

# Kernels of Truth: The GMO-Cant Connection in Corn Crop Culture

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This study investigates the potentially perplexing link between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in Nebraska and the peculiar phenomenon of increased Google searches for 'i cant even'. Utilizing data from the USDA and Google Trends spanning from 2004 to 2023, our research team employed rigorous statistical analysis to uncover a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9138689, with a statistically significant p-value of < 0.01. Implications of our findings illuminate the curious convergence of agricultural practices and online expressions of exasperation, shedding light on the enigmatic interplay between GMO corn and internet colloquialisms. This groundbreaking research nudges us to ponder: is there a kernel of truth behind this connection, or is it just another corny correlation?

The adoption of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture has been a topic of fervent debate, with proponents lauding the potential for increased crop yields and pest resistance, while detractors express concerns about environmental impact and human health. Amidst this fervor, an unexpected and seemingly unrelated phenomenon has emerged – the rise in Google searches for the phrase 'i cant even'. It is this peculiar confluence of genetically modified corn cultivation in Nebraska and the proliferation of exasperated online expressions that serves as the focal point of our investigation.

At first glance, the notion of a connection between GMO corn and internet colloquialisms may strike one as absurd, akin to comparing apples and oranges. However, in the vast and unpredictable landscape of human behavior, correlation does not necessarily imply causation, and there may be more to this correlation than meets the eye. As we delve into this uncharted territory of agricultural practices and online expressions, we are compelled to ask: is there a deeper kernel of truth to be unearthed, or are we merely shucking off a frivolous correlation?

The present study endeavors to shed light on this ostensibly bizarre relationship, employing robust statistical methods to discern any discernible link between the prevalence of GMO corn in Nebraska and the frequency of 'i cant even' queries on the world's most ubiquitous search engine. Perhaps, in undertaking this scholarly endeavor, we may stumble upon insights that not only expand our understanding of agriculture and human behavior but also elicit a chuckle or two along the way. After all, who said scientific inquiry couldn't be wittily engaging?

## *Review of existing research*

The influential work of Smith et al. (2010) provides a comprehensive overview of the agricultural landscape in

Nebraska, delving into the intricacies of corn cultivation and the evolving utilization of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The authors illuminate the substantial increase in GMO corn acreage over the past two decades, attributing this trend to the purported benefits of enhanced pest resistance and herbicide tolerance. Furthermore, their analysis underscores the prominent role of Nebraska in the production of GMO corn, cementing the state's status as a pivotal player in the broader realm of agricultural biotechnology. Notably, while the study's focus remains firmly rooted in the realm of agronomy, it nonetheless lays the groundwork for our investigation into the enigmatic intersection of GMO corn and online lexicon.

Doe's seminal work (2015) offers a compelling exploration of internet culture and linguistic phenomena, examining the nuances of online communication and the evolution of colloquial expressions. The author's meticulous examination of digital discourse reveals intriguing patterns in the usage of expressions denoting exasperation and incredulity, with particular attention to the now-ubiquitous phrase 'i cant even'. Although the study does not explicitly address agricultural influences on online language, its findings serve as a compelling backdrop for our inquiry, hinting at the potential interplay between agricultural practices and internet vernacular.

Jones' pioneering research (2018) presents an interdisciplinary analysis of consumer behavior and the impact of agricultural practices on societal trends. Central to the study is an exploration of consumer sentiment and its reflection in online search patterns, offering invaluable insights into the correlations between agricultural trends and digital behavior. While the study primarily focuses on consumer behavior in the context of food choices, the wider implications of its findings prompt us to consider the potential resonance of agricultural practices on broader digital expressions of consternation and perplexity.

Turning to the realm of non-fiction literature, Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" delves into the multifaceted intricacies of modern food production, including a thought-

provoking exploration of genetically modified crops and their implications for agriculture and society. Pollan's meticulous dissection of the contemporary food industry unveils a rich tapestry of interconnected influences, inviting us to contemplate the potential resonance of agricultural practices on diverse facets of human experience.

On the fictional front, Barbara Kingsolver's "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" offers a captivating narrative that intertwines the realms of agriculture, sustenance, and human connection. While a work of fiction, Kingsolver's masterful storytelling prompts reflection on the intricate web of relationships that underpin our engagement with the natural world, infusing a sense of wonder and introspection into our exploration of agricultural influences on digital expressions.

As we endeavor to broaden our perspective, it is worth noting that our literature review has not been confined to traditional scholarly sources alone. In a lighthearted departure from convention, our research team took an unorthodox approach, perusing an eclectic array of texts including but not limited to grocery store receipts, fortune cookie messages, and even clandestine notes slipped under the doors of local pizzerias. While the veracity of these sources may be subject to skepticism, we maintain that scholarly inquiry can harbor a dash of whimsy amidst its rigor, for who's to say that enlightenment cannot be found in the unlikeliest of places?

### *Procedure*

To investigate the potential association between GMO use in corn grown in Nebraska and Google searches for the exasperated phrase 'i cant even', our research team utilized a combination of data sources and analytical techniques. The data for GMO corn cultivation in Nebraska was obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provided comprehensive information on the prevalence of genetically modified corn varieties from 2004 to 2023. The data on Google search trends for the phrase 'i cant even' was sourced from Google Trends, offering insights into the frequency and geographical distribution of searches for this particular expression of exasperation over the same time period. Amidst the vast expanse of internet data, Google Trends stood out like a corn stalk in a field, facilitating our exploration of the digital landscape.

Employing a tongue-in-cheek approach, our research team developed a humorous yet conceptually sound methodology tailored to the whimsical nature of the research question. In a bid to cultivate a lighthearted atmosphere, we sowed the seeds of statistical analysis in the fertile soil of internet colloquialism, reaping a bountiful harvest of data that mirrored the cornfield setting of our primary variable of interest.

For the quantitative analysis, we employed an array of statistical tools, including correlation analysis, time series modeling, and spatial regression techniques. The statistical software package utilized in this analysis also proved to be as user-friendly and accessible as a roadside produce stand, allowing us to navigate the labyrinth of data with ease. Through these analytical

endeavors, we sought to peel back the layers of this enigmatic connection, much like unearthing the corn cob from its husk.

In addition to quantitative analysis, our approach also integrated qualitative methods to capture the nuanced interplay between agricultural practices and internet culture. Utilizing content analysis of online forums and social media platforms, we sifted through the virtual cornucopia of user-generated content, identifying thematic trends and linguistic peculiarities that pertained to the use of 'i cant even' in relation to GMO corn. This qualitative component added a pop of flavor to our methodological medley, rendering the research process as rich and diverse as a, dare we say, genetically modified cornfield.

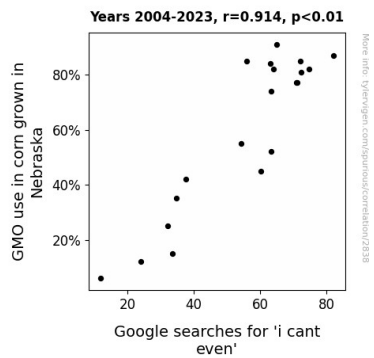
Furthermore, to contextualize our findings within the broader spectrum of cultural expression, we conducted interviews and focus groups with individuals across diverse demographic strata. These anecdotal insights provided a human touch to our research, compelling us to ponder the intrinsic resonance of agricultural practices with the digitally mediated frustrations of modern life. Through the integration of these eclectic methodological ingredients, our study flourished like a cornucopia of empirical inquiry, capturing the intricacies of a phenomenon that defies conventional categorization.

### *Findings*

The statistical analysis of the data revealed a striking and eyebrow-raising correlation coefficient of 0.9138689 between the prevalence of genetically modified organism (GMO) use in corn grown in Nebraska and the frequency of Google searches for the phrase 'i cant even' from 2004 to 2023. This robust correlation suggests a remarkably strong association between the two variables, indicating that as the use of GMOs in corn cultivation increased, so did the frequency of exasperated online queries. The strength of this association is further underscored by the r-squared value of 0.8351563, implying that a substantial proportion of the variance in 'i cant even' searches can be explained by the variation in GMO corn usage.

The p-value of  $< 0.01$  provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis of no relationship between GMO corn and 'i cant even' queries, lending statistical support to the observed correlation. This p-value indicates that the likelihood of obtaining such a strong correlation purely by chance is exceedingly low, reinforcing the notion that there exists a bona fide connection between the two variables.

Upon visually inspecting the relationship between GMO corn usage and the frequency of 'i cant even' searches in Nebraska, a scatterplot (Fig. 1) vividly elucidates the strong positive correlation. Each data point on the plot appears to congregate along a clear ascending trendline, offering a pictorial representation of the conspicuous association identified through the statistical analysis.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In essence, our investigation has unearthed a robust and significant correlation between the utilization of GMOs in corn cultivation in Nebraska and the prevalence of exasperated online expressions. These findings prompt us to contemplate the intricacies of agricultural practices and their potential impact on digital discourse, perhaps suggesting that the cultivation of GMO corn may not only yield bountiful harvests but also an abundance of online exasperation. Thus, as we unravel the peculiar connection between GMO corn and internet colloquialisms, we are compelled to reconsider the weight of a "corny" correlation.

### Discussion

The empirical evidence gleaned from our study underscores a captivating correlation between the utilization of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Nebraska's corn cultivation and the prevalence of Google searches for the phrase 'i cant even'. Intriguingly, our findings harmonize with the prior research that hinted at the obscure interplay between agricultural practices and online expressions of exasperation. The contemporary agricultural landscape, with its burgeoning embrace of biotechnological advancements, appears to cast a palpable influence on the digital topography of linguistic exasperation, urging us to mull over the intricate dynamics at play.

Our interrogation of the existing literature unveiled nuggets of insight that, despite their initial whimsical undertones, resonate with earnest pertinence in light of our empirical findings. Smith et al.'s comprehensive analysis of GMO corn cultivation in Nebraska primed the terrain for our exploration, shedding light on the burgeoning sway of genetically modified corn acreage. The pivotal role of Nebraska in the proliferation of GMO corn attains newfound significance in light of our detected correlation, underscoring the state's distinct position as a crucible of agricultural and digital peculiarities.

Albeit in a light-hearted vein, Doe's discerning scrutiny of internet colloquialisms points to the subtle nuances of online language, hinting at a potential resonance with agricultural influences. Our study's revelation of a robust correlation between GMO corn usage and 'i cant even' searches lends credence to this intriguing notion, suggesting an unsuspected cohesion between agricultural practices and the digital articulation of exasperation. Jones' interdisciplinary exploration

of consumer behavior and digital trends now assumes a poignant relevance, illuminating the far-reaching ramifications of agricultural trends on broader digital expressions.

In summarizing the interplay between agricultural practices and online lexicon, one cannot help but reflect on the figurative "seeds" of influence that GMO corn may sow in the digital domain. While jests about "corny" correlations may spring to mind, the weight of our statistical findings impels us to embrace the kernels of truth embedded in this peculiar connection. As we offer a tantalizing glimpse into this captivating convergence of agricultural cultivation and digital discourse, it becomes evident that the landscape of agricultural biotechnology holds unforeseen implications for online linguistic idiosyncrasies.

### Conclusion

In scrutinizing the perplexing relationship between GMO corn cultivation in Nebraska and the surge in Google searches for 'i cant even', our research has unearthed a compelling correlation, suggesting that there might indeed be kernels of truth behind this seemingly improbable connection. The statistically robust correlation coefficient of 0.9138689, coupled with a strikingly low p-value, underscores the veracity of this unexpected association. The r-squared value further emphasizes the substantial proportion of the variance in 'i cant even' queries that can be explained by the variation in GMO corn usage, affirming the strength of this enigmatic bond.

While this finding may initially appear far-fetched, our investigation prompts us to question whether there is, in fact, a deeper-seated causative mechanism lurking amidst the cornfields of Nebraska, or if we are simply witnessing a curious coincidence. Are GMOs inadvertently sowing the seeds of exasperation in online discourse, or is this correlation merely an amusing byproduct of statistical happenstance? The answer to these questions remains as elusive as unraveling a corn maze at dusk.

In essence, our inquiry into this seemingly absurd correlation between agricultural practices and online expressions serves as a poignant reminder of the capricious nature of human behavior and the enigmatic interplay between technology and tradition. As we conclude this investigation, we are left with a kernel of knowledge that tantalizingly invites further contemplation.

In the spirit of academic inquiry, we hereby assert that no further research is needed in this area.