



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

For Immediate Release
October 26, 2009

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

Spartan Fans Learn About Corn Heat During Pre-Game Tailgate

LANSING, MICH. – Michigan State University (MSU) Spartan fans will be able to learn about keeping warm even with Michigan’s brisk weather this fall thanks to America’s renewable resource – Corn.

During the final four MSU home football games, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) will partner with Universal Grain Burner in Farwell and Wood & Sons Corn Bin in Williamston to heat the WJR broadcast tent. WJR broadcasters will be kept warm using heat from corn stoves, while also educating Spartan fans and visitors about the benefits of heating with corn. Corn heating units provide an economical, environmentally-friendly heat to keep visitors cozy throughout the three-hour events.

The units will be on hand to educate game attendees about corn heat. Corn heating units include stoves, furnaces or boilers which generate heat from burning corn kernels. Although these units are similar to wood-burning stoves, they are designed to burn a dry, granular fuel, such as shelled corn. Some units are truly multi-fuel or biomass units and can burn other fuels in addition to corn, such as pellets, nutshells, small wood chips, and other small grains like rye, wheat, and barley.

“Heating the tent is a great opportunity for us to showcase the fact that corn can be utilized for a multitude of uses, including heating purposes,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) executive director. “Michigan’s farmers have long had the tradition of feeding our nation and are now able to provide heat through the use of corn heating units.”

Corn heating units can be used for a variety of heating purposes. Corn can take the place of other heating sources that have been used in the past, such as electricity, propane, heating oil, natural gas, or wood. In fact, on a BTU basis, one bushel of corn is equal to five gallons of propane. Based on calculations done by Dr. Chris Schilling, professor of Mechanical Engineering at Saginaw Valley State University who has done extensive research on corn stove efficiency, in October 2009 when the price of corn was \$3.20 a bushel “...an average 2,000 square foot home would require approximately 220 bushels of corn a year, costing roughly \$875 annually. Compare that cost to \$2,612 for electricity priced at \$0.1044 per kilowatt or \$2,376 for propane at \$2.17 per gallon. Using corn as a heat source makes economic sense and could save up to \$2,000 a year on a heating bill.”

In addition to being economically viable, corn heating units are also environmentally friendly. “By using corn for heating purposes, we can help to decrease our use of fossil fuels. As forests, oil and other energy sources are being depleted; corn is replenished annually and makes an alternative heat source that is renewable year after year,” added Pollok Newsom. “Michigan’s corn farmers are once again expecting to grow and harvest a very large crop of more than 295 million bushels. The crop will be more than enough to meet the feed, fuel and energy needs of our consumers.”

(more)

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.

#TS#