



CPAT membership- What's in it for the producer?

There's never been a better time to be a member of the Corn Producers Association of Texas (CPAT).

Your membership not only supports CPAT as it works to promote positive agricultural policy on Capitol Hill and in Austin, but it also gives you access to great membership benefits.

Once you become a member of CPAT, you automatically gain membership in the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and it's membership benefits. NCGA is offering several new benefits this year that extend to new and existing CPAT members.

New benefits for members include discounts on Cabela's gift cards, an annual discount on customized commodity market information subscriptions for cell phones and email from AgriStar Global Networks, and a 5 percent discount on car rentals from Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Members of the association will still receive existing benefits like discounts on Dell products and exclusive discount pricing on Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Jaguar, Land Rover, Volvo and Mercury vehicles. Your membership also allows you to enter the annual NCGA Yield

Contest, which offers challenges and cash rewards to each entrant. The idea behind the contest is to challenge producers to take advantage of an opportunity to explore new ideas and production techniques, while gleaning knowledge to enhance future yield potential.

CPAT offers an additional incentive to growers in Texas. Growers can choose between a one- or three-year membership and receive a certificate for a free bag of seed from the selected company of their choice. Growers can choose between Triumph, B-H Genetics, Golden Acres, Dekalb or Pioneer seed brands. If growers sign up for a three-year membership they will receive two bags of seed of their choice. All members of CPAT receive all benefits offered by NCGA.

"As a corn grower, it is important to support the organization that fights for policy that is beneficial to the Texas crop producer," said Bart Thoreson, CPAT president.

CPAT is the lobbying arm for Texas corn growers that works to influence state and national agricultural policy. To become a member, contact tcpb@texascorn.org or call (800) 647-CORN.



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of the agricultural economy. Some of the proposed water legislation could have a big impact on forage and grain production used in feedlots and dairies on the Texas High Plains.

In addition, new laws regarding water pumping from the Ogallala Aquifer could have a dramatic effect on crop production, which could force some land owners to switch to lower value crops. The change to lower value crops presents a unique situation for retired land owners who depend on certain levels of income from the leasing of their land. If a reduction in land values does occur, there could be a tax base decrease in many Texas High Plains counties, which would impact local schools and governments.

Producers and land owners should be in contact with their legislators as work for the next legislative session begins in the interim. Other topics of interest that will be looked at and studied will be issues on property rights, agricultural tax exemptions, feral hog control, and one of the most important will be the redistricting of congressional districts.