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Michigan Corn Growers Association Membership Has its Benefits

LANSING, MICH. – As corn growers from across the state labor tirelessly to get their crop in the ground this wet spring, the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is working on their behalf to protect their interests in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

“We understand this is a significant time of year for growers as they plant their seeds with hopes of harvesting a bountiful crop this fall,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom, MCGA executive director. “Members of the MCGA know even during these busy times, they can feel confident their voice is still being heard on important corn-related issues.”

As the only voice in Michigan focused solely on corn growers’ issues in the state and national political arenas, the MCGA strives to educate local, state and national leaders about the issues directly impacting the corn industry. Through its affiliation with the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), the MCGA is fortunate to have five full-time lobbyists working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. every day. Three of the MCGA’s top legislative priorities at this time are:

- Ensuring the state order declaring wild hogs as an invasive species stands. Wild hogs are one of the most destructive and dangerous invasive species in Michigan and threaten an important corn market, livestock, as well as cause crop damage.
- Restructuring the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC), the blenders credit petroleum companies receive for utilizing ethanol, to insure a financially responsible safety net is developed for the industry.
- Protecting farmers interests in the reauthorization of the 2012 Farm Bill.

In addition to providing a collective voice on state and national legislation and policy, the MCGA provides members with several tangible benefits which include:

- Ford Motor Company vehicle discounts through the Ford X-Plan.
- Discounts on Dell computers and products.
- Five percent discount on rental fees from Enterprise Rent-A-Car.
- Ten percent discount on Cabela’s gift cards.
- Admission to NASCAR’s private web portal with access to exclusive and unadvertised offers on official merchandise and partner company products, as well as discounted race tickets.
- Free attendance to the MCGA Annual Meeting, which will be held on Feb. 7, 2012 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School Temple Conference Center in Lansing.
- A free ticket to Ethanol Night at the Races scheduled for September 9, 2011 at Dixie Motor Speedway in Birch Run.
- Reduced rates for both MCGA golf outings. The Thumb Area Golf Outing will be held this year in Port Austin on Aug. 10, 2011 at the Bird Creek Golf Club and the Central Michigan Golf Outing will be held once again at Centennial Acres, Inc. in Sunfield on Aug. 17, 2011.
- A quarterly MCGA newsletter.
- The opportunity to apply for a:
 - Rebate and a scholarship for the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).
 - College scholarship for members or children of members.
 - Farm Women’s Symposium scholarship.
 - Great Lakes Leadership Academy Scholarship.

(more)

“With all of the benefits available to MCGA members, now is the time to join the MCGA and become a member of the association that represents the second largest agricultural commodity in Michigan – corn,” stated Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president and corn grower from Portland. “Since the MCGA is a grassroots organization, its greatest strength is in numbers. Each corn grower in Michigan plays an important role in educating their legislators about our industry. Their voices and their membership are of vital importance to the state association and to the corn industry.”

Membership in the MCGA is \$60 for one-year, \$155 for three-years, or \$500 for a lifetime. Students in an accredited agricultural program are eligible for a one-year membership in the MCGA for \$20. As a member of the MCGA, you also automatically become a member of the NCGA.

For more information on becoming a member of the MCGA or on the membership benefits offered, contact the MCGA at 1-888-323-6601 or visit www.micorn.org.

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 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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