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New Members Appointed to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan Board of Directors

LANSING, MICH. – Every year, three highly-qualified corn farmers from across the state are chosen by the governor to sit on the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) board of directors. The CMPM is a check-off program established by P.A. 232, 1965 as amended, which allows for the establishment of check-off programs for commodities grown in Michigan and sold. Since its origin in 1993, one penny for every bushel of corn grown in Michigan and sold comes to the CMPM and is used for research, education, market development and new uses.

This year, three of the board's nine positions were up for appointment. After being nominated by their peers to have their names submitted for consideration, Governor Rick Snyder appointed one and reappointed two corn farmers to fill the open positions on the CMPM board of directors. "I applaud these individuals' willingness to help promote Michigan's agriculture industry as we reinvent Michigan," Snyder said.

Newly appointed board members will each serve a three year term and join six other board members who direct the state's corn check-off program. Appointees include:

- Carl Barth of Three Rivers, who was reappointed for a third term to represent District 2. This includes Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa and St. Joseph counties.
- Mark Kies of Allen, who was reappointed for a third term to represent District 3. This includes Branch, Calhoun and Hillsdale counties
- Thomas Durand of Croswell, who was appointed to represent District 7. This includes Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and St. Clair counties

"The board is looking forward to directing the CMPM throughout the next year," said Clark Gerstacker, CMPM president, National Corn Growers Association Corn Board member and corn farmer from Midland. "During the next year, the organization will continue working to improve and enhance traditional markets, while also seeking out new and innovative uses for Michigan's corn. Through the responsible decision making and insight from our board along with the hard work of the CMPM staff, we are looking forward to creating more opportunities for corn farmers while helping to get Michigan's economy back on track. In fact, Michigan's corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state's economy annually, which is why the work of the CMPM is so important to our industry and our state."

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 association representing the state's corn grower's political interests since the 1970's. In 2010, Michigan's nearly 12,000 family 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.