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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 spring, the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is working on their behalf to protect their interests in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

“We understand that 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 that even during these busy times, they can feel confident that 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:

- Protecting the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) as Michigan’s legislators begin working on the state budget.
- Extending the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit (VEETC), which is the blenders credit petroleum blenders receive for utilizing ethanol.
- Ensuring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses a transparent and science-based process when reviewing Atrazine.

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.
- Free attendance to the MCGA Annual Meeting, which will be held on Feb. 1, 2011 at Thomas M. Cooley Law School Temple Conference Center in Lansing.
- A free ticket to Ethanol Night at the Races.
- Reduced rates for two MCGA Golf Outings.
- A quarterly MCGA newsletter.
- The opportunity to apply for a:
  - Rebate and a scholarship for the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).
  - College scholarship. Children of members are also eligible to apply.
  - 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 Ed Breitmeyer, MCGA president and corn grower from Buckley. “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 being offered, contact the MCGA at 1-888-323-6601 or visit [www.micorn.org](http://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. 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 CPM at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).

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