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### **Corn Farmers Coalition Provides Facts on Modern Family Farms**

LANSING, MICH. – Leaders in Washington D.C. will not be able to forget about the country’s more than 300,000 corn farmers this summer, thanks to the return of the Corn Farmers Coalition. Beginning in June, the Corn Farmers Coalition will descend upon our nation’s capitol for the second year with a major educational program aimed at policymakers and opinion leaders who affect the fate of America’s family corn farmers.

“The vast majority of farms in America, and 95 percent of corn farms specifically, continue to be family owned and operated ventures. They aren’t some myth, but are a critical economic engine that provides most of the food, feed and fiber produced in this country,” said Clark Gerstacker, president of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) and a corn farmer from Midland. “This awareness is important to our survival. With more than 11,000 corn farmers here in Michigan, this campaign is especially important to the growers in our state.”

The CMPM is proud to partner with thirteen other state corn organizations, as well as the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) to support the Corn Farmers Coalition program to introduce a foundation of facts seen as essential to decision making, rather than directly influencing legislation and regulation.

“Our mission is to put a face on today’s family farmers, showcase the productivity and environmental advances being made in the industry, provide factual information on how innovative and high-tech corn farmers have become,” said Darrin Ihnen, president of the NCGA and a corn farmer from South Dakota. “This is a corn farmer image effort designed to educate thought leaders in Washington D.C. When all the business news out there seems to be negative, corn farmers have a great story to tell.”

The Corn Farmers Coalition will launch a major advertising campaign on June 1 that will put prominent facts about family farmers in Capital Hill publications, radio, frequently used web sites, the Metro and Reagan National Airport. The program, which puts a focus on family farmers telling their story, will continue until Congress recesses in August.

“Washington D.C. needs to know corn farmers are using some of the most advanced technologies on the planet to do more with less — to grow more corn using fewer resources every year,” said Mark K. Lambert, director of the Corn Farmers Coalition. “American corn farmers, the majority of them small family businesses, are among the most productive in the world.”

The coalition will meet with media, members of Congress, environmental groups and others to talk about what’s ahead: how U.S. farmers, using the latest technologies, will continue to expand yields and how this productivity can be a bright spot in an otherwise struggling economy. For more information or to view the CFC ads go to: [www.cornfarmerscoalition.org](http://www.cornfarmerscoalition.org).

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. Michigan’s corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state’s economy annually and in 2009, Michigan’s corn farmers harvested a record setting crop of more than 309 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).