

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Food & Agriculture Industry Experts Talk Sustainability on November 3

Minnesota Agri-Growth Council members and industry leaders meet at the Minneapolis Convention Center to discuss sustainability and carbon accounting in the food and agriculture industry.

WHAT: Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Annual Meeting

The 2009 Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Annual Meeting brings together key stakeholders in the food and agriculture industry. More than 400 industry leaders, government relations professionals, commodity group and farmer leaders and public officials gather to learn about and discuss current industry trends and topics. The event is a comprehensive one-day program, which includes a luncheon program featuring high level keynote speakers and the presentation of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Distinguished Service Award. The program also serves as the venue for the Minnesota Governor's annual "State of the State on Agriculture" address.

This year's meeting will again focus on contemporary issues facing the food and agriculture industry. The theme centers on the issue of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. Speakers will address the trends in "sustainable" agriculture and food production. This event is open to the public.

WHO: Notable speakers include:

- Keynote Presentation: The Role of Sustainability in the Food and Agriculture Industry - A Point of View; **Gene Kahn**, Vice President of Sustainable Development, **General Mills**
- Sustainability Panel Discussion: Sustainability Trends Facing the Food and Agriculture Industry – Concerns or Opportunities? *Moderator: Kerri Miller, host of Midmorning, Minnesota Public Radio*
 - **Rick Naczi**, Executive VP of Strategic Insights & Analysis, **Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy**
 - **Gene Kahn**, Vice President of Sustainable Development, **General Mills**
 - **Dr. Jon Johnson**, Walton Professorship in Sustainability, **University of Arkansas**; Co-Director, **Sustainability Consortium**
 - **Tony Heredia**, Vice President of Corporate Risk & Responsibility, **Target Corporation**
- U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, **The Honorable Kathleen Merrigan**

We also will be announcing our **Distinguished Service Award Winner** during the luncheon program. This award recognizes individuals who significantly contribute to strengthening Minnesota's food and agriculture industry.

WHEN: Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Please view the detailed speaker schedule times here: http://www.agrigrwth.org/Annual_meeting.html

WHERE: The Minneapolis Convention Center, 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Note: Interviews and photos of the speakers and/or attendees can be arranged. Please contact Krystal Wiesenberg at 612.940.6643.

This event is made possible through the platinum sponsor Faegre & Benson. In addition, premium sponsors include CHS, Inc., Hormel Foods, Rosen's Diversified Inc., and Syngenta Seeds, Inc. Special thanks also go to the speaker sponsor, Gislason & Hunter.

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (www.agrigrwth.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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