

ILLINOIS

Junior Ag Mag

Corn: Feed, Fiber, Fuel

About 11 million acres in Illinois are used for corn production. That's about 11 million football fields!

TYPES OF CORN

Did you know there are many different types of corn? We use corn in so many different ways. In fact there are over 8,000 products made from corn!



Field/Dent Corn

Most of the corn you see grown in IL is field corn. Dent corn contains a lot of starch. It is dried and processed into livestock feed, food products, and ethanol.



Popcorn

Popcorn is grown to have a specific size, shape, and moisture level. This is the only type of corn that will POP!



Sweet Corn

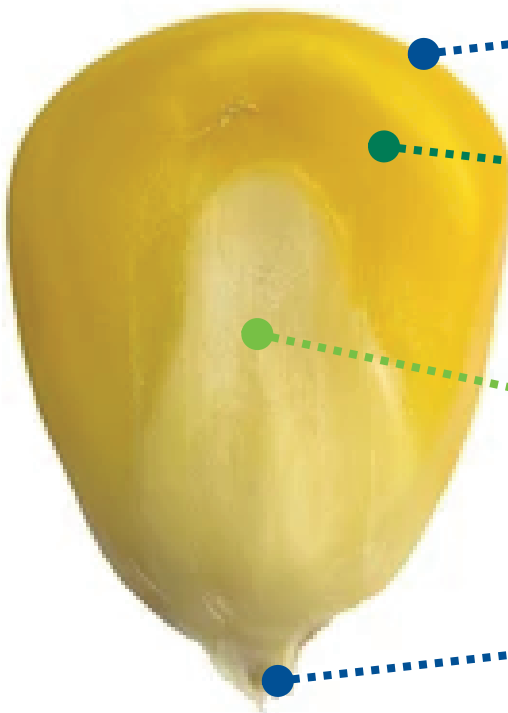
This type of corn is mostly sugary, not starch. It is the only type of corn that is picked when it is soft. Sweet corn can be eaten on the cob, canned, or frozen.



Flint Corn

Flint corn is grown for its unique color. It is used for decoration and some foods like corn meal, grits, or polenta.

PARTS OF A CORN KERNEL



Pericarp (seed coat): outside cover of the seed. It protects the inside of the seed.

Endosperm: holds the energy and protein for the new plant to grow. This area is full of starch.

Germ: the only living part of the seed. Holds all of the genetics, vitamins, and minerals. This is the most valuable part of the kernel when processed.

Tip Cap: where the kernel is attached to the cob. As the kernel grows, this is where it takes in water and nutrients.

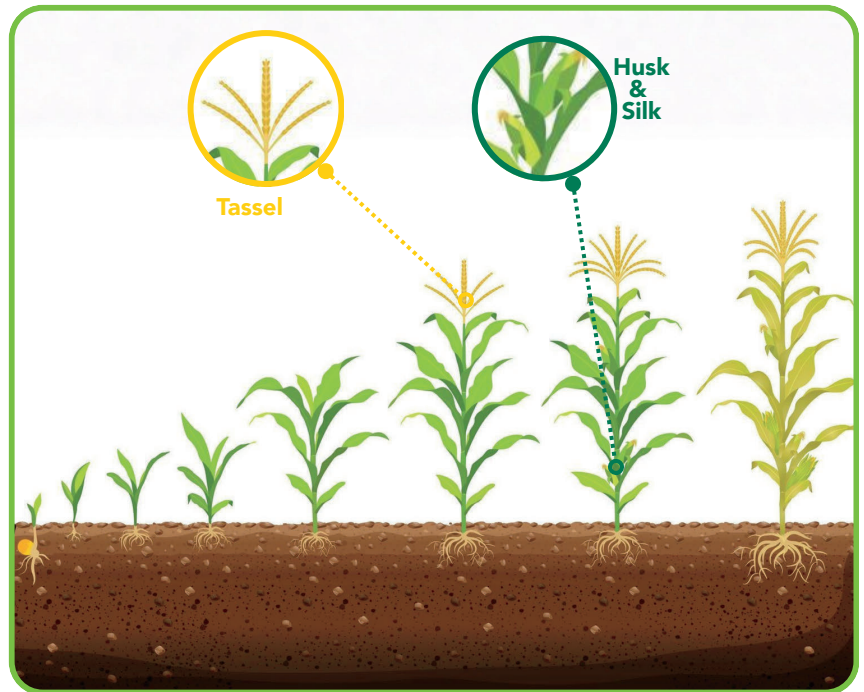
WHAT CAN ONE BUSHEL OF FIELD CORN MAKE?



HOW CORN GROWS

Corn starts out as a seed. In the spring, farmers plant the seeds. To grow, corn needs sunlight, water, warm weather, and healthy soil. As it grows, it forms a tall green stem called a stalk. The stalk holds the corn cob, which is tucked safely inside a leafy green jacket called a husk.

When the corn is fully grown, a fluffy top called a tassel appears. The tassel drops pollen down onto the silk attached to the corn cob below. This is how the corn grows its kernels! When the corn is ready to harvest, it turns brown and dries out. Farmers harvest corn in the fall.

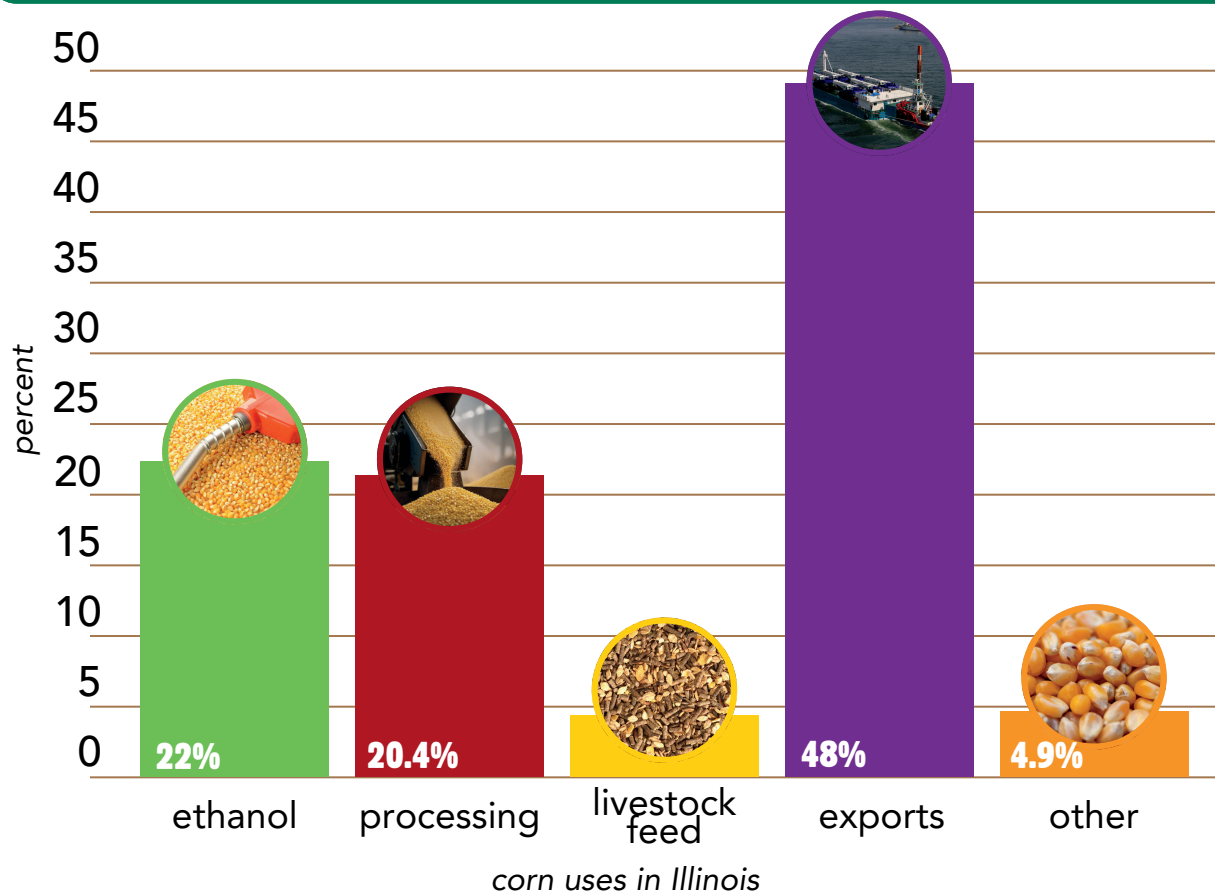


MEET AN ILLINOIS CORN GROWER

The Gould family has been farming since 1963. Today, Chris helps lead the family farm, and one day his daughter will take over. Like many farm families, they work together to grow food for people to enjoy. Chris says, "When you get right down to it, farming is one of the most important occupations."



Corn Uses in Illinois



The graph above shows the different uses of corn in Illinois. Use the chart to answer the following questions.

1. Which use for corn makes up the largest portion?

- ☐ ethanol
 ☐ exports
 ☐ livestock feed
 ☐ processing

2. What percentage does livestock feed take?

- ☐ 5%
 ☐ 4.7%
 ☐ 10%
 ☐ 6.7%

3. Which **two** are the closest in use?

- ☐ ethanol
 ☐ other
 ☐ livestock feed
 ☐ processing

4. Write one thing that corn produces.
