



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

For Immediate Release  
September 9, 2011

Contact: Jody Pollok-Newsom  
Phone: (517) 668-2676

### **‘Tis the Season for Corn Mazes**

LANSING, MICH. – As the leaves begin to change color and the cooler weather moves in, one of America’s favorite pastimes is just around the corner: attending corn mazes. Here in Michigan, we recognize this good, old-fashioned fun during the fall season and are excited to share the many opportunities available to attend corn mazes throughout the state.

The first corn maze was created in the early 1990s in the United States and due to the increasing popularity, Corn Maze America estimated that there were more than 800 corn mazes across the country in 2008. Corn mazes are created using a number of different methods. Some farmers use Global Positioning Systems (GPS), which utilize satellites to help pinpoint their location in the field. Others use simpler grid systems to cut the maze design in the field. Both systems are very effective and provide a spectacular design that visitors of all ages can enjoy.

“Corn mazes are a great way to connect growers with the public, so they can learn about the crops that our members raise,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) executive director. “While thinking about corn and how it impacts our society may not be the first thought visitors have, experiencing all of the wonders that corn offers may help that idea grow and spark more interest for them to learn more about the many uses for corn,” noted Pollok.

From the most southern part of Michigan to the bridge by Mackinac, there is a corn maze near you. This year, there are more than forty corn mazes spread across the state offering fun for the whole family. Many of these corn mazes are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the week and have extended hours on the weekend. The corn maze season generally runs from September 1 until late November. For a complete list of corn maze locations near you, visit [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).

In addition to all of the fun that you can have getting lost in corn mazes, several mills, orchards, and farms offer other fun activities to partake in after successfully navigating through the maze. Activities such as picking your own apples, pumpkins and gourds, sipping cider and enjoying a freshly baked donut are always hits.

“Attending a corn maze helps create a bond between the public and the corn grower because the grower is able to answer questions about corn and what they do on their farm allowing for a fun, educational experience for visitors,” said Pat Feldpausch, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) president and a corn grower from Fowler.

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 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).

