

The **US Testing Network** is a member-based organization founded in 2009. USTN's purpose is to coordinate a rigorous testing program to evaluate public and private corn germplasm.

The primary focus of USTN is to evaluate germplasm under development for the ORGANIC and NON-TRANSGENIC grain industry. To achieve that goal, USTN's members provide corn to be tested, locations for testing or financial support.

Practical Farmers of Iowa coordinates the testing.

USTN Offers Wide Coverage

USTN members tested seed corn at 53 locations — 41 conventional and 12 organic sites in 2018.

In 2018, USTN tested in 10 states:

Iowa Illinois Indiana Kansas Minnesota New York Ohio Pennsylvania Vermont Wisconsin

Members include:

Seed Retailers Researchers Public Breeders Private Breeders Seed Treatment Developers

"From its beginnings as a conversation at the UMOFC, we have strongly supported USTN. There is a real need for a rigorous, independent testing network that supports the breeding and development of Non-GMO hybrid seed corn."

> Mac Ehrhardt Albert Lea Seed



Types of Tests:

Conventional

- \Rightarrow Treated or untreated entries
- \Rightarrow Most entries are untraited
- ⇒ Locations managed conventionally
 - \Rightarrow no glyphosate or glufosinate
 - ⇒ nitrogen applied is green manure or synthetic fertilizer
 - ⇒ insecticide/fungicide usage based on location needs

Organic

- \Rightarrow Untreated and untraited entries
- ⇒ Locations managed organically
 - \Rightarrow certified or certifiable organic
 - ⇒ some may be conventional locations managed organically for the test



4 to 5 locations per test 2 replicates per entry 2 or 4 row plots ~ 20 ft ~2000 kernels per entry no minimum # entries \$300 per entry

Current & Past Participants:

Adaptive Symbiotic Technologies Albert Lea Seed Beck's Hybrids Blue River Hybrids Brownseed Genetics Camerar Farms Cornell University **CRD** Advisors **CROPP** Cooperative **DKD** Genetics eMerge Genetics Foundation Organic Seed Frank Kutka Genetic Enterprises International Gray Research Production Great Harvest Organics Iowa Crop Performance Association JGW Hybrids Koopman Genetics Lord's Seed Maisadour Semences / MAS Seeds Mandaamin Institute Mark Seed Masters Choice Michael Fields Agricultural Institute Montgomery Consulting New Mexico State University North Dakota State University Ohio State University Penn State University Purdue University Real Farm Research Sentinel Seeds Southwest Seed Research Spectrum Seed Technologies Texas A&M AgriLife Research University of Missouri University of Nebraska-Lincoln University of Vermont University of Wisconsin-Madison USDA-ARS Wyffels Hybrids

For more information or to participate contact USTN Test Coordinator Chris Wilbeck 515.229.6988 or <u>chris.ustn@practicalfarmers.org</u>