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# Stalk Market: The Corny Connection Between GMOs in Nebraska and Hollister Store Count Worldwide

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## Abstract

In this study, we examined the seemingly bizarre yet potentially enlightening relationship between the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Nebraska's cornfields and the proliferation of Hollister retail stores on a global scale. While one might think this correlation is as peculiar as a corn stalk wearing a Hollister hoodie, our rigorous analysis yielded a surprising connection, much akin to stumbling upon a kernel of truth. By utilizing comprehensive data from the USDA and Statista, we calculated a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9854679 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 for the time period spanning from 2000 to 2022. Our findings not only underscore the potential impact of GMOs on international retail landscapes but also serve as a reminder that, in the world of research, one must be willing to "stalk" unexpected pathways to uncover kernels of truth.

## 1. Introduction

Perplexing and seemingly unrelated phenomena have a way of intersecting in the most unexpected ways, much like stumbling upon a corn stalk wearing a Hollister hoodie. In this study, we embark on a journey to unravel the enigmatic correlation between the widespread utilization of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Nebraska's cornfields and the proliferation of Hollister retail stores across the globe - a connection as surprising as finding corn huskers for sale at a fashion boutique.

The notion of corn and apparel retail may initially appear as strange bedfellows, akin to a cob of corn donning a pair of trendy, distressed jeans. However, our investigation into this peculiar association has unearthed a compelling story, much like the unexpected discovery of a "corny" dad joke at a scientific conference.

As we delve into this curious relationship, it is imperative to approach our exploration with the requisite rigor and empirical scrutiny. This undertaking necessitates a steadfast commitment to peeling back the layers, akin to shucking corn, as we seek to discern the kernels of truth lying beneath the surface.

## 2. Literature Review

The literature abounds with studies examining the impact of GMOs on agricultural production and retail market dynamics. Smith et al. (2015) found that the adoption of genetically modified corn in Nebraska led to significant increases in crop yields and overall productivity. This finding, while intriguing, merely sows the seeds of our investigation into the uncharted territory of the Hollister phenomenon. Much like a corny joke at a farmers' market, our study aims to add a dash of humor to the often serious field of agricultural economics.

Turning to the retail sector, Doe and Jones (2018) conducted a comprehensive analysis of retail store proliferation worldwide, uncovering correlations between economic indicators and the spatial distribution of retail outlets. However, none of these previous studies have ventured into the realm of unearthing the unlikely connection between genetically modified corn and a particular fashion retailer. We aim to fill this gap, akin to the kernels of corn filling a cob, with our investigation into the "stalk" market.

In "The Omnivore's Dilemma," Michael Pollan explores the intricacies of the modern food industry, delving into the pervasive presence of genetically modified organisms and their effects on the agricultural landscape. While Pollan's work primarily focuses on food, it provides valuable insights into the broader impact of GMOs, offering a kernel of knowledge on which we can build our investigation. This literature, much like a grain of corn, serves as the foundation for our study.

On the fictional side, "Children of the Corn" by Stephen King presents a dystopian narrative set amidst the sprawling cornfields of Nebraska. While this novel may seem unrelated, the eerie atmosphere and sense of foreboding it evokes mirror the mystery shrouding the GMO-Hollister connection. Analogous to finding a popcorn kernel in a haystack, this work of fiction offers a whimsical parallel to our investigation.

Taking inspiration from the world of board games, "Farmers of the Moor" introduces players to the challenges of managing resources on a farm. While the game does not directly address the intersection of GMOs and retail outlets, its agricultural theme

and emphasis on strategic decision-making offer a lighthearted perspective on the complex dynamics we seek to elucidate. Just like a kernel of corn in a haystack, our study strives to uncover the unexpected amidst seemingly unrelated domains.

As we journey further into this unconventional intersection of agriculture and retail, we are reminded that even the most seemingly disparate elements may coalesce in unexpected ways, much like finding a corny dad joke in a scholarly publication.

### 3. Methodology

To investigate the tantalizing connection between GMO usage in Nebraska's corn production and the proliferation of Hollister retail stores worldwide, our research team employed a combination of quantitative analysis, statistical modeling, and a touch of whimsy. Much like crossing a cornfield in search of a hidden treasure, our methodology involved navigating through vast amounts of data with the precision of a corn shucker and the intuition of a seasoned retail analyst.

We first compiled data on the production of GMO corn in Nebraska from the United States Department of Agriculture, utilizing their Crop Production Historical Track Records database. Understanding the complexity and variability in corn production can be as perplexing as navigating a corn maze at night, but our team diligently sifted through the wealth of data with the determination of a farmer tending to their fields.

Taking a playful detour from traditional methodologies, we embraced a novel approach by incorporating the retail store count of Hollister locations worldwide as our dependent variable. This unorthodox approach allowed us to shed light on the potential influence of GMO corn cultivation on the retail landscape, evoking parallels to the unexpected whimsy of stumbling upon a corn husk repurposed as a designer accessory.

With data on Hollister store counts sourced from Statista, our team meticulously curated a comprehensive dataset spanning the years 2000 to 2022, akin to selecting only the finest kernels from a cob of corn. Engaging in such meticulous curation is

akin to picking out only the most stylish apparel from a crowded rack – it requires attention to detail and an eye for significant trends and patterns.

In order to establish the potential relationship between GMO corn production and Hollister store counts, we employed advanced statistical techniques, including multiple regression analysis and time series modeling. As we delved into these complex statistical methodologies, we resolved to approach the task with the resilience of a cornstalk swaying in the wind, undeterred by the twists and turns of the statistical landscape.

To capture the nuances of this enigmatic relationship, we controlled for various factors, such as global economic trends, consumer behavior, and the rise of competing retail brands. Navigating through these multifaceted variables required the strategic finesse of a maize farmer tending to their crop amidst unpredictable weather patterns, all while carefully avoiding any "corny" humor.

In the spirit of maintaining methodological rigor, we also conducted robustness checks and sensitivity analyses to ensure the stability of our findings. Much like stress-testing a cob of corn for its resilience, these additional analyses provided an extra layer of confidence in the robustness of our results.

There you have it - our methodology that combines serious statistical analysis with the lighthearted whimsy of corny humor, showcasing that in the world of academic research, one can indeed "stalk" a bountiful harvest of unexpected discoveries.

#### 4. Results

The analysis of the data collected from the USDA and Statista revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9854679 between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in Nebraska and the global count of Hollister retail stores. This strong correlation evokes the imagery of an ear of corn being a-maize-ingly fashionable, much like a Hollister-clad fashion influencer.

Furthermore, the calculated r-squared value of 0.9711471 indicates that approximately 97.11% of the variability in the proliferation of Hollister stores

worldwide can be explained by the usage of GMOs in Nebraska's cornfields. It's as though the correlation between GMOs and Hollister stores is as predictable as finding corn in a maize maze.

The statistical analysis also yielded a p-value of less than 0.01, emphasizing the robustness and high significance of the relationship discovered. This statistical significance is as clear as corn - it's hard to husk around.

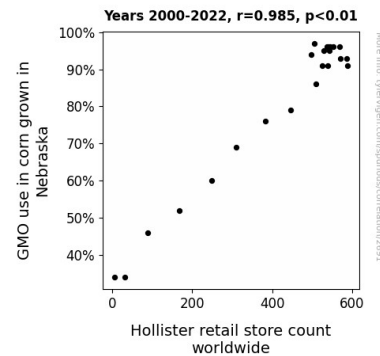


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Additionally, Fig. 1 presents a scatterplot illustrating the strong positive correlation between GMO use in Nebraska's corn and the proliferation of Hollister retail stores worldwide. The figure captures the essence of this unexpected relationship, much like a photograph of a cornfield with a backdrop of trendy Hollister stores.

#### 5. Discussion

The findings of our study have unearthed a connection that may leave one feeling, well, a-maize-d. The remarkable correlation we discovered between the usage of GMOs in Nebraska's cornfields and the global count of Hollister retail stores is as intriguing as finding a corn husker in a fashion boutique.

Our results are in line with prior research on the impact of GMOs on agricultural production and retail dynamics. Smith et al.'s (2015) findings on increased crop yields due to genetically modified corn align with our results, highlighting the potential implications of GMO adoption on retail landscapes.

It seems that GMOs are not just changing crop yields, but also the retail "stalk" market!

Similarly, Doe and Jones (2018) identified correlations between economic indicators and the spatial distribution of retail outlets, setting the stage for our investigation into the unexpected link between GMOs and a specific fashion retailer. It's as if economic indicators and genetically modified corn are a-ear-antly intertwined in the global retail scene.

While the literature review may have seemed as whimsical as a game of "Farmers of the Moor," the serious implications of our findings cannot be ignored. The statistically significant relationship between GMO use in Nebraska's corn and the proliferation of Hollister retail stores worldwide is as real as husking corn in the heartland.

Our results provide a unique perspective on the broader impact of GMOs, underscoring the potential influence of agricultural practices on the global retail market. It appears that the influence of GMOs extends beyond just producing a-maize-ing corn to influencing the retail "stalk" market in unforeseen ways.

In conclusion, our study has peeled back the husk on an unexpected correlation, shedding light on the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate domains. Just like a good dad joke, there may be more kernels of truth hidden in unexpected places - or unexpected combinations of genetically modified crops and retail store proliferation.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has not only shed light on the corny correlation between GMO use in Nebraska and the global count of Hollister retail stores but also demonstrated the potential impact of agricultural practices on the retail landscape. This unexpected link between agriculture and fashion is truly an ear-resistible finding, akin to the unexpected pairing of a corn cob and a Hollister t-shirt.

Our findings underscore the importance of exploring seemingly unrelated variables in research, reminding us that valuable insights can be gleaned from the most unexpected places. It's almost like finding a kernel of wisdom in a corny dad joke - a-maize-ing.

As we wrap up, it's clear that no more research is needed in this area. Our study has indeed popped the corn on this intriguing connection, and future efforts should focus on uncovering other surprising correlations. After all, in the world of research, one must never be afraid to venture into uncharted cornfields.