

The official publication for members of the Michigan Corn Growers Association

Spring 2013

# A Word from the Executive Director

# RFS: How Ethanol Gallons and RIN Credits Work Together to Meet the Standard

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requires that petroleum blenders must use a certain amount of renewable fuels in their petroleum products. For the 2013 calendar year, petroleum blenders must blend 13.8 billion gallons of renewable fuels with their petroleum-based fuel. The RFS is the vehicle that allows the ethanol industry access into the motor fuels market. Without the RFS, the likelihood of ethanol being blended would be very slim.



Jim Zook

Because the RFS is in place, the fuel blenders are required to use a competitive product like ethanol or soy oil. Now, if you are a business person and were told you have to supplement a competitive product in place of the one you produce, I am sure that would not make you very happy either. So, while the RFS does require the petroleum companies to buy a competitive product, there are mechanisms in place to supplement the actual product by using credits. The use of credits was initiated for times like last year, where there was a short crop, and ultimately, a short supply of ethanol. These credits are referred to as Renewable Identification Numbers or RIN credits. Every gallon of ethanol or soy oil for the fuels market is sold with a RIN credit attached to that purchased gallon. If a company needs to have 100 million gallons of ethanol then they will either buy 100 million gallons of ethanol or use, or purchase, RIN credits to meet its obligations. Companies who buy more than what is required may also carry over to the next year up to 20 percent of excess credits from the previous year. They are then required to use those credits by the end of February.

The most familiar way for most of us to understand these RIN credits is by comparing them to the frequent flyer miles or customer reward points we receive for the purchases we make. You receive a certain amount of points or credits for no additional costs from the purchases you make. Again those points or credits are at no cost to you and redeemed for future flights or products from those stores.

# The 2013 RIN Market

So, what happened this year? And, why did the RIN credit value increase from 5 cents to over 1 dollar? Well because the 2012 drought spiked U.S. corn prices, many ethanol plants were dealt negative margins, thus slowing or ceasing production. This has resulted in speculation that there will not be enough ethanol produced to meet the 13.8 billion gallon requirement in the RFS. Current projections are for a production amount of 12 billion gallons, but as you know, this could change in a matter of weeks if profitability returns to the ethanol producers. Remember, I said petroleum companies can carry over 20 percent of RIN credits and there are over 2 billion RINS available for 2013, so really there is no issue. The increase in the RIN value probably was driven by one or two blenders who were nervous about ethanol's annual production for 2013.

The last fact: The RIN value increase was for 5 million gallons or .03% of last year's production. Amazing how the media exploded this to make people think it was on all of the production gallons.

As Paul Harvey would say, "and now you know the rest of the story."

# **INSIDE**

Corn on the Hill2
Ag Day at the Capitol3
National Corn Yield Contest 4
Commodity Classic5
Annual Meeting Wrap-Up 6 - 7
MCGA Scholarship8
U.S. Grains Council9
Membership Information10
T-shirt Contest 11



# Corn on the Hill

# National Legislation

# Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)

Now that you have some background about how the RFS and RIN credits work, why is this important to you? The ethanol industry is under attack to have the entire RFS standard eliminated, and the antiethanol groups have used everybody in the industry to get the standard removed. Fortunately it has not been successful. If they are successful in eliminating the RFS, there will be a decrease in the price of corn. Remember what I said earlier about the petroleum industry being forced to buy a competitive product to use in lieu of their own? If successful they will stop blending ethanol, change their refineries and go back to using 100% petroleum products with smaller amounts of oxygenates.

The take-home message is that the RFS is under attack, and the attacks will continue throughout the year. The ethanol industry was put on notice by the petroleum industry with their intentions to repeal the RFS, and it has proven true. So you need to make sure and call your Congress person and Senator with this message: "Don't Mess with the RFS."

# Farm Bill 2.0

Yes, it seems like the education never ceases, but the need to communicate the necessity of getting a Farm Bill passed will continue this year. We are hopeful that cooler heads will prevail this year, but who knows with the dysfunction in D.C. We will continue to keep you posted, but believe this will again take a back seat to all of the other issues facing the country. Senator Stabenow will continue to push the bill forward and look for avenues and openings to move it to the floor in both chambers.

# State Legislation

The water withdrawal dispute bill is one that we are monitoring, and are a part of a large group of influencers to make sure that you, the producer, have protection if there is ever a claim against you. The bill provides a pathway to resolve issues without going through litigation. The process would be similar to other complaints the Department of Ag receives and their method in determining who is at fault. The intent is to get something passed before irrigation units have to start running

Transportation bills are on our watch list and we are making sure that funding for our infrastructure is crafted in a way that all users of transportation are paying their way. As we have new methods -- whether it be electric, natural gas, ships, barges or other means – we must have the resources to keep the roads, rails, ports and airways available to our products. Whether we process our grains in-state or export them, all forms of transportation are going to be necessary for us to remain competitive.

Fixing and building out our water transportation system will be critical to our long-term success. Additionally, we are keeping abreast of our ballast water issues. This is critical to having our lakers and, hopefully someday, larger ships come in to ship our grains out and our fertilizer inputs in. Senator Mike Green is the leader on this issue and you need to let him know your opinion.

# **E15 Fact or Fiction**

So what is this E-15 fuel that I keep hearing about, is it bad for my car? AAA says it is bad for my car so it must be. I hear that if I use it I will have to use another product to prevent its corrosive nature, is this true?

Fiction: AAA has referred to a study that says ethanol blended fuels will damage your engine. E-15 is a fuel that contains up to 15% ethanol in its mix.

The study cited by AAA was conducted on Fact: just eight engines with less than 25,000 miles total -- and the vehicles were known to have issues on regular gasoline as well as, not just with blended fuels. This very limited study proves nothing since these motors failed on both fuels. In reality, E-15 is the most tested fuel in EPA history with tests totaling millions of miles using 87 different motors and varying conditions. EPA did grant E-15 use to 2001 and newer vehicles. They did not go back further because of the variability in vehicle miles, usage patterns and maintenance history. They did exempt small motors, power,

**Fiction:** I will have to use an additive to prevent engine damage.

marine and recreation as well.

Fact: No additional additives are needed. The fuel does not damage your engine in vehicles 2001 and newer as the EPA test has proven.

Fiction: Gas prices are going to go up because the value of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINS) has increased almost 20 times.

Blenders have two options to meet the blending requirements in the Renewable Fuel Standard: 1) actually buy ethanol and blend it, or 2) use RIN credits. Acceptance and usage of E-15 would help each blender achieve their required blending amount. Run up in RIN pricing is strictly speculative for what may happen in the future. If they would buy the ethanol and pay a fair price as compared to gasoline, then the shuttered ethanol plants would come back online and produce enough to meet the current RFS requirement.

Page 2 Spring 2013



# **Priority and Policy Conference**

Four Michigan Corn Growers Association members represented Michigan's interests recently at the 2013 National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Priority and Policy Conference in St. Louis.

CMPM vice president Mark Kies of Allen; MCGA president Scott Lonier of Lansing; MCGA secretary Alvin Ferguson of Allenton; and Michigan Corn's Executive Director Jim Zook met with farmers from across the country to draft, discuss and debate national corn priorities and policies for 2014.

The precedence set at the 2013 NCGA Priority and Policy Conference will provide direction to the NCGA throughout the year and will affect the more than 38,000 corn grower members from across the nation. Each state offered its 2014 priority areas, with



Mark Kies (left), CMPM vice president, and Scott Lonier (right), MCGA president, present Michigan's priorities at the annual Policy and Priority conference.

Michigan's top priorities being: 1) The Farm Bill, focusing on crop insurance and risk management tools to provide revenue protection; 2) Defend the Renewable Fuel Standard; 3) Transportation – railroads, locks and dams, etc.; 4) Environmental Regulations – water quality, hypoxia, tiling and wetland; and 5) Communications – Image and Activism.

It is crucial for Michigan's corn growers to have a strong voice at the national level. The conference provides a unique opportunity for small-group discussions since there are just two voting representatives from each state at this conference to discuss proposed policy changes and debate priorities for the nation's 300,000 corn farmers, rather than larger conferences where more than 100 voices might be at the table. Taking part in these smaller-group meetings gives Michigan an equal voice and stronger influence in shaping the future of the corn industry.

Delegates at the meeting also discussed changes to NCGA's 2013 Policy and Position papers. The national policy was voted on by the full delegation during a Corn Congress session held during the Commodity Classic in Kissimmee, Florida, and will be reviewed again this summer at a session in Washington, D. C.

Corn Congress is comprised of 127 corn grower delegates from 27 states, with Michigan having four voting delegates.



Scott Lonier (in green), MCGA president, serves a corn dog to Governor Snyder during Ag Day at the Capitol.

# Ag Day at the Capitol

Michigan agriculture was well represented during the Ag Day at the Capitol celebration held on March 20. MCGA representatives joined other commodity groups to stress the importance of agriculture in the Great Lakes State by providing state lawmakers with food and facts about the industry.

The ninth annual Ag Day at the Capitol united commodities together to educate state lawmakers on how agriculture contributes more than \$91 billion to Michigan's economy and supports more than 920,000 jobs. Currently, agriculture is Michigan's second-leading industry and fifteen percent of jobs in Michigan are agriculture-related. Corn alone adds nearly \$2.3 billion to Michigan's economy annually while Michigan's corn ethanol industry adds more than \$232 million.

"As members of the MCGA, it is important that we inform our

lawmakers on issues affecting the corn industry," said Scott Lonier, a corn grower from Lansing who began his term as MCGA President at the annual meeting in February. "This is our opportunity to provide information regarding the vast potential for corn, not only through livestock feed, but through corn-based products. In an economy that is moving towards bio-based products, it is imperative that corn remains on the cutting edge of the industry and that we inform our lawmakers of our capabilities."

Each year, Ag Day at the Capitol brings together growers from across the state to discuss current agricultural issues with the state's lawmakers and to stress the impact of the agricultural industry on Michigan's economy. In addition to providing information to lawmakers, participating organizations treated legislators to products and food that emphasized each commodity's individual contribution to Michigan's economy.

Spring 2013 Page 3



# **Huron County Corn Growers Hold Annual Meeting**

In mid-March, the Huron County Corn Growers Association brought local corn farmers together for its Annual Meeting where members enjoyed fellowship with neighboring farmers and learned about important issues affecting the county's and Michigan's corn industry. With MCGA Executive Director Jim Zook participating, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the MCGA, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and important state and national legislation.

The MCGA would like to congratulate Tom Ziel from Huron County, who was re-elected to serve as county president. Along with his elected position within the county, Tom also holds a seat on the MCGA board of directors.

Also at the meeting, seven Huron County students were awarded a Huron County Corn Grower Association Scholarship to help with their continuing education. They were Kaitlyn Alexander, Nicole Kent, Allysa Briolet, Eric Koglin, Jed Bushey, Janessa Voelker and Melinda Sweeney.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation by the Laker FFA chapter's Ag Issues team. Recently the team took home the glory of winning the Ag Issues competition at the state FFA convention and to prepare for October's national FFA convention in Louisville, Kentucky they presented their skit at the meeting. All of the members in attendance enjoyed the presentation, and the MCGA wishes them the best of luck at their national competition!

If you would like to start your own county or regional corn grower association, please contact the Michigan Corn office at (888) 323-6601.



The champion Laker FFA Ag Issues team at state FFA convention.

# **Coffee With Corn Meetings**

Over the winter, the MCGA partnered with the Corn Marketing

Program of Michigan (CMPM) to reach more than 150 potential members from around the state at Coffee with Corn Meetings. During these meetings, attendees had the opportunity to hear Executive Director Jim Zook discuss the vital issues affecting the corn industry and receive feedback, as well as learning the importance of membership in the MCGA and the benefits its members receive.

Thank you to the CMPM and MCGA board members who hosted Coffee with Corn meetings this winter: Ed Breitmeyer in Buckley; Richard Dobbins in Albion; and Scott Miller in Elsie. If you would like to host a Coffee with Corn Meeting, or to find out more information about member benefits, please contact the Michigan Corn office at (888) 323-6601.

# **National Corn Yield Contest**

As farmers across the country prepare for planting, the National Corn Growers Association invites our growers to register for NCGA's National Corn Yield Contest early too. Until June 15, growers can take advantage of a special early entry discount, with fees reduced to \$80 until that time.

For access to contest information, contest entry and harvest rules and forms, please visit www.ncga.com and click the "For Farmers" tab. Entry forms are available for download, with submission through traditional mail. In early April, NCGA will roll out an online entry form for those wishing to submit their entry electronically.



For nearly a half century,

NCGA's National Corn Yield Contest has provided corn growers the opportunity to compete with their colleagues to grow the most corn per acre, helping feed and fuel the world. This has given participants not only the recognition they deserved, but the opportunity to learn from their peers.

Winners receive national recognition in publications such as the NCYC Corn Yield Guide, as well as cash trips or other awards from participating sponsoring seed, chemical and crop protection companies. In San Antonio, Texas, during the 2014 Commodity Classic, winners will be honored with national winners receiving awards during the NCGA Awards Banquet.

Page 4 Spring 2013



# **Growers Attend Commodity Classic**

Several Michigan corn growers recently returned from attending the record-setting 2013 Commodity Classic in Kissimmee, Florida. The 18th annual Commodity Classic had more than 6,000 participants from across the nation.

Michigan representatives included: John Burk of Bay City; Dan Cable of Maybee; Matt Cary of Alma; Richard Dobbins of Concord; Tom Durand of Croswell; Pat Feldpausch of Fowler; Alvin Ferguson of Allenton; Philip Gordon of Saline; Tony Igl of Mason; Mark Kies of Allen; Loren Koeman of Grand Rapids; Brian Kreps of LaSalle; Scott Miller of Elsie; Jeff Sandborn of Portland; and Ned Wyse of Camden.

Commodity Classic is the combined annual meeting of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), the American Soybean Association (ASA), the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and the National Sorghum Producers (NSP). Some of the highlights of this year's convention were the general session featuring Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; learning-center sessions on subjects from increasing efficiency to discovering personal influence as a farmer; and an evening of entertainment with a classic rock band.

In addition to the general session, the NCGA held the first of two biannual sessions of the NCGA Corn Congress. At Corn Congress, delegates from state corn organizations voted on policy issues to guide the national organization in the coming year. The second session of Corn Congress will be held this July in Washington, D.C., where delegates will update NCGA policy again, and visit with U.S. lawmakers.



Another highlight for many growers was the large agricultural trade show. This year, the trade show consisted of more than 960 booths, featuring more than 250 companies. On the trade show floor, the latest in equipment and technology were showcased while company representatives met with individual growers to discuss their new products.

MCGA President Scott Lonier said the Classic provides an outstanding combination of educational sessions, issue updates and

WHEAT - FEAST D-9-18-65 + 28% N FIXING BACTERIA Nitrogen Management Tom Warschefsky • Clear Liquid Fertilizer **Regional Director**  Seed Treatments 517.290.3901 **Biologicals** t.war@nobleibo.com **Soil Analysis Foliar Feed** www.CropManagement.us Forage Preservatives The system that more than 300 world. national and state NCGA champions use. **RCS CSP Program Points** Your Great Lakes Area Dealer for 36 Years

Member of the Michigan Farm Bureau and

the Michigan Corn Growers Association

industry interactions to growers from across the country and allows everyone to learn from some of the best and brightest in the industry.

The 2014 Commodity Classic will take place in San Antonio, Texas.



Michigan corn growers listen intently during the Issues Briefing at Commodity Classic.

Spring 2013 Page 5



# **MCGA Annual Meeting Wrap-Up**

By Addison Spolyar, Michigan Corn Intern

The MCGA 2013 Annual Meeting was a great success. More than 130 corn growers, ag industry leaders and legislators gathered in Lansing to discuss corn-related issues, legislation and the future of the industry.

Attendees heard presentations from Pam Johnson, President of the National Corn Growers Association; Tim VandeBunte, President of Konos, Inc.; Derek Bajema, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Coleman Jones, General Motors Biofuel Implementation Manager; and Kenny Wallace, a NASCAR driver who was the keynote speaker. To review these presentations, please visit www.micorn.org/mcga/annual-meeting.



MCGA Annual Meeting highlights (clockwise, from top left) Kenny Wallace, veteran NASCAR driver, served as the keynote speaker; members and guests listening to one of the of the excellent educational speakers; growers meeting with Kenny Wallace; Pam Johnson, NCGA president, talking with a grower; members conversing during the continental breakfast; Representative Tom Leonard speaking with some of his constituents during the lunch roundtable discussions; and Matt Cary and Jeff Sanborn, MCGA board members, talk during a break.

Page 6 Spring 2013

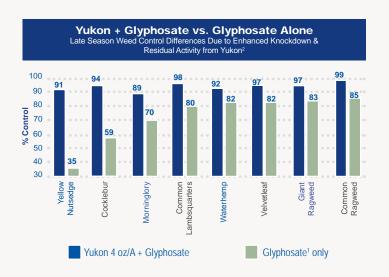
# TOLERANT WEEDS THRIVE

IN SINGLE HERBICIDE PROGRAMS



Yukon Herbicide is the ideal post herbicide tank mix partner

- Two modes-of-action- to manage tolerant weeds
- Yukon removes tough weeds including bindweed, lambsquarter, morningglory, nutsedge and ragweed
- Three modes-of-action when mixed with glyphosate
- Up to 5 weeks of residual control against broadleaf flushes



Don't let weeds compete with your corn or challenge harvest progress Ensure Yukon Herbicide is part of your post corn herbicide plans in 2013



For more information: www.gowanco.com

Rick Cater - (616) 450-2349



# **2013 Annual Meeting Sponsors**

The MCGA would like you to join us in thanking our 2013 Annual Meeting Sponsors. Without the support of dedicated sponsor such as these, we would not be able to provide such successful events. Please consider these sponsors when you are choosing which business to patronize for your farming needs.



# American Coalition for Ethanol

Lacev Dixon (616) 438-5013 ldixon@ethanol.org www.ethanol.org



# **Hudson Insurance Group**

Jim Bennett (309) 212-7124 jbennett@hudsoninsgroup.com www.hudsoninsgroup.com



# **Bailey Financial Solutions**

Bill Bailey (866) 733-8383 bill@retainorgain.com www.retainorgain.com



# Marysville Ethanol

Don Seidl (517) 349-1823 dseidl@marysvilleethanol.com



# Carbon Green BioEnergy

(616) 374-4000 www.cgbioenergy.com



# Michigan Financial Companies

James Itsell (248) 663-4748 jitsell@jhnetwork.com www.michiganfinancial.com



# Conklin AgroVantage Systems

Tom Warschefsky (517) 290-3901 T.war@nobleibo.com www.CropManagement.us



# Michigan Milk Producers Association

Sheila Burkhardt (248) 474-6672 burkhardt@mmilk.com www.mimilk.com



# **Crop Production Services**

Keith Paige (989) 662-0000 www.cpsagu.com



# Monsanto/Dekalb/Asgrow

Doug George (517) 331-5880 Doug.george@monsanto.com



# Dairyland Seed

Gary Freiburger (260) 433-5125 gfreiburger@dairylandseed.com www.dairylandseed.com



# Mycogen Seeds/Dow AgroSciences

Mark Kies (517) 425-6458



### **DuPont Pioneer**

Dave Mason 419-351-3283 Dave.Mason@pioneer.com

Pat Feldpausch Agency (517) 202-5894 patfeldpausch@gmail.com



# Specialty Hybrids

Dan Cable (734) 216-5840 Dan.cable@specialtyhybrids.com

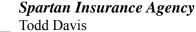
Janna Fritz (989) 550-6245 Janna.fritz@specialtyhybrids.com



### Greenstone Farm Credit Services

(800) 444-3276 www.greenstonefcs.com





(800) 888-2767 tdavis@spartancrop.com



Growth Energy (202) 545-4000 www.growthenergy.org

Thank You!!

Spring 2013 Page 7



# Mark Your Calendar!

Friends of Corn PAC Fundraiser

June 19, 2013 - 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Shady Lodge Farms, Lansing

June 19

MCGA President Scott Lonier will host a PAC event at Shady Lodge Farms in Lansing from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on June 19. You can talk to your local legislator and learn more about critical legislative and policy issues important to Michigan's corn industry. For more information, please call the corn office at (517) 668-2676.

# 2013 Scholarship Winners Announced

The MCGA is proud to announce the recipients of the 2013 MCGA scholarships. The MCGA Scholarship Committee consisting of board members Ed Breitmeyer, MCGA chairman; Alvin Ferguson, MCGA Secretary; and Dan Cable from Maybe, awarded a total of \$9,500 in scholarships this year. Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded an MCGA Scholarship for the 2013/2014 school year:

# **High School Seniors**

- Brandon Bauer, Reese
- Alyssa Briolat, Ubly
- Christin Drozd, Allegan
- Eric Koglin, Port Hope
- · Andrew Rebottaro, Tecumseh
- Tyler Schramski, Kinde
- Morgan Smalley, Ubly

# **College Students**

- Benjamin Blasher, Belding
- Matthew Colvin, Prescott
- Abbey Feldpausch, Fowler
- Karlie Goretski, Kinde
- Garit Hayward, Bay City
- Addison Spolyar, Litchfield
- · Katharine Thelen, St. Johns
- Taylor Truckey, Sherwood

Thank you to all the highly qualified students who applied for the MCGA Scholarships!.

# **New Growers Elected to MCGA Board**

Each year highly qualified corn growers from across the state are chosen to serve on the MCGA board of directors. This year, three current members were re-elected and three members were newly elected to the MCGA board.

Delegates at the MCGA Annual Business Meeting reelected Scott Lonier of Lansing to an at-large position; Tony Igl of Mason to represent District 4; and Dan Cable to represent District 8. Janna Fritz of Pigeon (District) 3), Earl Collier of Allegan (District 6) and Richard P. Dobbins of Concord (District 7) were newly elected to serve on the MCGA board of directors. "I look forward to working with our talented new board members and the entire board to help direct the MCGA during the next year," said Jim Zook, MCGA Executive Director. "The organization will continue to work to improve opportunities for Michigan's corn industry through policy development. We are continuing our work to educate our state's lawmakers about the corn industry and agriculture, which has become more important as consumers get further removed from farming."

The MCGA would also like to thank our parting board members for their years

of service to the board and the Michigan corn industry. Special thanks to Richard Maurer Jr. of Harbor Beach for his service to District 3; Kenneth Blaauw of Shelbyville for serving District 6; and Jim Gillispie of Concord for serving District 7.



Page 8 Spring 2013



# **USGC Mission to China**

The future of agricultural exports to China and success for the corn industry looks promising, according to MCGA Chairman Ed Breitmeyer, who took part in the recent U.S. Grains Council China Corn Harvest Tour. Breitmeyer, a member of the USGC Advisory Board, participated in the fact-finding trip to access the size and quality of China's corn crop and how it might impact the U.S. export market. After the tour, the USGC projected another good Chinese corn crop, driven both by higher yields and an increase in planted acreage.

Breitmeyer, a corn farmer from Buckley, said that providing high-quality grain and high-value export products are two vital components for future success in China to help fill the country's ever-increasing demand for animal feed. He said the huge China market provides a good profit margin for U.S. farmers.

"The U.S. corn industry is in a good position in the area of exports to Asia because China's feed demands and industrial demands are increasing," Breitmeyer said. "The Grains Council trip gave us a firsthand look at how Chinese farmers grow their corn crop and the challenges they face. It also gave us an opportunity to access their future needs. If we know the size of their crop, know their demand and know their corn reserves, we can then predict whether they will be importing corn."

In 2011, China purchased nearly 205 million bushels of corn from the United States, making it the third largest U.S. export market. China's recent emergence as a corn importer has emphasized its role as a key factor in global corn pricing, supply and demand.

The USGC Harvest Tour is comprised of teams of industry experts who visited China's seven top corn production provinces in the North China Plain and Northeast

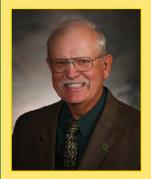


Michigan Corn farmer Ed Breitmeyer examines the corn crop in a Northeast China field during a recent USGC Tour.

China. These account for over 70 percent of China's corn production. In addition to crop conditions, the Council's teams observed increased corn acreage. While some insect and weather damage was apparent, the overall crop looks good, and is expected to again set a Chinese production record.

> The tour included representatives from major grain traders, the Chinese feed industry, U.S. and Chinese market analysts, U.S. corn producers, the U.S. embassy, and USGC staff.

# Breitmeyer Recognized by USGC



Ed Breitmeyer was recognized recently by the U.S. Grains Council for five years of service as a delegate. Breitmeyer was honored at USGC's 10th **International Marketing** Conference and 53rd Annual Membership Meeting in

Charleston, S.C. Since becoming a member, Breitmeyer has attended numerous Council meetings and participated in many hands-on assessments of production, market development and transportation and maintenance issues in other countries. In 2012, Breitmeyer was part of the 16th Annual China Corn Harvest Tour, and in 2011, he joined a similar trip to Panama to examine progress of the Panama Canal expansion. Ed is also an active member of the USGC's Membership and Communications Advisory Team.

# Michigan Pro Ag Team LLC Helping farmers Increase Yields and Profits thru more Efficient Farming

By supplying excellent value, high quality products, and services, plus utilizing a proven farming system.

20 Year Average Yield Increase	
Pure 100% <b>Ortho</b> & other <b>Starter &amp; Foliar Fertilizers</b>	+10.0 bushels
Top quality Nitrogen Stabilizer	+11.3 bushels
Corn Seed Treatment	+8.9 bushels
High potency Soybean Inoculant	+4.1 bushels
Biological Plant <b>Growth Regulators</b> (corn & soybeans)	Corn +8.3 bushels Soys +3.6 bushels
100% EDTA chelated Micro & Secondary Nutrients	More available to the plant

Soil Sampling Services thru Midwest Laboratories. Fertilizer pump and Manifold Systems, Rebounder Seed Covers and Much more!

For more information and a quote, contact:

Michigan Pro Ag Team LLC

Phone: 989.912.0480 • miproagteam@yahoo.com

Spring 2013 Page 9



# A Few of the Member Benefits

### **DISCOUNT PROGRAMS**

- Worldwide Hotel Discount Program Savings may exceed 50% and average 10-20% below best available rates on any hotel.
- Auto Owners Insurance Savings of up to 10% on most policies.
- Cabela's A 10% discount on the purchase of Cabela's gift cards.
- Dell Products Significant discounts on many Dell products that includes a lower price on Dimension and Inspiron Computers when compared to the Home & Home Office pricing.
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Leasing 5% to 10% off rental fees at Enterprise. Members can also lease or purchase vehicles from the Enterprise Fleet Management program with competitive financing and fantastic rates.
- Ford Motor Company Members are eligible for Ford's X-Plan vehicle pricing plan which provides reduced prices on dozens of Ford and Lincoln vehicles.
- Growers National Cooperative (GNC) Members can participate in exclusive benefit opportunities from Hudson Insurance Group and take advantage of other cost-saving programs.
- Office Depot Receive 15% off on 50 office essentials and the three top-selling case paper products; and 15% off a custom list of the items you buy most often. Free next day shipping on orders over \$50.

# **EXCLUSIVE EVENTS**

Student - Any person enrolled as a full-time student.

 Members have access to events at no or reduced cost, such as golf outings, Ethanol Night at the Races, the Annual Meeting, and Commodity Classic.

# Are You a Member?

By Addison Spolyar, Michigan Corn Intern

The membership of the Michigan Corn Growers Association continues to grow, and for good reason. When you become a member of the MCGA you are joining the only grassroots membership organization that focuses solely on the best interests of Michigan's corn producers. MCGA members know that their voices will be heard at both the state and national level regarding legislative and policy issues in Lansing and Washington, D.C. The MCGA is continually striving to improve the profitability of corn production and your operation.

In addition to these benefits we also offer discounts on many services and products exclusive to MCGA members. Opportunities will arise throughout the year to attend various events like our two golf outings, Ethanol Night at the Races and the MCGA Annual Meeting. These events are offered at a reduced rate to our members and are a great chance for you to meet fellow corn growers and our ag industry partners.

Please fill out the application below or visit our website at www.micorn.org or call our office at (517) 668-2676 to join. Our strength is in our numbers. Please join us!



### **MCGA Membership Application** ☐ First-Time Member ☐ Renewal (Membership Number: \_ Farm/Company Name: Recruited By: City, State, Zip: Name: Title: Mobile Phone: Street Address: E-mail Address: Please help us utilize membership dollars wisely and effectively by providing your email address. Home Phone: Membership Type: Payment Options: ☐ Grower Lifetime (\$500) ☐ Associate Lifetime (\$500) ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Visa/MasterCard/Discover ☐ Grower 3-Year (\$155) ☐ Associate 3-Year (\$155) Card Number: ☐ Associate 1-Year (\$60) ☐ Grower 1-Year (\$60) **Expiration Date:** Security Code: month/year 3 Digits ☐ Student 1-Year (\$20) **Grower** - Anyone who derives a portion of their income from corn production. Signature: **Associate** - Ányone who doesn't qualify as a grower member.

Page 10 Spring 2013





# **Ethanol Night at the Races T-shirt Contest**

The MCGA is requesting entries for its 2013 Ethanol Night at the Races T-shirt design contest. Entries will be accepted through June 14, 2013. Designs must be racing, ethanol or field corn-related (not sweet corn). The winning design will be printed on the front of the MCGA's Ethanol Night at the Races T-shirt and will be distributed to more than 1,000 attendees at the racing event. In addition, the winner will receive a \$150 VISA gift card, two free tickets to Ethanol Night at the Races and, of course, a free T-shirt with their design. For official rules and to download an entry form, please visit our web site at www.micorn.org. If you have questions, please contact the Michigan Corn Office at (517) 668-2676.

The 2013 corn check-off referendum passed by overwhelming support and the program will continue for another five years. Thank you to all the farmers who submitted ballots in support of the program; we look forward to making a difference for you in the future.



Corn Marketing Program of Michigan 1-888-323-6601 • www.micorn.org

# MCGA Board of Directors and Staff

District 1 Ed Breitmeyer, Buckley

District 2 Matt Cary, Alma

District 3 Janna Fritz, Pigeon

Matt Frostic, Applegate

District 4 Tony Igl, Mason

Mike Turner, Williamston

District 5 Alvin Ferguson, Allenton (Secretary/Treasurer)

District 6 Earl Collier, Allegan

Loren Koeman, Hamilton (Vice President)

District 7 Richard Dobbins, Concord

Ned Wyse, Camden

District 8 Dan Cable, Monroe

Phil Gordon, Saline

At-Large Scott Lonier, Lansing (President)

Scott Miller, Elsie

Jeff Sandborn, Portland (Chairman)

### **Industry Representatives**

John DiMartini, The Andersons, Inc.

Dr. Kelvin Grant, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

### **County Presidents**

Clinton Russell Braun, Ovid Hillsdale Mark Kies, Allen Huron Tom Ziel, Pigeon Brian Kreps, LaSalle Monroe Saginaw Don Morse, Birch Run Sanilac Paul Gerstenberger, Snover

### **Ex-Officios**

Pat Feldpausch, CMPM President

Dr. James Kells, Michigan State University

### Staff

Jim Zook, Executive Director

Kay Barclay, Accountant & Office Administrator

Dennis Raymo, Communications Director

Natalie Rector, Research Coordinator

Theresa Sisung, Advocacy & Outreach Director

Addison Spolyar, Intern

Penni Sweeney, Membership & Events Coordinator



# **Michigan Corn Growers Association**

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

1.888.323.6601 • www.micorn.org

Spring 2013 Page 11



PRST STD U S POSTAGE PAID PERMIT # 108 LANSING MI

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# **Friends of Corn PAC Fundraiser**

June 19 - 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Shady Lodge Farms, Lansing

# Ag Expo

July 16 - 18

Michigan State University, East Lansing

# **Central Michigan Golf Outing**

August 6
Centennial Acres, Sunfield

# **Thumb Area Golf Outing**

August 14
Verona Hills Golf Club, Bad Axe

# **Ethanol Night at the Races**

September 7
Dixie Motor Speedway, Birch Run

# HOSTS WANTED

The MCGA is looking for growers who would be willing to host an event during the month of August that would bring local legislators out to the farm. We are looking for farms throughout the state so that we can expose as many legislators as possible to modern farms.

If you are interested in hosting an event, please call the corn office at (517) 668-2676.

