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Corn Marketing Board Nominations Being Accepted at Auburn Meeting *Coffee with Corn Helps Growers Stay Informed, Get Involved in Grassroots Activities*

LANSING, Mich. – The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and CMPM board member Clark Gerstacker of Midland are inviting local corn growers to a Coffee with Corn meeting on February 10 to provide an update on important issues affecting the industry, and offer the opportunity to get involved. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. at Pat and Jerry's Place, 957 W. Midland Road, in Auburn.

As part of the meeting, nominations will be accepted for the CMPM board of directors to fill Gerstacker's position as a representative of District 8, which encompasses Bay, Gratiot, Midland and Saginaw counties. Gerstacker has served three terms on the board and is term-limited, so two nominees will be sought at the meeting. Those nominees will be submitted to the Governor's office for his selection. The new board member will play a direct role in charting the future course of the check-off dollars through the CMPM. The board invests in research, market development, education and new use projects. Those interested in the board position must grow corn within the district. If you are interested, plan to be at the February 10 meeting.

Coffee with Corn is a great way for growers to connect with other local farmers and CMPM board members and staff to learn more about the corn industry and the challenges facing the industry. The CMPM has been holding Coffee with Corn meetings in farming communities throughout the state to bring corn growers who contribute to the state's check-off together to talk about issues of importance to corn farmers. Through these meetings, the CMPM hopes to provide growers with information that will be useful to them on their farming operations, and learn how the CMPM can better serve check-off contributors and improve Michigan's corn industry.

To request a Coffee with Corn meeting in your district, or to learn more about the Michigan corn industry, call the Michigan Corn office at (517) 668-2676.

Headquartered in Lansing, the CMPM is a legislatively established statewide program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold. Investments are made in the areas of research, education, market development, and new uses in an effort to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn farmers. The CMPM works cooperatively with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA), a grassroots-membership organization representing the political interests of the state's corn growers since the 1970s. 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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