



For Immediate Release
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Corn to recognize growers at Annual Meeting Feb. 7

LANSING, MI. – Do you want to know the latest and greatest information and industry updates regarding corn in Michigan? If so, you need to be at the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) 2012 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held Tuesday, February 7, at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in downtown Lansing. Registration, including a full breakfast, will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the program to follow at 9:30 a.m.

Join your neighbors and industry leaders from across the state for a day full of information, networking and much more. “This year’s program includes information that will keep Michigan’s corn growers informed of important issues and new opportunities,” said Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president. “It is important for corn growers to remain well informed on the issues that will affect them throughout the next year, so they can make more informed decisions that will benefit their farming operations.”

This year, the MCGA Annual Meeting will feature topics including the future of Michigan’s agriculture industry with Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley (*invited*) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director Keith Creagh; market strategies with Virgil Robinson of Pioneer Hi-Bred International; a national perspective from Rick Tolman, CEO of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA); an ethanol update from Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president and NCGA Ethanol Committee member; and a report of the U.S. Grains Council 2011 Corn Mission to Japan, China, Korea and Vietnam from Pat Feldpausch, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan president.

The MCGA Annual Meeting will also include updates on important legislation and updates on the MCGA and its membership activities. Additionally, roundtable discussions with state lawmakers will be held during lunch.

“Since we are a grassroots association focused on corn-friendly policy development, we have developed a strong, policy-driven program. We are holding the meeting in Lansing again this year, to make it is easy for legislators and their staff to attend,” said Scott Lonier, MCGA vice president and grower from Grand Ledge. “During lunch, we hold roundtable discussions with legislators in order to provide MCGA members the opportunity to speak directly with elected leaders about issues affecting their farming operation. We encourage our members to get to know their legislators and our roundtable discussions provide an additional outlet for increasing communication.”

In addition to the legislative and educational sessions, MCGA members will conduct the annual business meeting, and recognize Friends of Corn award recipients, state Corn Yield Contest winners, Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verified farms, and the 2011 MCGA scholarship recipients. The 2012 Annual Meeting will conclude with an ice cream social at 3:30 p.m.

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During the business meeting, members will review the MCGA bylaws and vote on changes that reflect the changes in the industry. More information about the suggested bylaw updates will be sent to members prior to the meeting for review and will also be available on the MCGA website at www.micorn.org.

Finally, MCGA members will elect directors to the Board for the upcoming year. Positions up for re-election this year include: District 3 – Huron, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties; District 6 – Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren counties; an industry position; and at-large position which encompasses the entire state. For more information about running for the Board of Directors, please contact the Michigan Corn office at 1-888-323-6601 or email membership@micorn.org.

MCGA members may attend the Annual Meeting free of charge and non-MCGA members may attend at a cost of \$20 per person. If you would like to become a member and vote during the business session of the Annual Meeting, please contact the MCGA office at 1-888-323-6601. Membership in the MCGA is \$60 for one year, \$155 for three years or \$500 for a lifetime. Students may join the association at a cost of \$20 for a one-year membership.

MCGA members will be mailed registration materials for the Annual Meeting in early January. If you are not a member and would like to register for the Annual Meeting, contact the MCGA office or visit www.micorn.org for a registration form. The registration deadline is January 27.

Finally, the MCGA would like to thank this year's sponsors of the annual meeting for their ongoing support of both the MCGA and the corn industry. These sponsors include: American Coalition for Ethanol; Corn Marketing Program of Michigan; Conklin AgroVantage – Tom Warschefsky; Crop Production Services; Greenstone Farm Credit Services; Michigan Milk Producers Association; Pioneer Hi-Bred International; Specialty Hybrids; and Tri-County Equipment. For more information about sponsoring an MCGA event or newsletter, please contact the Michigan Corn office at 1-888-323-6601.

Headquartered in Lansing, the MCGA is a grassroots-membership association that has represented the political interests of the state's corn growers 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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