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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 2011 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 Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president and a corn grower from Portland. “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.”

The contest, which continues to grow in popularity, will be implementing several new changes in 2011 to facilitate the increasingly large number of entries. This year, entry deadlines have been moved up and early entries will be due by **June 15** while late entries will be due by **July 15**. Additionally, this year’s NCYC will consolidate two categories, which reduces the total number of categories from eight to six. To do this, NCGA has eliminated the separate categories for ridge-till entries in both the irrigated and non-irrigated categories. Those growers interested in competing with their ridge-till fields can still do so by entering into their respective conventional irrigated and non-irrigated categories, which will now encompass any type of tillage that disturbs the width of the row.

Winners at the state and national levels will be recognized at the 2012 Commodity Classic in Nashville, Tenn. They will also be acknowledged in the *Corn Yield Guide* and other publications, as well as at the MCGA Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Additionally, 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 Sandborn. “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 our two golf outings, and drastically lower registration costs for Commodity Classic,” added Sandborn. “All of these opportunities give growers a return above and beyond the actual cost of membership.”

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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 June 15, the early registration deadline, pay just \$80 to participate in the contest. Entries postmarked between June 16 and the final deadline of July 15 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 membership dues. Entrants can also contact the NCGA at (636) 733-9004 for a list of participating companies. 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 2010, Michigan's corn farmers harvested a record setting crop of more than 315 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.

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