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Deadline for Scholarships Fast Approaching

Students encouraged to apply as Michigan corn farmers pay it forward

LANSING, Mich. – The deadline for the 2012 Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) scholarship program is fast approaching! A minimum of two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded -- but you must act now as applications are due February 13 at 5 p.m.!

“The MCGA board of directors looks at this scholarship program as a way to give back to our members, while promoting higher education to young people,” said Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president and a corn farmer from Portland. “With an aging population, a priority must be put on young peoples’ education, and I appreciate the opportunity this gives the children of our state’s corn growers.”

All members of the MCGA, including students, growers and associates, as well as children of members, between the ages of 17 and 25 are qualified. To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student at a post-secondary educational institution during the fall 2012 semester. **All applications must be received in the Michigan Corn Growers Association office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2012.** Applications can be obtained from the MCGA office by calling 1-888-323-6601 or online at www.micorngrowers.org.

The application must include a membership identification number. MCGA policy states that one membership equals one person, so just one application per membership number will be accepted.

Students enrolled in a full-time educational program with an interest in the agriculture industry are eligible for a one-year membership in the MCGA for \$20. Grower and associate memberships in the MCGA are \$60 for one year, \$155 for three years, or \$500 for a lifetime.

“We were pleased that we were able to do more last year by presenting scholarships worth \$8,500 rather than just two \$1,000 scholarships,” said Ed Breitmeyer, MCGA Chairman. “We hope this is encouraging to Michigan high school and college students knowing that MCGA is here with scholarships to help them on their career paths.”

Other benefits MCGA members are entitled to include:

- A collective legislative voice on state and national legislation and policy.
- Free attendance to the MCGA Annual Meeting, where key agricultural issues are examined and discussed by corn growers and legislators. This year’s meeting will be held on Feb. 7 at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

(MORE)

- Free attendance to the Thumb Area Golf Outing on Aug. 14 at Verona Hills Golf Club in Bad Axe; the Central Michigan Golf Outing on Aug. 16 at Centennial Acres Golf Course in Sunfield; and Ethanol Night at the Races on Sept. 8 at Dixie Motor Speedway in Birch Run.
- Membership in the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).
- A quarterly MCGA newsletter.
- Discounts with Auto Owners Insurance, natural gas discounts with Volunteer Energy, home services discounts with Connect Your Home and many more statewide benefits.
- Discounts, through the NCGA, from Ford Motor Company, Dell, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Cabelas.
- The opportunity to serve on the MCGA board at the county, state or national levels, and to become involved in NCGA Action Teams and Committees.
- The opportunity to apply for a rebate and a scholarship for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).
- Eligibility to apply for a Farm Women's Symposium Scholarship, and
- The chance to apply for a Great Lakes Leadership Academy Scholarship.

For more information, or if you would like to purchase a membership, please contact the MCGA at 1.888.323.6601 or email us at membership@micorn.org.

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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