

NEWS RELEASE



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AGRI-GROWTH COUNCIL ANNOUNCES BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2012

Minnesota Agri-Growth Council membership voted to elect four current directors and three new directors.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 22, 2011) – The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, a nonpartisan advocacy organization for Minnesota’s vast agriculture and food industry, re-elected four directors to its 25-member board. In addition, three new directors were appointed to fill three open seats. The directors were elected during Agri-Growth’s Annual Members meeting on November 16 held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The re-elected directors include:

- Mike Zumwinkle, Director of Government Relations, Cargill Inc. (*Agri-Growth Vice President*)
- Steven Krikava, Director of Government Relations, Land O’Lakes (*Agri-Growth Treasurer*)
- Mark Davis, CEO, Davisco Foods International, Inc.
- Mike Helgeson, CEO, GNP Company

The newly elected directors include:

- Linda Tank, VP of Marketing and Communications, CHS, Inc.
- Kate Leavitt, Director of International Sales and Marketing, SunOpta Grains and Foods Group
- Steve Peterson, Director of Sourcing Sustainability and CSR, General Mills

The 25-member board governs the Agri-Growth Council, representing the diversity of Minnesota’s food and agriculture industry, including ex-officio representation from leadership at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council board of directors for 2012 is as follows:

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| Kristin Weeks Duncanson | Duncanson Growers | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Chair |
| Mike Zumwinkle | Cargill | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Vice Chair |
| Jim Winter | Ecolab | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Secretary |
| Steve Krikava | Land O’Lakes | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Treasurer |
| Joe Swedberg | Hormel Foods | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Immediate Past Chair |
| Jack Bernens | Syngenta Seeds, Inc. | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Mark Davis | Davisco Foods | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Paul DeBriyn | AgStar Financial Services | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Immediate Past Chair |
| Randy Doyal | Al-Corn Clean Fuel | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Meg Freking | New Fashion Pork | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Tim Gerlach | Minnesota Corn Growers Association | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Roger Gilland | Gilland Feedlots Inc. | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Mike Helgeson | GNP Company | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Dave Frederickson | Minnesota Department of Agriculture | Ex-officio, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Jerry Larson | Larson Farms | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Kate Leavitt | SunOpta Grains and Foods Group | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Dr. Allen Levine | University of Minnesota – Dean of CFANS | Ex-officio, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Pat Lunemann | MN Milk Producers Association and Twin Eagle Dairy | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |

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| Adolph Ojard | Duluth Seaway Port Authority | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Steve Peterson | General Mills | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Bill Reilly | Schwan's Food Company | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Tom Rosen | Rosen's Diversified | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Nick Sinner | Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Dr. Michael Swanson | Wells Fargo | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |
| Linda Tank | CHS, Inc. | Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Director |

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (www.agrigrowth.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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