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## **Corn Marketing Program Extends Request for Research Proposals**

LANSING, MICH. – Do you know what biodegradable plastics, clothing, bedding, packing material and no sodium salt all have in common? They can all be made from corn and were started as research projects funded by the state’s corn farmers through the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM).

Research is an integral part of the CMPM. State farmer dollars invested in corn research have already resulted in the development of corn-based products such as carpeting, fabrics, and plastics that replace petroleum-based products. In addition to replacing petroleum-based products, corn can be developed into pharmaceuticals and salt substitutes. Additional products can also be made from ethanol processing because of past corn research investments.

Research requests for proposals (RFP) are distributed to parties interested in advancing Michigan’s corn industry through the development of new and improved markets through innovative production practices and enhancing traditional markets such as livestock. In addition to funding research in-state, the CMPM partners with other corn growing states to fund large-scale national projects too large for an individual state to fund.

The CMPM and MCGA focus on two areas when evaluating research proposals:

- The development of processes adding value to Michigan corn through new markets or advancements in traditional markets, such as the livestock industry.
- Innovative production techniques and environmentally-sound practices that enhance productivity.

“We focus on projects that will increase corn markets and potentially increase the profitability of Michigan corn farmers,” said Clark Gerstacker, CMPM president, National Corn Growers Association Corn Board member and a corn farmer from Midland. “The next big breakthrough could very well come from the CMPM research completed this year.”

Preliminary proposals are due to the CMPM on November 4, 2011. The projects that receive funding will be announced in late January 2012. For additional information on the research RFP, visit [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) or contact the CMPM office at 1-888-323-6601.

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](http://www.micorn.org).

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