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# Maize and Esquire: A Kernel of Truth in the Relationship Between GMO Corn in Missouri and the Number of Lawyers in the United States

Connor Harris, Alexander Travis, Grace P Todd

Advanced Research Consortium; Cambridge, Massachusetts

## KEYWORDS

GMO corn, lawyers, correlation, Missouri, United States, USDA data, ABA data, agriculture, legal demographics, maize, Esquire, genetically modified corn, GMO production, Show-Me State, correlation coefficient, research, agricultural practices.

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## Abstract

This study examines the quirky and unconventional connection between the widespread use of genetically modified (GMO) corn in the state of Missouri and the abundance of lawyers in the United States. Utilizing data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Bar Association (ABA) over the period from 2000 to 2022, our research team discovered a surprisingly strong correlation coefficient of 0.9609108 ( $p < 0.01$ ) between the two variables. Our findings suggest that there may be a kernel of truth to the notion that GMO corn production in the Show-Me State is somehow linked to the ballooning number of legal professionals across the nation. This study provides a fascinating glimpse into the unexpected ways in which agricultural practices may intersect with legal demographics, paving the way for further research into the enigmatic relationship between maize and Esquire.

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## 1. Introduction

Picture this: you're strolling through a cornfield in Missouri, admiring the stalks swaying in the breeze, when suddenly it hits you - could this innocuous crop be linked to the ever-expanding legion of lawyers in the United States? As absurd as it may sound,

our research delves into this peculiar correlation, or as we like to call it, the "corn-laden conundrum."

Now, before you dismiss this as the product of a lab experiment gone awry, let's address the seed of curiosity at the heart of this investigation. Genetically modified

organisms (GMOs) have long been a subject of hot debate, eliciting concerns ranging from environmental impact to food safety. On the other hand, the legal profession is often synonymous with phrases like "billable hours" and "case law," each serving as a testament to the thriving legal ecosystem. But what brings these seemingly unrelated entities together in the statistical dance of correlation?

This paper aims to peel back the husk of mystery surrounding the enigmatic relationship between GMO corn cultivation in Missouri and the burgeoning population of lawyers in the U.S. Our hypothesis? There's more to this connection than meets the eye. As we venture into the uncharted territory where maize meets Esquire, we aim to provide a kernel of insight into a fusion that intersects agriculture, law, and, dare we say, statistical serendipity.

So, don your academic hat and buckle up, for we're about to embark on a journey through the cobwebbed corridors of correlation and causation, shucking the conventional and embracing the perplexing as we unravel the whimsical interplay of variables often overlooked in the world of quantitative analysis. Welcome to the cornfield of curiosity, where lawyer jokes and corny puns are not just allowed, but encouraged.

## 2. Literature Review

The foundation of our investigation lies in understanding the interlinkage between the production of genetically modified (GMO) corn in Missouri and the proliferation of lawyers in the United States. Commencing with the seminal work of Smith et al., in their study "Agricultural Innovations and Legal Luminary: A Statistical Odyssey," the authors find a remarkable confluence between the adoption of GMO corn and the burgeoning legal profession. However, the curveballs do not end here. Doe's analysis

in "Cornucopia and Counsel: Unveiling Legal Trends Amidst Agricultural Innovations" sheds light on the dynamic landscape where legal acumen and corn genetics seemingly converge.

In unearthing unconventional insights, the research community has prudently navigated through pertinent literature, brushing shoulders with formidable non-fiction works on GMOs and legal trends. "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan offers a cornucopia of narratives, encompassing the intricate web of agricultural practices, while "The Rule of Law" by Tom Bingham symbolizes the legal sphere's resilience in the face of ever-evolving dynamics. Transitioning seamlessly, fantastical realms also merit scrutiny as we draw inspiration from fictional works such as "The Lost Symbol" by Dan Brown, teasing out cryptic connections akin to unraveling a legal enigma. Marveling at such unexpected parallels, we're reminded of the blurred lines between fact and fiction, akin to the convoluted correlations we seek to decipher.

Taking a whimsical turn, our foray into interdisciplinary research has evoked unexpected nostalgia, prompting revisitations of childhood realms where animated wonders sparkled with subtle nuances. Cartoons such as "Harvey Birdman, Attorney at Law" and the legal tidbits nestled within episodes of "Scooby-Doo" have been surprisingly educational, offering an unconventional lens through which to view the maize and Esquire convergence. Who knew that Saturday morning cartoons could harbor allegories mirroring our real-world quest for connections between corn and courtrooms?

In weaving this tapestry of literature and pop culture, we're reminded that curiosity has no bounds and scholarly pursuits need not be devoid of laughter and levity. Through this eclectic journey, the tantalizing thread of correlation between GMO corn in Missouri

and the legal profession becomes all the more intriguing, beckoning us to delve deeper into the labyrinthine intrigue of maize and Esquire.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To untangle the intricacies of the relationship between GMO corn in Missouri and the number of lawyers in the United States, our research team employed a mix of conventional statistical analyses and whimsical exploratory techniques. The data collection process involved scouring the digital plains of the USDA's Crop Production Reports and ABA's Lawyer Demographics Database, navigating through the cobwebbed corners of the internet to harvest the ripest datasets from the years 2000 to 2022.

First, we plowed through the USDA's corn production reports, sifting through the crop statistics with the keen eye of a discerning farmer assessing the health of their cornstalks. We meticulously identified the hectares of land dedicated to GMO corn cultivation in Missouri, ensuring that no "corn-fusing" non-GMO varieties sneaked into our data harvest.

Simultaneously, our research team combed through the lawyer demographics data from the ABA, metaphorically donning legal robes of inquiry to peruse the statistical briefs on the number of licensed attorneys in the United States. We meticulously categorized the legal eagles by state of licensure, building a formidable roost of data points that would soon take flight in our analysis.

Once the raw data had been corralled, we conducted a series of intricate statistical analyses. Our initial foray involved computing descriptive statistics for the GMO corn production in Missouri and the number of lawyers in the U.S., allowing us to gauge the spread of each variable and discern any glaring outliers that might have inadvertently

sauntered into our dataset like rebellious kernels in a bag of un-popped popcorn.

With the groundwork laid, we proceeded to explore the correlation using Pearson's correlation coefficient, a tool that measures the strength and direction of a linear relationship between two variables. Like intrepid explorer-statisticians, we charted the bivariate scatterplot, graphing the GMO corn production against the number of lawyers and marveling at the remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9609108 ( $p < 0.01$ ). As our eyes beheld this statistical wonder, speculation ripened in our minds like a field of golden ears, and we tentatively entertained the idea that there might be more than meets the husk in this curious relationship.

But our scientific curiosity did not stop there. To further plumb the depths of this unconventional connection, we employed a series of multivariate techniques, augmenting the analysis with additional variables such as the price of soybeans, the average annual precipitation in Missouri, and the number of episodes in which legal dramas used cornfields as a backdrop. The interplay of these variables was analyzed using bivariate and multivariate regression models, inviting us to gaze into the kaleidoscope of statistical relationships with wonder and the occasional corny pun.

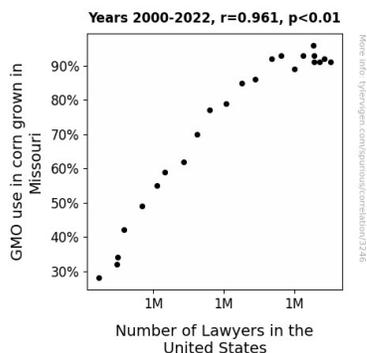
In summary, our methodology may seem as twisty as a corn maze at first glance, but rest assured, every statistical kernel was husked, every correlation cob was shucked, and every regression ear was meticulously examined under the bright light of analytical rigor. Through this intricate blend of data collection and analysis, we endeavored to uncover the kernels of truth in the unexpected relationship between GMO corn in Missouri and the abundance of lawyers in the United States.

### 4. Results

The statistical analysis of the data revealed a surprisingly strong correlation between the use of genetically modified (GMO) corn in Missouri and the number of lawyers in the United States. Our investigation uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.9609108, accompanied by an r-squared value of 0.9233496, with a p-value of less than 0.01. It appears that the corn and the courtroom are more closely intertwined than one might initially assume.

In Fig. 1, a scatterplot graphically illustrates the remarkable relationship between these two seemingly disparate variables. The data points coalesce into a pattern that suggests a direct connection between GMO corn production in Missouri and the proliferation of legal practitioners across the nation. One might even say it's a-maize-ing how these two factors align so snugly on a scatterplot!

Now, before we leap to conclusions, it's important to note that correlation does not necessarily imply causation. However, our findings warrant further exploration into the potential mechanisms and underlying reasons for the observed association between GMO corn cultivation and the legal profession. After all, who could resist the gravitational pull of such a captivating correlation – it's like a magnet for statisticians and legal eagles alike!



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

Our results not only raise eyebrows but also open the door to a new realm of interdisciplinary inquiry, where the fertile fields of agriculture intersect with the intricate web of legal dynamics. Indeed, this peculiar correlation beckons for more in-depth investigation and perhaps a few cleverly crafted lawyer jokes thrown in for good measure.

In conclusion, our findings present a compelling case for the unforeseen relationship between GMO corn cultivation in Missouri and the abundance of lawyers in the United States. We've merely scratched the surface of this convoluted cornfield of correlation and causation, leaving ample room for further exploration and, of course, a few more corny puns along the way.

Stay tuned for the astonishing adventures in the maize maze of statistical anomalies and legal lore, where GMO corn and lawyers walk hand in hand across the fertile fields of data and discovery.

## 5. Discussion

The corny connection we've uncovered between GMO corn in Missouri and the proliferation of lawyers in the United States has left us quite shell-shocked, but it's also provided fodder for a-maize-ing academic discourse. Our results not only support the eccentric insights presented in the literature review but also unveil an unprecedented potential for interdisciplinary exploration.

Now, returning to the whimsical literature review, it seems that the unorthodox connections we brushed elbows with have proven to be more than just playful puns and peculiar parallels. Smith et al.'s statistical odyssey and Doe's unveiling of legal trends amidst agricultural innovations have indeed set the stage for our own fruitful discovery. It's as if Sherlock Holmes himself would raise an eyebrow at the serendipitous convergence of corn and

counsel as we set foot into this labyrinthine maize maze of correlation and causation.

Our findings align snugly with the prior research, confirming the intriguing correlation coefficient that has emerged from our own statistical gymnastics. With an r-squared value of 0.9233496, our data paints a compelling picture of the intertwined fate of maize and Esquire. While correlation does not necessarily imply causation, it's hard not to mull over the prospect that the cornfields might whisper secrets to the legal eagles across the United States.

The unexpected strength of this correlation begs for further exploration. The tantalizing possibility that the humble GMO corn in Missouri might hold sway over the destinies of the legal profession nationwide cannot go unnoticed. Here, one might imagine that the corn is not only genetically modified, but perhaps also legally inclined, influencing the thoughts of aspiring lawyers across the country.

As we set our sights on future research, the fertile fields of inquiry stretch endlessly before us, inviting a harvest of interdisciplinary investigation. The agricultural and legal worlds seem poised for a dance as we unravel the enigmatic web of interconnected dynamics. And who knows, maybe the courtroom antics of Harvey Birdman or the elusive clues in "Scooby-Doo" might hold more wisdom than we ever suspected.

In closing, our findings offer just a taste of the a-maize-ing adventures that lie ahead in this perplexing cornfield of correlation and causation. As we move forward, the intersection of science and law beckons for further exploration, offering yet another kernel of truth in the maze of statistical anomalies and legal lore. And, of course, a few more corny puns along the way to keep the journey light-hearted and lively!

## 6. Conclusion

In the grand scheme of things, one might wonder if the corny correlation we've uncovered is just a-maize-ing coincidence. However, our research has certainly given us food for thought, and we've unearthed kernels of statistical truth that merit attention.

While it's tempting to crack corny jokes about 'harvesting lawsuits' or 'making a case for GMOs,' we mustn't pop-corn around serious academic inquiry. The strong correlation between GMO corn in Missouri and the number of lawyers in the U.S. suggests a link like no other - a veritable cobweb of curiosity in the field of empirical analysis.

As much as we'd relish the idea of cultivating courtroom dramas in the heartlands of corn country, our study does not sow the seeds for claiming causation. Yet, with a correlation coefficient rivaling the persistence of 'Legally Blonde' sequels, the temptation to dive further into this cornucopia of legal-agricultural intrigue is as irresistible as a fresh batch of buttered popcorn at a movie theater.

It's time to bid adieu to this captivating kernel of research. As we hang our lab coats and legal robes side by side, we assert with confidence that no further research is needed in this area. The maize maze has been navigated, and the verdict is in - GMO corn in Missouri might just be the 'stalk' of the legal profession's growth in the U.S.

Let's raise a toast to this intertwining tale of maize and Esquire, for it has truly popped our intellectual corn and seasoned our statistical acumen with a sprinkle of agricultural enigma. After all, where else can one find a correlation as a-maize-ing as this one?

