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Michigan Corn Growers Have Opportunity to Test Their Skills and Knowledge

LANSING, MICH. – The planting season is upon us, and it is time to sign up for the 2010 National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC). The NCYC gives Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) members the chance to showcase their production skills while competing with growers from across the country to see who can produce the highest yielding crop.

“The National Corn Yield Contest is a great way for Michigan corn growers to test their corn production skills and knowledge by competing for the opportunity to win state and national recognition,” said Ed Breitmeyer, MCGA president and a corn grower from Buckley. “The corn yield contest allows growers to see how their crops measure up against their neighbors here in Michigan, as well as growers from other states.”

Winners at the state and national levels will be recognized at the 2011 Commodity Classic in Tampa, Florida. They will also be acknowledged in the *Corn Yield Guide* and other publications, as well as at the MCGA Annual Meeting. Contestants have the chance to win prizes, trips or other awards from participating seed, chemical and crop protection companies who often sponsor farmers who use their products.

“The chance to enter the contest is just one of the benefits of being a MCGA member,” said Breitmeyer. “In addition to having the opportunity to make their voices heard on important legislative issues and policies at the state and federal level, members are also entitled to free admission to the MCGA Annual Meeting and Ethanol Night at the Races, reduced entry fees for golf outings, and drastically lower registration costs for Commodity Classic,” added Breitmeyer. “All of these opportunities give growers a return above and beyond the actual cost of membership.”

Membership in the MCGA is \$60 for one year, \$155 for three years or \$500 for a lifetime. Students in an accredited agricultural program are eligible for a one-year membership in the MCGA for \$20 a year.

Growers who are members and have their NCYC entry forms postmarked by July 1, the early registration deadline, pay just \$80 to participate in the contest. Entries postmarked between July 2 and the final deadline of August 2 will be charged a \$110 registration fee. In some cases, entrants can participate with little or no cost to themselves as seed, chemical and crop protection companies may pay for the entry fee and/or the membership dues. Entrants can also contact the NCGA at (636) 733-9004 for a list of participating companies.

(more)

For more information on becoming a MCGA member, the NCYC contest or to obtain an entry form, contact the MCGA at 1-888-323-6601 or visit www.micorn.org.

Headquartered in Lansing, the MCGA is a grassroots-membership association that has represented the state's corn growers' political interests since the 1970s. The MCGA works cooperatively with the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) a legislatively-established program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold and invests in research, education, new uses and market development. Michigan's corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state's economy annually and in 2009, Michigan's corn farmers harvested a record setting crop of more than 309 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.

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