



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

For Immediate Release  
July 17, 2009

Contact: Betsy Braid  
Phone: (517) 668-2676

### **Michigan's Corn Growers Visit Capitol Hill to Discuss Corn**

LANSING, MICH. – Michigan corn growers joined their fellow corn growers from across the United States in Washington, D.C. to help shape the future of their national association and the U.S. corn industry at the 2009 Corn Congress. Corn growers converged on Capitol Hill to meet with their state's legislators and set priorities for the corn industry.

The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) held this year's second session of Corn Congress in Washington, D.C. on July 15 and 16. Delegates from across the nation met to shape the future of the NCGA and the U.S. corn industry by updating the association's policy and visiting with legislators. Delegates elected new members to the NCGA Corn Board and voted on policy issues to guide the national organization. Delegates representing the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) were MCGA board member Earl Collier of Allegan, MCGA president Tom Durand of Crosswell, and NCGA Board Member and Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) president Clark Gerstacker of Midland, CMPM vice president and MCGA board member Brian Kreps of LaSalle, MCGA board member Scott Lonier of Lansing, MCGA board member Scott Miller of Elsie, and MCGA Treasurer Jeff Sandborn of Portland.

"Corn Congress provides Michigan corn growers with a great opportunity to offer input on national policy," said Durand. "We met and discussed important issues with our counterparts from across the nation and helped shape NCGA's top priorities for the coming year."

Corn growers from all over the United States converged on Capitol Hill to meet with their state's legislators. The Michigan delegation visited the offices of all 17 Michigan legislators as they canvassed Capitol Hill. The growers discussed pressing issues facing today's corn industry regarding the food and fuel debate, ethanol production, Farm Bill implementation, corn production and availability and new uses for Michigan's corn crop.

"Visiting with our legislators gave our growers the perfect opportunity to educate Michigan's Congressional delegation about the issues affecting Michigan's corn industry," Durand explained. "As growers, our voices must be heard on every issue. Events such as Corn Congress give us a vehicle to express our ideas and concerns to other states' corn growers and to our legislators. We are in the midst of a media campaign against ethanol and it was important for our legislators to know the importance of our corn markets and our dedication to have enough corn to not only feed the nation's livestock, but also to provide food, fuel and fiber for our country as well."

Headquartered in Lansing, the MCGA is a grassroots-membership association representing the state's corn growers' political interests. Since the 1970s, the MCGA has been looking out for the state's corn growers and working to keep them on the cutting edge. The MCGA works cooperatively with the CMPM, a legislatively-established program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold and invests in research, education, market development, and new uses. For more information, visit the website of MCGA and CMPM at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).