



13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Ste 5
Lansing, MI 48906

For Immediate Release
October 14, 2011

Contact: Jody Pollok-Newsom
Phone: (517) 490-0280

Collegiate Corn Helping Build Ag Leaders of Tomorrow

LANSING, MI. – The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is proud to announce an innovative young-leaders program, Collegiate Corn, for students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at Michigan State University. The program is open to all CANR students interested in the agriculture industry who would like to network with industry leaders and participate in fun, educational agricultural events.

With the MCGA's strong focus on corn-friendly legislation, regulations and policy, there are numerous opportunities for Collegiate Corn members to speak with legislators and their staffs about issues facing the industry. This may include legislative visits with our growers and staff in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

"We are very excited about this new young leader program and are looking forward to working with college students who have a strong interest in learning about, and promoting, the agricultural industry," said Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Corn executive director. "Through this program, Michigan Corn will also introduce our student members to the legislative process of a grassroots organization."

Numerous membership events throughout the year will give members the opportunity to network with industry leaders and participate in a new mentoring program. In addition, one Collegiate Corn participant will be chosen to take part in the MCGA's Board of Directors as an ex-officio member, and attend meetings as a representative of the student members.

"The students who have a passion for the positive promotion of agriculture are our future," said Nikki Beattie, MCGA Membership Coordinator. "Collegiate Corn gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge and develop their interests through different activities and events."

Collegiate Corn will be hosting a kick-off meeting on Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in room 2315 Anthony Hall on the MSU campus. Members will learn about the organization while enjoying pizza. Following the meeting, the staff will take participants to a local corn maze for an evening of fun.

If you have further questions or would like more information regarding Collegiate Corn, please contact the MCGA Membership Coordinator, Nikki Beattie, at nbeattie@micorn.org or at (888) 323-6601.

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 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.

#AM#

