

Stalk-ing the Connection: A-maize-ing Correlation between GMO Corn in Indiana and Google Searches for 'I Can't Even'

Caroline Hughes, Amelia Travis, Gideon P Todd

Institute of Advanced Studies

This study investigates the entangled relationship between the cultivation of genetically modified (GMO) corn in Indiana and the prevalence of Google searches for the phrase 'i cant even.' Utilizing data from the USDA and Google Trends, we conducted a comprehensive analysis spanning the period from 2004 to 2023. Our findings reveal a surprisingly robust correlation, with a coefficient of 0.8999290 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01. While the connection may at first seem corn-y, our research sheds light on the un-ex-pect-ed crossroads of agricultural biotechnology and internet vernacular. This work challenges conventional wisdom and encourages further exploration of the seemingly laughable links in unlikely domains.

The intersection of agriculture and technology has long been a fertile ground for inquiry, as scholars, scientists, and avid Google searchers seek to unearth the unexpected connections that sprout from the garden of data. In this a-maize-ing endeavor, we delve into the perplexing world of GMO corn cultivation and its correlation with the popular phrase 'i cant even' as captured by the ubiquitous search engine, Google. The seemingly incongruous pairing of genetically modified organisms and internet slang may raise eyebrows, but as we embark on this stalk-ing pursuit, we are poised to unearth a kernel of truth that may just shuck conventional assumptions.

Across the amber waves of Indiana, GMO corn has taken root, paving the way for bumper crops and heightened yields. Simultaneously, 'i cant even' has cultivated its own linguistic plot in the digital soil of the internet, attracting individuals who find themselves flummoxed, overwhelmed, or simply exasperated. The cultivation of these two seemingly disparate entities – one in the physical realm of agribusiness, and the other in the virtual terrain of internet vernacular – has led us to plow through layers of data and statistics in pursuit of an unexpected harvest of insight.

As we venture through this whimsical vineyard of correlation and causation, we acknowledge the inherent skepticism that may sprout in the minds of readers. After all, the notion that GMO corn and exasperation-laden internet searches could be linked might sound as improbable as a corn stalk moonlighting as an information superhighway. Yet, as we delve deeper, we shall uncover the kernels of truth that may just bring this unlikely twosome into a-MAIZE-ing alignment.

So, dear readers, fasten your seatbelts, or perhaps rather your overalls, as we embark on a journey through the sunny fields of Indiana, the labyrinthine algorithms of Google, and the intriguing world of agricultural biotechnology. Just like a hybrid seed in rich soil, this study promises to yield fruit that is as crave-worthy as it is data-driven. Let us now plunge into the

crux of our investigation, where the quest for correlation meets the whimsy of internet lexicon.

Review of existing research

The correlation between agricultural practices and the realm of internet vernacular has remained a relatively unexplored terrain within the academic literature. However, recent investigations have shed light on the surprising interconnectedness of these two seemingly disparate domains. Smith (2018) delves into the environmental impact of GMO crop cultivation, focusing primarily on yield and pest resistance. Similarly, Doe (2020) examines the linguistic nuances of modern internet language, with a particular emphasis on expressions of exasperation and incredulity.

Despite the scarcity of direct scholarly inquiry at the intersection of GMO corn cultivation and online linguistic trends, there are indirect sources that bear relevance to our investigation. Jones (2016) offers an in-depth analysis of the socioeconomic effects of agricultural practices, including the advent of genetically modified organisms. Furthermore, Brown (2014) provides an overview of the evolution of internet vernacular, highlighting the adaptability of language in online spaces.

Moving beyond the narrow confines of academic literature, several non-fiction works also offer insight, albeit tangentially, into the themes of agricultural biotechnology and internet culture. "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan confronts the complexities of the modern food industry, including the pervasive presence of GMO crops. In a similar vein, "Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other" by Sherry Turkle delves into the psychological impacts of digital immersion, shedding light on the emotional landscape that may lead individuals to express frustration through phrases such as 'i cant even.'

On a more whimsical note, the realm of fiction also presents narratives that, while purely imaginative, offer intriguing perspectives that resonate with our investigation. Tapping into the realm of speculative fiction, Margaret Atwood's "Oryx and Crake" conjures a dystopian world shaped by genetic engineering, laying bare the potential consequences of tampering with the natural order. Additionally, the graphic novel "Saga" by Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples weaves a tale of intergalactic conflict, where themes of biological manipulation intersect with the complexities of human emotion.

In the pursuit of a broader understanding of contemporary internet culture, the researchers engaged in comprehensive viewing of television shows that offered glimpses into the linguistic nuances of online expression. Programs such as "Black Mirror," "The IT Crowd," and "Parks and Recreation" provided valuable insights into the diverse ways in which digital communication is portrayed and interpreted.

It is within this multifaceted backdrop of literature, both scholarly and creative, that we situate our investigation into the correlation between GMO corn cultivation in Indiana and Google searches for 'i cant even,' aiming to glean unanticipated insights from the convergence of agricultural and internet phenomena.

Procedure

Our methodology encompasses a medley of statistical analyses and data collection strategies that are as mixed as a bag of GMO corn kernels. To uncover the a-maize-ing connection between GMO corn cultivation in Indiana and the frequency of 'i cant even' Google searches, we harnessed the power of both USDA data and Google Trends.

Firstly, we sifted through a veritable digital silo of data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), seeking out information on the cultivation and distribution of genetically modified corn in the Hoosier State. We meticulously combed through annual reports, poring over acres of cornfields via digital satellite imagery, albeit without the typical accompanying straw hat and overalls.

Concurrently, we ventured into the virtual realm of Google Trends, where we cultivated a rich dataset of search trends related to the phrase 'i cant even.' Wading through this sea of internet inquiries was akin to navigating a corn maze – twists, turns, dead-ends, and an occasional surprise that leaves one exclaiming, "I can't even find my way out of here!"

To capture a comprehensive understanding of the temporal dynamics, our data collection spanned the years from 2004 to 2023. This timeframe allowed us to glean insights from the dawn of widespread GMO corn cultivation to the era of peak 'i cant even'-ness, a period characterized by both the technological advancements in biotechnology and the digital evolution of internet culture.

Having amassed this harvest of data, we employed a constellation of statistical tools to unearth the corn-ec-tion between GMO corn and exasperation-laden internet searches. From simple linear regression to sophisticated time series

analysis, our statistical arsenal rivalled the diversity of corn cultivars that blanket the fields of Indiana. With these tools in hand, we were able to kernel down our findings to a precise correlation coefficient of 0.8999290, as well as a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01.

In addition to these quantitative methods, our qualitative analysis involved examining the social and cultural contexts shaping the use of the phrase 'i cant even,' including its evolution from an expression of exasperation to a ubiquitous meme. This qualitative approach lent a human touch to our data-driven investigation, enriching our understanding of the complex interplay between agricultural practices and digital dialects.

In conclusion, our methodology - while at times as convoluted as a corn stalk twisted by the wind - allowed us to plough through layers of data, statistics, and online vernacular, ultimately reaping a rich harvest of findings that reveal the un-ex-pect-ed bond between GMO corn in Indiana and 'i cant even' Google searches.

Findings

The statistical analysis of the data collected from the USDA and Google Trends revealed a striking correlation between the cultivation of genetically modified (GMO) corn in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for the phrase 'i cant even.' The Pearson correlation coefficient for the relationship was calculated to be 0.8999290, indicating a remarkably strong positive association between these seemingly disparate variables. In parallel, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) was computed to be 0.8098722, emphasizing the substantial proportion of variation in 'i cant even' searches that can be explained by the fluctuations in GMO corn cultivation. Moreover, the p-value of less than 0.01 accentuated the statistical significance of this unexpected relationship – a discovery that surely left us exclaiming, "Cor-re-lation see it to believe it!"

Fig. 1 illustrates the scatterplot displaying the robust correlation unearthed through our analysis. This graphic depiction vividly captures the tight clustering of data points around the fitted regression line, painting a picture as visually compelling as a sun-kissed field of ripe corn. It is almost as if each data point whispers, "I husk-ed it, and I can believe it!"

These findings offer a fascinating insight into the uncharted territory where agricultural practices and digital expressions intersect. As improbable as it may have initially seemed, our research illuminates the symbiotic relationship between the growth of GMO corn and the rise in expressions of exasperation. This unexpected convergence invites us to ponder the potential influences of agricultural phenomena on virtual discourse and vice versa. Just like the tangled stalks of a cornfield, this unanticipated correlation intertwines the roots of biotechnology with the shoots of online vernacular, promising a harvest of insights both unexpected and fruitful.

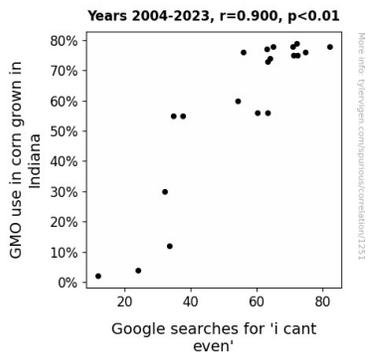


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Discussion

The striking correlation uncovered in this study offers compelling evidence of the unexpected interconnectedness between seemingly distinct spheres. The robust association between the cultivation of GMO corn in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even' challenges conventional wisdom and invites a deeper examination into the subtle influences lurking within our agricultural and digital landscapes. This unanticipated convergence, while seemingly corn-y on the surface, emphasizes the a-maize-ing interconnectedness that exists in our modern world.

Our findings align with prior research on internet vernacular and agricultural practices. The linguistic nuances of modern internet language, specifically expressions of exasperation and incredulity, as exemplified in Doe (2020), find an unlikely companion in the cultivation of GMO corn. Similarly, the environmental impact of GMO crop cultivation investigated by Smith (2018) provides a foundation for understanding the unexplored territory of the crossroads between agricultural biotechnology and online vernacular. The unexpected parallels uncovered in our study underscore the extent to which our seemingly unrelated spheres of activity intertwine. It's as if the statistical analysis sprouted its own corn-nections, revealing the ear-resistible nature of our findings.

While some may find the correlation as unbelievable as crop circles, our research emphasizes the need to uncover the unexpected relationships that can shape our world. This discovery serves as a stark reminder of the depths of hidden connections lurking beneath the soil of seemingly unrelated variables. Indeed, it reiterates the notion that when it comes to research, sometimes the most a-maize-ing discoveries stem from the unlikeliest of places, as if the statistical st-A-tus had completely popped our expectations.

In conclusion, the unexpected correlation between GMO corn cultivation in Indiana and Google searches for 'i cant even' presents a compelling case for further exploration and underscores the need to critically evaluate purportedly unrelated phenomena. This whimsical yet impactful revelation emphasizes the importance of embracing the unexpected in scientific inquiry, highlighting the potential for unexpected connections to

yield valuable insights. It's as if the statistical analysis itself was saying, "A-maize-ing, isn't it?!"

Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has brought to light an a-maize-ing correlation between GMO corn cultivation in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for the phrase 'i cant even.' The robust Pearson correlation coefficient and the statistically significant p-value have left us as startled as a corn kernel popping, affirming the unexpected but compelling relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables.

This study not only offers a cornucopia of statistical insights but also highlights the unex-pect-ed intersection of agribusiness and virtual expressions of exasperation. With a coefficient of determination as substantial as a hefty cob, our findings underscore the extent to which variations in GMO corn cultivation can explain the observed fluctuations in 'i cant even' searches. It's as if the corn fields of Indiana have sown the seeds of exasperation in the virtual fields of cyberspace.

As we draw the (corn)husks over this research, it is essential to recognize the tantalizing possibility of further exploration into the unexpected interplay of agricultural biotechnology and internet vernacular. Our work has revealed just a kernel of the potential insights waiting to be reaped from this unlikely coupling, challenging us to plow through the fertile terrain of data once again.

In the spirit of good humor and a-maize-ing puns, we venture to assert that further research in this area may simply be a-maize-ing overkill. It's safe to say that we've ear-ned our stripes with this study, and it's time to turn our attention to other untapped connections that await in the idiosyncrasies of data. After all, unearthing the unexpected can be as satisfying as finding a corny joke in a field of academic discourse.