

KTOP GUIDE

A guide to corntopping



what is corntopping?

Corntopping is the process of removing the tassel, a flower like growth at the top of the corn stalk. When mature the tassel will pollinate each plant with a yellow type dust. We are hired to pull the tassel because so the plants to cross pollinate. Each corn field we top has two varieties of corn, one is planted in the Bull row (we never top these) and the second is planted in the female row. The female row is where the corntopping is done different type of corn leaving it open to be pollinated by the Bull row of corn. If each tassel is not pulled the hybrid corn will be ruined.

Steps: 1) Find the Tassel

2) Grab the Tassel

3) Pull the Tassel out

4) Throw it to the ground



what age can i start ?

Starting 2021 we will only hire those 13 or older as of August 1st of the work year.

WHEN DOES IT START!
That is a great question! If your best guess and are correct let me know :)
Its hard to guess when the corn will be ready for us because it depends on so many things like the weather and variety of corn.
We do our best to give a days warning.

WHAT DOES IT ALL LOOK LIKE?

The call....

Sometime in July (usually) we get called that a field or a few fields are ready to "open", meaning topped for the first time.

Sweet, now what?

How to top corn!

Tassels are pulled straight out of the top of the corn plant. You will need to look high and low for the tassels in each row you work in. When you are assigned a row you work the right side only all the way down and then when you get to the end of the row **YOU STAY IN YOUR ROW** and turn around working the right side (which use to be your left until you turned around) all the way back.

- 1) find tassel
- 2) grab the tassel
- 3) pull it off/ out
- 4) throw it on the ground



HINTS -HINTS-HINTS

The first few days of corn topping will always be the hardest for a few reasons. First, it's slower to "open" a field for the first time. Second, you are getting used to the environment such as how to walk in the rows. Don't give up because you are achy or tired.

Please make sure to drink plenty of water when you are at home the night before working to stay hydrated.

- Go to bed earlier so waking up earlier is not as hard.
- Eating around 5am is hard for most people so make sure you have a few snacks you can eat without holding it while walking and working.
 - A fanny pack is a nice option for keeping snacks, gum or hard candies with you.

A day in the field...

We start our work day at 6 am and finish when the work is done. We try and finish up by 2 but it depends. The corntopping season only last a ballpark of 20-30 work days.

We do all we can to work Monday-Saturday with a few Sundays because the corn doesn't stop growing on the weekend. *We only work on Sundays when absolutely necessary*, In the last 10 years we have only worked 2 or 3 short Sundays.

We take fields on so we may employ the youth. By being hired to do this work you agree to fulfill your obligation of doing the work that we have taken on until its done. If the fields are not topped when they need to be the crop will be ruined.



what should you bring?

ANY MEDICAL TREATMENTS OR MEDICATION YOU REQUIRE (*ie for bee stings, allergies, headaches or anything*) please make us aware of any medical issues you may have so that we can be aware.

At least, 1 Gallon Water in thermos (*with your last name written in marker on it with permanent marker*) is required by OSHA. Your name identifies you on the field.

You are responsible for providing your own lunch. Many detassellers bring their lunch in a small cooler so they can use the cooler to sit on while they eat.

Bug Spray/Sunscreen

There is little to no shade, we highly recommend that you bring and wear sunscreen.

Ktop will have some available also



what should I wear?

A Comfortable shoes

(can walk several miles a day!) We suggest they are old or at least broken in already.

Comfortable and light clothes: Feel free to dress in layers. Some wear jeans, others wear shorts, some long sleeve shirts while others short sleeve shirts. If you wear shorts please also wear long socks.

Poncho or garbage bag-

The corn can be very wet in the morning from dew or rain. Many detassellers wear gear in the mornings to stay dry and warm, then remove it as the day progresses and the corn dries.

Bandanna/handkerchief-

tied around the neck, to protect the neck, eyes, and mouth if corn is tall.

Gloves- if you want protection for your hands.

Hat or Sunglasses- for further protection from the sun.



Transportation

How do I get to and from fields?

Field locations will be shared prior to the workday. How do I get to and from fields?

Field locations will be shared prior to the workday. You will be responsible to get to the fields in the morning and from the fields when work is done. We encourage you to carpool. We will be using a bus this year for transportation during the work day from field to field. Please do your part to keep it clean from mud and garbage.

REMINDER



We can not longer wait more than 30 min for pick up rides.

- Most days we will travel to multiple fields so you will be picked up at a different field than we started so be sure to keep your ride home aware of pick up locations as they may be different from drop off locations.
- We no longer wait for pick up rides for more than 30 min. We give the workers more than 20 min notice, prior to the end of the work day, so they may call or text communications to drivers. That gives drivers at least 50 min to pick up workers. Anyone responsible for driving needs to be prepared and available to be notified.