

NEWS RELEASE



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Chairman of Gold'n Plump Poultry to Receive Distinguished Service Award

Don Helgeson, Chairman of Gold'n Plump Poultry, will receive an award highlighting his superior service to the food and agriculture industry at Minnesota Agri-Growth Council's 42nd Annual Meeting.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 2, 2009) — The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (Agri-Growth) will announce the 2009 Distinguished Service Award winner at their 2009 Annual Meeting on November 3. The Distinguished Service Award is given to outstanding members of the agriculture and food industry who have significantly contributed to strengthening the industry. This year the award will be given to Don Helgeson with Gold'n Plump Poultry. Helgeson was chosen because of his vision to expand and grow what was primarily an egg hatchery and laying business into the regional power-house company that Gold'n Plump is today. This is especially remarkable because of the significant competition Gold'n Plump had from the large-scale, low-cost poultry producers of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast United States. As a result of this success, Gold'n Plump Poultry now maintains relationships with over 300 Minnesota contract growers, and the company buys over 80,000 tons of Minnesota soybeans and 8 million bushels of Minnesota corn for feed – thereby adding value to those crops locally.

Helgeson's achievements will be featured in a previously-recorded highlight video at the November 3 Annual Meeting. Previous award winners include Congressman Collin C. Peterson, Bob Christensen of Christensen Farms, Minnesota Senator Steve Dille and the late Senator Dallas Sams. Additional information about past recipients can be found here:

http://www.agrigrrowth.org/distinguished_service.html

In addition to awarding the Distinguished Service Award, Agri-Growth will host a range of speakers that will again focus on contemporary issues facing the food and agriculture industry. The theme centers on the issue of sustainability and corporate social responsibility — something that is becoming increasingly relevant to stakeholders in the food and agriculture industry. This year, speakers will address the trends in "sustainable" agriculture and food production. Food retail companies, food processors, agribusinesses, and farming operations alike have a stake in the "sustainability" of food production. This event is open to the press and the public. Additional information, including registration, is available here:

http://www.agrigrrowth.org/Annual_meeting.html

To register for the annual meeting, visit http://www.agrigrrowth.org/Annual_meeting.html. Interested individuals can also call 651.905.8900 or email info@agrigrrowth.org. Registration costs are: \$120 for an individual member/affiliate, \$140 for an individual nonmember, \$75 for a student and \$900 for a table of eight. **Special rates are available for members of the media.**

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