

Christopher A. Novak

*Executive Masters in Business Administration
in Food and Agribusiness, Purdue.*

Chris Novak is CEO of the National Corn Growers Association, a position he took in 2014, replacing Rick Tolman. Mr. Novak follows Mr. Tolman in another way, too: Rick Tolman was a Distinguished Agriculture Alumnus in 2014. The National Corn Growers Association represents the interests of more than 300 thousand farmers who participate in the corn check-off program.



Mr. Novak earned his bachelor's degree in public service and administration in agriculture from Iowa State University and has spent many years in service to agriculture. His first position after graduation was as a legislative assistant to Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, where he focused on the critical issues facing agriculture. His years working with the senator led to a lifelong commitment to finding the proper balance between supporting the farmer, the consumer, the legislative process, and the environment. He moved on to lead environmental programs for the National Pork Producers Council, the predecessor organization to the National Pork Board. He was the architect for a producer recognition program recognizing environmental stewardship. In 2008, he was named CEO of the National Pork Board, overseeing an annual operating budget of \$85 million.

Mr. Novak earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa College of Law and his Executive Masters in Business Administration in Food and Agribusiness from Purdue.

"I have worked in agriculture my entire professional career, and I have yet to meet an individual more passionate about the personal role he plays in building the reputation of, and providing a much-needed voice for, agriculture," said his nominator, John Johnson, chief operating officer of the National Pork Board. "In my estimation, he has only just begun."

For his outstanding achievement in agricultural economics, the Purdue College of Agriculture is proud to present the Distinguished Agriculture Alumnus Award to Christopher Novak.