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

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.

In 2018, USTN tested in 10 states:
- Iowa
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Vermont
- Wisconsin
- New York

Members include:
- Seed Retailers
- Researchers
- Public Breeders
- Private Breeders
- Seed Treatment Developers

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USTN offers wide coverage

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

2018 USTN Locations
Types of Tests:

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

Organic
⇒ Untreated and untraited entries
⇒ Locations managed organically
  ⇒ 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

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

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