

NEWS RELEASE

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Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Received Distinguished Service Award

Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture, Gene Hugoson received an award highlighting his superior service to the food and agriculture industry at Minnesota Agri-Growth Council's 43rd Annual Meeting.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 4, 2010) — The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (Agri-Growth) announced the 2010 Distinguished Service Award winner at their 2010 Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference on November 4. The Distinguished Service Award is given to deserving individuals who have made significant contributions to Minnesota's food and agriculture industry. This year Agri-Growth extended the award to Commissioner Gene Hugoson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Agri-Growth President, Daryn McBeth, remarked, "Commissioner Hugoson is sincerely deserving of this award, for his 15+ years of service as the state's top food and agriculture industry cheerleader. As evidenced by his appointment from three consecutive governors, Gene truly personifies *distinguished service*."

As part of the award presentation, Commissioner Hugoson is featured in a video highlighting his achievements in the area of food and agriculture: http://www.agrighrowth.org/distinguished_service.html. Previous award winners include Don Helgeson of Gold'n Plump Poultry, 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 on the Distinguished Service Award website.

In addition to awarding the Distinguished Service Award, Agri-Growth hosted a range of speakers that focused on contemporary issues facing the food and agriculture industry. The event's theme, *AgriCulture*, also highlighted the history of agriculture and food production, where agriculture is today and what the industry can expect moving forward. Speakers and panelists addressed the theme through the lens of four key pillars: Global, Policy, Technology and Business. Additional information, including presentation slides, is available here: http://www.agrighrowth.org/Annual_meeting.html

Note: Interviews and photos of the speakers and/or attendees are available. Please contact Krystal Caron at 612.940.6643.

This event was made possible through platinum sponsor Gislason & Hunter. Gislason & Hunter is a full service law firm specializing in production agriculture and food industry matters, with offices in New Ulm, Mankato, Mapleton, and Minneapolis, MN, as well as Des Moines, IA. In addition, the premium sponsors included ADM, Inc., AgStar Financial Services, CHS, Inc, Council for Biotechnology Information, Hormel Foods, Inc. and Syngenta. A special thanks also goes to the panel sponsor, Faegre & Benson.

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (www.agrighrowth.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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