENVER, MAY 15, 2005---The American Corn Growers Foundation (ACGF) and the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA), through their *Wealth From The Wind* program, are a major sponsor of WINDPOWER 2005 this week in Denver, Colo. WINDPOWER 2005 is expected to be the largest wind energy event ever held in North America with as many as four thousand expected to attend

"ACGF is proud to be an American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) member and play a lead role as an agricultural organization that long ago identified the importance of wind energy, not just for the future of the U. S. economy and American consumers, but also as a renewable, sustainable and new cash crop for farmers," said Dan McGuire, ACGF Chief Executive Officer. "Given the potential of wind energy as a new income stream it is no surprise that ninety percent of U.S. corn farmers support the development of wind energy."

Overwhelming corn farmer support for wind energy was confirmed by a 2004 nationwide survey carried out for the ACGF and funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Additionally, *Wealth From The Wind* (WFTW) outreach work is funded by The Energy Foundation, Homeland Foundation, Whole Systems Foundation and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), all facilitating our program's success."

McGuire praised the **Wind Powering America (WPA)** program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for their work to promote wind energy in rural areas. "Farmers and rural America truly appreciate the work of WPA. I am extremely impressed by the excellent job that DOE and NREL do in providing educational resources to farmers and rural communities," said McGuire. "The people at DOE and NREL carrying out the WPA program provide a wealth of expertise, information and resources, from educational brochures to technical support, which our program and other WPA partners disseminate and use across the country. I salute them for their commitment and dedication toward making wind energy a major component of the U.S. renewable energy portfolio mix. The WPA, AWEA and our *Wealth From The Wind* program will create an unlimited future for wind energy if the correct policies are promoted by the Administration and adopted by Congress."

The ACGA led the effort that created Section 9006, the Energy Title of the 2002 farm law, which provides grants to farmers for renewable energy projects, including wind. Larry Mitchell, ACGA CEO, attending WINDPOWER 2005 in Denver said, "There are a number of wind energy initiatives moving in Congress that the ACGA is actively engaged in pushing forward on behalf of American farmers, including extension of the wind energy production tax credit (PTC). The wind PTC should be made permanent so as to avoid the on-again, off-again cycle of uncertainty related to financing wind projects." Mitchell emphasized that, "Federal incentives have been used for decades to encourage fossil fuel development. It is critical that federal policy be used now to expedite wind energy development, by making the wind PTC a permanent law of the land."

ACGF and ACGA helped form the **American Agricultural Wind Coalition (AAWC)** in 2002 for the purpose of farm and rural groups working together on national wind energy policy. David Senter, AAWC National Coordinator said, "This coalition is made up of national and regional organizations; including the ACGA, the National Farmers Union, the National Grange, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, the National Family Farm Coalition and others that represent nearly 350,000 farm and rural families. America needs this coalition now more than ever given our country's critical need for new sources of renewable, sustainable energy."