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## **USAPEEC Attendees Discuss Positive Future for Poultry Trade**

LANSING, Mich. – The USA Poultry and Egg Export Council’s (USAPEEC) annual winter meeting once again gave participants an opportunity to discuss the current state of poultry trade. Brian Kreps, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) secretary, Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) board member and a corn farmer from LaSalle, took part in the meeting that was held in Washington, D.C.

USAPEEC, a non-profit trade association dedicated to expanding markets for U.S. poultry and egg products, gathers delegates twice annually to discuss issues facing the industry. At the winter meeting, discussions focused on trade issues with China, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the future of agriculture in America and other key industry issues.

Dr. Paul Aho, an international agribusiness economist specializing in the poultry industry, gave his perspective on the future of the feed grain and poultry industries in the United States. Dr. Aho discussed the relationship between the price of oil and the price of corn, saying that the two markets are linked, and that as oil goes up, corn follows. He believes that if the price of oil can be predicted, the price of corn can be estimated and he expects that for the 2012/2013 marketing year, corn will be about \$5 per bushel. He did note that in the long term corn will continue to trend upward.

When Dr. Aho discussed the future for U.S. poultry and eggs, his estimates also appeared very positive. By 2025, he said that total global trade in poultry should reach 15 million metric tons and that per capita consumption of meat and poultry should reach 110 pounds. He also expects the price of chicken leg quarters to remain strong, and that more breast meat will be exported.

“Dr. Aho provided a lot of great information about not only the future of the poultry industry but also the future for corn prices,” Kreps said. “It will be interesting to see how his predictions are affected by the trade challenges and accomplishments that many of the other speakers discussed.”

For the last decade, USAPEEC has developed a strong relationship with the CMPM, MCGA and other U.S. corn industries, who support the organization’s efforts to increase U.S. poultry and egg exports. The relationship between USAPEEC and the corn commodity groups is based on a simple premise – the more U.S. poultry and eggs that are exported means increased demand for U.S. corn. The amount of corn used by the U.S. poultry and egg industry annually – about 1.2 billion bushels – is greater than the annual corn production of the states of Michigan and Ohio combined.

*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](http://www.micorn.org).*

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