

Indiana Cornhusking Association, Inc.

Clay Geyer, ICA President
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The Indiana Cornhusking Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and historical preservation of early methods of corn harvest and hand corn husking. Prior to WWII, the American society was heavily agrarian and in the Midwest, corn was the primary crop. Every year, families and neighbors would work together to harvest the corn by hand as efficiently as possible. The competitive nature of American citizens inspired competition between farmers to determine the best corn husker. These competitions grew from Local to State and quickly expanded to a National Corn Husking Competition.

People numbering in the tens of thousands gathered to witness the competitions. The contests were as popular at that time as today's sporting events. The winners were as well known as today's sports athletes. The national competition peaked in 1940 with an estimated 160,000 spectators that gathered to watch the best hand corn huskers in the nation. But, all competitions came to an abrupt halt with the start of WWII; then was followed by the widespread use of mechanical corn pickers.

The Indiana Cornhusking Association is dedicated to preserving and educating the public. Representatives of the Indiana Cornhusking Association speak and provide educational displays at schools, fairs, festivals, and community events throughout the year. They also encourage participation in the annual Indiana Cornhusking Contest held in a corn field, where spectators may watch or compete for bragging rights by hand husking corn tossed into horse-drawn wagons. This is a wonderful family event where children and adults can relive the past and experience friendly competition. The event is attended by farmers who husked corn as a child and enjoy sharing their memories and stories. We do it because we love farming!!!

Sincerely,

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As a child, Clay Geyer played in the cornfields with his Tonka trucks and toy tractors, but when he graduated from Vincennes University with a degree in Agribusiness, his tractors got bigger and a whole lot more expensive as he continued farming.

Clay is very familiar hard work. He grew up working on his family's dairy farm with his parents and younger brother. Today he continues to work the family farm and other rented acres and is a construction worker for his brother's business, Integrity Builders.

Clay husked corn from an early age with his father and grandfather. Every fall it was their practice to open the fields or corn by hand. Clay competed in his first husking competition in 2009 and became enthusiastic about the competition. His love for farming and husking motivated him to preserve the history of farming practices and expand public education by getting involved in festivals, fairs, and farm events to promote the contest and to share with the public how corn is grown and the costs of farm production.

- Vincennes University graduate with a degree in Agri-Business
- President, Indiana State Cornhusking Association
- Field Reporter for the Indiana Agri-News
- Dairy Director for the St. Joseph County Farm Bureau
- St. Joseph County Ag Day Committee Representative