

# NEWS RELEASE



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For more information, contact:  
Krystal Caron, Communications Director  
651.905.8500 or [kcaron@agrifrowth.org](mailto:kcaron@agrifrowth.org)

## Dr. Temple Grandin Draws Record Crowd for Agri-Growth Speakers Conference

*The Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference attracted over 500 attendees with a wide range of political and industry speakers.*

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 30, 2011) — The 44<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (Agri-Growth) Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference, held on Nov. 16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, focused on trends in food production and marketing, including food safety, animal welfare, and sustainability. The meeting drew over 500 farm, agribusiness and food industry leaders, congressional and legislative leaders, academics, and trade media. Additional information, including event footage and photos, is available here: [http://www.agrifrowth.org/Annual\\_meeting.html](http://www.agrifrowth.org/Annual_meeting.html)

Following a brief morning member's meeting with officer reports and elections, Dr. Michael Swanson, Wells Fargo spoke on the outlook of the 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 followed. These morning presentations focusing on macroeconomics set a baseline for the audience relative to the economy and the forecast for food and farm production.

Governor Mark Dayton offered remarks welcoming attendees to the luncheon program. Following the Governor, attendees applauded a partnership between the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Health known as the "Minnesota Model for Food Safety." The team of individuals involved in this partnership was chosen for the 2011 Agri-Growth Council Distinguished Service Award. President Eric Kaler and Dr. Allen Levine, Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota spoke during the luncheon program. Luncheon keynote speaker Dr. Temple Grandin spoke 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 offered a unique perspective on the subject of animal care and processing facilities. A video of this interview can be found here: <http://vimeo.com/32860405>

During the afternoon session attendees heard from U.S. Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) via live video feed from Washington D.C. The Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety at the USDA, Mr. Brian Ronholm, offered remarks as well. The finale of the afternoon session was a panel presentation focusing on trends in food production and marketing. The panel brought together food and agriculture 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).

*Note: Video of the day and presentation slides can be found at the Agri-Growth website: <http://agrifrowth.org/annual>. Contact Krystal at [kcaron@agrifrowth.org](mailto:kcaron@agrifrowth.org) to obtain photos of the event.*

*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.agrifrowth.org](http://www.agrifrowth.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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