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### **Michigan's Farmers Offer "Free Groceries for a Year!"**

*Promotion has launched at [www.FarmersFeedUS.org](http://www.FarmersFeedUS.org)*

**Lansing, Mich. (Nov. 20, 2009)** – Whoever said there's no such thing as a free lunch has never met Michigan's farmers! In fact, Michigan's farmers are offering the chance for consumers statewide to win free groceries for breakfast, lunch, and dinner – for an entire year!

Michigan residents can register for the chance to win one of three grand prizes of "Free Groceries for a Year!"\* courtesy of Michigan's farmers at [www.FarmersFeedUS.org](http://www.FarmersFeedUS.org). Upon visiting the website, consumers will be able to meet each of 10 Michigan farmers and learn how they grow safe, nutritious and affordable food. Consumers can then register with each of those farmers daily through the end of the 90-day program on Feb. 12.

"As Michigan farmers, we're thrilled to offer free groceries for a year to the consumers of our great state," said Clark Gerstacker, a corn farmer from Midland, who is a featured farmer on [FarmersFeedUS.org](http://FarmersFeedUS.org). "This is an opportunity for us to share what we grow with Michigan consumers and let them know we share their values - taking care of our families, taking care of our animals and land, and giving back to our communities."

The website features apple, cattle, corn, dairy, egg, hog, vegetable, sheep, and soybean farmers from across the state, with each farmer sharing information about his or her farm and family. In addition to guiding visitors through their registration for free groceries for a year, each farmer also offers a brief online tour of his or her farm. "I'm proud about how farmers from our state grow food," said Gerstacker, who is also a National Corn Growers Association Corn Board member. "I want to show people how today's farms operate." Featured farmers include:

- Jennifer Bixby, apple farmer, Berrien Springs
- Bret Schapman, cattle farmer, Romeo
- Clark Gerstacker, corn farmer, Midland
- Jennifer Lewis, dairy farmer, Jonesville
- Annie Link, dairy farmer, Alto
- Harry Herbruck, egg farmer, Saranac
- Dave Cheney, hog farmer, Mason
- Jason Ruhlig, vegetable farmer, Carleton
- Scott Oswalt, sheep farmer, Vicksburg
- Ed Cagney, soybean farmer, Scotts

Throughout the course of the 90-day campaign, consumers throughout the state will also see and hear from these farmers as they are featured in advertising, and in-store promotions. Consumers will even have the opportunity to interact with these and other Michigan farmers on their blogs and Facebook pages.

Participating Michigan agriculture groups include the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, Dairy Farmers of America, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Hamilton Farm Bureau, Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Michigan Apple Committee, Michigan Beef Industry Commission, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, West Michigan Ag Alliance, and 30 county Farm Bureaus from across the state.

\*Based on Food Marketing Institute, a \$5,000 value.

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The Center for Food Integrity is a not-for-profit corporation established to build consumer trust and confidence in the contemporary U.S. food system. Our members, who represent every segment of the food system, are committed to providing accurate information and addressing important issues among all food system stakeholders. The Center does not lobby or advocate for individual food companies or brands. For more information, visit [www.foodintegrity.org](http://www.foodintegrity.org).

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. For more information on the CMPM and the MCGA, visit the web site at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).