

NEWS RELEASE



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Agri-Growth Council Holds 43rd Annual Meeting Energizing the Food and Agriculture Industry for the Challenge of Feeding the World

*The Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference attracted over 400 attendees with speakers ranging from U.S. Senator Klobuchar, Dr. Stephen Padgette the co-inventor of Roundup Ready® technology and Scott Kilman the co-author of *Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*.*

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 12, 2010) — The 43rd Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (Agri-Growth) Annual Meeting, held on Nov. 4 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, focused on contemporary issues facing the food and agriculture industry. The event's theme, *AgriCulture*, highlighted the history of agriculture and food production, where agriculture is today and what the industry can expect moving forward. Speakers and panelists addressed the theme through the lens of four key pillars: Global, Policy, Technology and Business. The meeting drew 400 farm, agribusiness, and food industry leaders, congressional and legislative leaders, academics, and trade media. Additional information, including event footage, is available here: http://www.agrigrrowth.org/Annual_meeting.html

Following a brief morning member's meeting with officer reports and elections, **State Economist Dr. Thomas Stinson** and **State Demographer Dr. Thomas Gillaspay** spoke on the economic and demographic factors affecting Minnesota. **Dr. Michael Swanson**, Chief Agricultural Economist at **Wells Fargo** followed with a presentation on the consequences of economic volatility. These morning presentations focusing on macroeconomics set a baseline for the audience relative to the economy and the forecast for food and farm production.

During the luncheon program, attendees applauded Minnesota Department of Agriculture **Commissioner Gene Hugoson**, as he was chosen for the 2010 Agri-Growth Council Distinguished Service Award winner. **Dr. Allen Levine**, Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, **University of Minnesota** and **Dr. Marla Spivak**, Distinguished McKnight Professor, **University of Minnesota**, and **MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award recipient** spoke at the luncheon. A keynote presentation followed, given by **U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar**.

Leading the afternoon session presentations was **Mr. Scott Kilman**, Reporter, **Wall Street Journal**, and Co-author of *Enough – Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*. The program ended with a keynote panel including **Secretary Dan Glickman**, Senior Fellow, **Bipartisan Policy Center**, **Chris Policinski**, CEO, **Land O'Lakes**, **Dr. Stephen Padgette**, VP and Global Biotechnology Lead, **Monsanto**, and **Ambassador Kenneth Quinn**, President, **World Food Prize Foundation**, who addressed four pillars of the food and agriculture industry: policy, business, technology and global, respectively. **Kerri Miller**, **Minnesota Public Radio** moderated the panel discussion. Facilitated by audience questions, the panel joined in an energizing and candid discussion about how each pillar of the industry will grow in the future and how the industry can use its strengths to feed a growing population.

Note: Video of the day and presentation slides can be found at the Agri-Growth website: http://agrigrrowth.org/Annual_meeting.html Contact Krystal at kcaron@agrigrrowth.org to obtain photos of the event.

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (www.agrigrrowth.org) is an advocate for the state's food and agriculture industry. Founded in 1968, the Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents the shared interests of its 200-plus members, which include food and agriculture businesses, organizations and producers, as well as the service industries that support them.

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