



13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Ste 5
Lansing, MI 48906

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Contact: Betsy Braid
Phone: (517) 668-2676

Leading Agricultural Organizations to Host Gubernatorial Forum

LANSING, MICH. – The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) invites Michigan's farmers and agri-business representatives to join them at an unprecedented gubernatorial candidate forum on Friday, March 19, 2010. As the only thriving sector in our state's economy, Michigan agriculture has a lot at stake and the outcome of the upcoming gubernatorial race will have a significant impact on the entire community. It is vital for Michigan's farmers and agri-business leaders to know how each candidate will lead our state – and our industry – forward. With this thought in mind, the MCGA has teamed up with eighteen other leading agricultural organizations to host a gubernatorial candidate forum to show our government leaders the important role agriculture plays in our state.

The gubernatorial candidate forum will be held on March 19 at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing. The event will begin with networking and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., with the official program starting at 9:00 a.m. Each candidate will be allotted time to present their platform, after which, the floor will be opened for a moderated question and answer session with the audience. At the conclusion of the open forum, additional networking time will be provided.

Our hope is that not only will we get to hear what is in store for agriculture under each candidate's leadership, but that each candidate will learn more about agriculture in the state of Michigan. Our elected officials need to actually know a farmer, what he or she does, and how this work impacts each and every person in our state. In addition, this forum will provide our industry with the information it needs as we head to the polls this fall.

For this gubernatorial candidate forum to be a true success, all of Michigan's agriculture industry needs to come together. It is important for the candidates to see that although we are diverse, together we are strong. Please invite your industry friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join you at this historic event. More than just a great opportunity to learn about our state's next chief executive officer, this forum will allow you the opportunity to ask questions about how your family and farm will be affected during the next four years.

Preregistration for this event is required. To reserve your spot at the candidate forum, please contact Penni Sweeney by March 12, 2010 at (517) 668-2676 or psweeney@micorn.org.

Collaborating with the MCGA to host this monumental gubernatorial candidate forum are the Cherry Marketing Institute; Julian Vail, LLC; Michigan Agri-Business Association; Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc.; Michigan Apple Growers; Michigan Cattleman's Association; Michigan Equine Partnership; Michigan Farm Bureau; Michigan Floriculture Growers Council; Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show; Michigan Harness Horseman's Association; Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association; Michigan Pork Producers Association; Michigan Soybean Association; Michigan Standardbred Breeders Association; Michigan Sugar Company; Michigan Vegetable Council; and the Potato Growers of Michigan.

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 nearly 311 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.

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