



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

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2012

Contact: Dennis Raymo
Phone: (517) 668-2676

Deadline Approaching for Michigan Corn's Annual Meeting

LANSING, Mich. – Join your neighbors and industry leaders from across the state for a day full of information, networking and much more. The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) will hold its 2012 Annual Meeting on 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.

“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 and speakers including the future of Michigan’s agricultural industry with Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Chief Deputy Director Gordon Wenk; 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 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, we have developed a strong, policy-driven program,” said Scott Lonier, MCGA vice president and grower from Lansing. “We are holding the meeting in Lansing again this year to make it is easy for legislators and their staff to attend. During lunch, we hold roundtable discussions with legislators to provide MCGA members the opportunity to speak directly with elected leaders about issues affecting their farming operation.”

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.

(MORE)

During the meeting, members will review 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.

MCGA members will also elect the board for the 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; and an at-large position that encompasses the entire state. For more information about running for the board of directors, please contact the Michigan Corn office.

Registration is required and must be submitted to the MCGA office by Jan. 27. 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, sign up today. 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. Registration can be completed on our website or by contacting the Michigan Corn office.

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; Dairyland Seed Company; Eastern Michigan Grain; Greenstone Farm Credit Services; Growers National Cooperative; 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.

For further information, please contact the Michigan Corn office at 1-888-323-6601 or visit the website at www.micorn.org for details on the Annual Meeting, membership and sponsorship opportunities.

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.

#NB#