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Corn Grower Membership Reaches Record High

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA), the statewide membership organization representing Michigan’s corn farmers, reported today that membership has reached an all-time high and has more than doubled in the past ten years with 510 members in 2001 and approximately 1,060 members today.

“Michigan corn growers understand the value of association membership,” said Jeff Sandborn, MCGA president and corn grower from Portland. “Members know that even during these hectic harvest times, they can feel confident their voices will be heard and their interests will be guarded on 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 in Washington, D.C. every day. Michigan has strengthened its legislative presence by adding a policy director to staff who focuses on both statewide and national issues.

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

- Ford Motor Company vehicle discounts through the Ford X-Plan.
- Discounts at Dell computers and 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.
- Discounts on natural gas through Volunteer Energy.
- Discounts on home services through Connect Your Home.
- Free or reduced entry fees to special membership events throughout the year.
- 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.

“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,” said Ed Brietmeyer, MCGA recruitment committee chair 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. Through their

membership and activities, our members unified voice and actions 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 membership. 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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