



PRESENTS



DURING THE

**2008 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
SEPTEMBER 2, 8 P.M. - 2 A.M.

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## OVER 3,000 GATHERED TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S FOOD AND AG INDUSTRY DURING GOP NATIONAL CONVENTION

ST. PAUL, MINN. (Sept. 3, 2008) – In celebration of America's food and agriculture industry, the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council proudly hosted AgNite on September 2<sup>nd</sup> during the Republican National Convention in downtown Minneapolis.

The evening showcased America's food and agriculture industry in a unique and exciting atmosphere at the historic Minneapolis Depot, which included a red carpet entrance and several entertainment acts. More than 3,000 guests enjoyed the evening learning about the industry through multimedia displays illustrating the stories of AgNite sponsors throughout the 60,000-square-foot-venue. Guests included food and agriculture industry leaders, policymakers, delegates, news media and others.

"AgNite was an impressive evening celebrating the successes and innovations of our country's food and agriculture industry," says Daryn McBeth, president of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council. "Hosting this event with the backdrop of a political convention in the Midwest was a tremendous opportunity to showcase the food and agriculture industry at a national level."

The nonpartisan event was made possible through the support of more than 50 sponsors, including Minnesota-based Platinum sponsors AgStar Financial Services, CHS, Hormel Foods, Land O'Lakes and the Minnesota Corn Growers Association.

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council is committed to donating and recycling as much leftover product and décor as possible. All of the 530 potted plants provided by Syngenta will be delivered to The Salvation Army on Wednesday, where they will be donated to hospitals and other sites throughout the Twin Cities. The 1,000 potted corn, soybean and wheat plants will be recycled at the University of Minnesota's composting facility and all unspoiled food will be donated to Second Harvest Heartland. AgNite attendees were also encouraged to lend their support to Gulf Coast relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Gustov by contributing funds to Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest).

To learn more about AgNite, visit [www.agriflowth.org/agnite](http://www.agriflowth.org/agnite) and read the AgNite blog, which includes photos, podcasts, commentary and stories illustrating America's food and agriculture industry – all captured throughout the six-hour AgNite experience.

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**About the Host – The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council**

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council ([www.agrigrowth.org](http://www.agrigrowth.org)) is a nonpartisan 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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