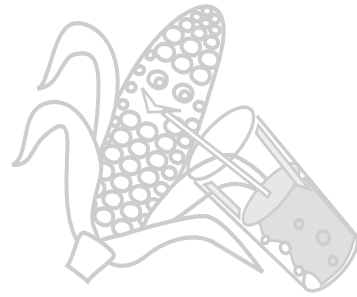


SLURRRPPP!!!



Advances in agricultural research aren't limited to food uses. Take a look below at the list of cutting-edge nonfood products (on the left). Match them to the agricultural commodities they come from. Some products are A-MAIZE-ING-LY versatile!

Nonfood Product	Agricultural Commodity
The batteries in your boom box	Corn
Baby powder	Wheat
The fuel filter in your car	Soybeans
Your baby brother's disposable diapers	Crushed egg shells
Sanitary napkins	Whey from dairy processing
The "Soft-Ice" used to sooth your sprained wrist	Rice
Wound dressings	Oats

**ANSWER:** All these nonfood products are derived from corn, specifically cornstarch.

**THE CORNCRIB**—You've been selected by the Corn Growers Association to set up a web site featuring everything you know about products made from corn. Name all the corn-based food products you can think of. What nonfood products can you tell about?



Starch is the main constituent of grain flours, and the most plentiful starch is cornstarch. Although most of the products from corn milling go into food and feed, 4.5 billion pounds of starch are produced each year, largely for non-food purposes. Of this, 3.5 billion pounds are used in the paperboard, paper, and related industries, where starch serves both as an adhesive and a coating.

New uses for cornstarch continue to surprise us. For example, when ARS scientists married starch to a synthetic chemical, they managed to create a product so thirsty, it could absorb many times its own weight in water. Someone called it SUPER SLURPER, and the name stuck.

After patents were secured in 1976, Super Slurper started popping up all over the marketplace. The absorbent compound, which can slurp up to 2,000 times its weight in water, is used as an electrical conductor in batteries. You can find it in fuel filters, baby powders, and wound dressings. Compounds very much like it are now used in disposable diapers and sanitary napkins.

## CHECK IT OUT

<http://www.ncaur.usda.gov/ppl/ppl.html-ssi>