

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Temple Grandin to Keynote at Agri-Growth Annual Conference

*Keynote Speaker, Grandin, and others will present at the November 16 Agri-Growth Council Annual Conference, focusing on American Agriculture: Raising Food for Thought.*

ST. PAUL, Minn. (October 13, 2011) — The highlight of the 2011 Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (Agri-Growth) Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference is luncheon keynote speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin. Grandin, and others, will present on November 16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center around the idea of “raising food for thought” in the American agriculture industry. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, over 80 percent of America’s food is produced domestically. The food and agriculture industry provides wholesome, safe, affordable, and nutritious food, while the food production chain is also the subject of many trends, choices, dilemmas, and even confusion. Speakers at the conference will address these issues and more.

**This event is open to the public. Registration information is available here: [www.agrigrrowth.org/annual](http://www.agrigrrowth.org/annual)**

The conference begins at 8:00 a.m. with the annual members meeting and elections (for members and prospective members only). Following the members meeting at 9:40 a.m., Dr. Michael Swanson, Wells Fargo will speak on the outlook of Minnesota’s agriculture economy. A special presentation on the Monetary Policy and Food Price Inflation by Dr. Jason Henderson, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City will follow.

The luncheon banquet program begins at noon, featuring a welcome from Agri-Growth Council board chairwoman Kristin Weeks Duncanson, Duncanson Growers. University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will also offer remarks. The annual Distinguished Service Award recipient [*recipient information is embargoed until day of event*] will be announced to the group and short video highlighting the recipient will be aired (see past recipient videos here: [www.agrigrrowth.org/distinguished\\_service.html](http://www.agrigrrowth.org/distinguished_service.html)).

To conclude the luncheon portion of the day, Keynote Presenter Dr. Temple Grandin will speak candidly with Kerri Miller, Host on MPR. Grandin has authored several books, has been named one of *Time Magazine*’s 100 most influential people, was profiled in a BBC documentary and most recently was the subject of a self-entitled HBO film. As a person with high functioning autism, she offers a unique perspective on the subject of animal care and processing facilities.

During the afternoon attendees will hear from U.S. Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) (*tentative*), Governor Dayton (*tentative*), and USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety, Mr. Brian Ronholm.

The finale of the afternoon session is a panel presentation focusing on trends in food production and marketing. The panel brings together food and ag leaders from the University of Minnesota’s Food Industry Center (Mike Boland, Moderator), Cargill (Dan Dye, Farming for Tomorrow’s Consumer), Hormel Foods (Dr. Phil Minerich, Marketing to the Savvy Shopper), NuVal (Annette Maggi, Healthy Foods and the Moving Target of Nutrition), and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (Scott Sannes, Sustainability from Farm to Fork, an Engineer’s perspective).

To register for the annual meeting, visit [www.agrigrrowth.org/annual](http://www.agrigrrowth.org/annual). Interested individuals can also call 651.905.8900 or email [info@agrigrrowth.org](mailto:info@agrigrrowth.org).

Note: Please RSVP at [info@agrigrrowth.org](mailto:info@agrigrrowth.org) to receive a day-of press badge. Interviews and photos of the speakers and/or attendees can be arranged. Please contact Krystal Caron at 612.940.6643.

**Public Rates: \$30 for public officials, \$75 for students, \$120 for Agri-Growth Members, \$140 for Nonmembers.**

*This event is made possible through the platinum sponsor Gislason & Hunter. Gislason & Hunter is a full service law firm specializing in production agriculture and food industry matters. A special thanks also goes to the luncheon program sponsor, Rosen’s Diversified, and the panel sponsor, Minnesota Corn Growers Association.*

*The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council ([www.agrigrrowth.org](http://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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