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## **Record Meat Exports Benefit Corn Industry**

### **Michigan corn growers helping put U.S. meat on the world's table**

LANSING, MI – Beef and pork exports from the United States are on pace to set records in 2011, which is good news for corn farmers across the country. Due to the fact that the livestock sector continues to be the number one consumer of corn and corn co-products, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) partners with the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) to help increase worldwide demand for U.S. beef, pork, veal and lamb.

In 2010, approximately 77 million bushels of Michigan corn and 513,000 metric tons of dried distillers grains (DDGs), a co-product of ethanol production, were fed to livestock in-state. In addition, much of Michigan's corn and DDGs were fed to livestock in other states. Since livestock is vital to Michigan's corn farmers and consumption of meat in the United States has decreased in recent years, the CMPM board feels it is important to support the livestock industry by creating and maintaining export markets for U.S. meat. The CMPM is proud to support the USMEF and its mission of "Putting U.S. Meat on the World's Table."

The USMEF is a trade association responsible for the development of international markets for the U.S. beef, pork, veal and lamb industries, and works with export companies to see that products reach international consumers. The USMEF is funded through various check-off programs like the CMPM; other contributors, such as promotional partnerships with grocery stores and restaurants; and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Just as a flourishing livestock industry is crucial to corn farmers, the international meat trade is essential to U.S. livestock producers. Annually, 27 percent of domestic pork production is exported while 14 percent of total beef production is exported. In 2011, fresh and frozen exports of pork will exceed the domestic consumption of these products.

"Last year, the U.S. exported nearly \$4.1 billion worth of beef products and nearly \$4.8 billion worth of pork products, both of which were increases over the previous year," said Jody Pollok-Newsom, Executive Director of the CMPM. "For corn producers, the growth in the export markets for beef and pork means potential market opportunities for increased feed sales to these producers. As the world population has now topped seven billion people, we, the United States, needs to be ready to feed that growing population and exporting corn through meat is a great way to do it."

The United States is on pace to break the \$5 billion mark for both beef and pork exports this year which would be the first time in history that both meats have reached that mark. The USMEF has played a very important role in increasing these export markets. According to an independent analysis by Dr. Harry Kaiser of Cornell University, the USMEF's export programs resulted in average annual increases in net revenue of \$46.3 million and \$85.7 million to the beef and pork industries, respectively. The analysis also showed that each dollar invested in the USMEF generates median net returns of \$3.87 for the beef industry and \$7.42 for the pork industry. With amazing results like this the CMPM is glad to be part of an organization that will continue to help the American livestock industry thrive for many years to come.

*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 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).*

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