

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNEAPOLIS DEPOT SELECTED FOR SEPTEMBER 2ND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE GALA AT GOP NATIONAL CONVENTION

Over 3,000 Guests/VIPs Expected to Attend

ST. PAUL, Minn. (May 20, 2008) – Today the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council announced that The Depot, located on the Mississippi River’s historic waterfront in Downtown Minneapolis, has been selected as the venue for the AgNite gala, Sept. 2, during the GOP National Convention. The Minneapolis – St. Paul Host Committee recently approved the venue location. AgNite will be hosted by dozens of industry sponsors from around the country and the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, a nonpartisan advocacy organization for Minnesota’s vast agriculture and food industry.

“AgNite will be a grand celebration representing the scale and diversity of today’s food and agriculture industry,” says Daryn McBeth, president, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council. “The historic significance of The Depot, located in the heart of Minneapolis’ original milling district, will provide an inspiring setting for what will be *the* food and agriculture event when 50,000 visitors are in town for the GOP National Convention.”

The AgNite event will showcase America’s food and agriculture industry in a unique and exciting club atmosphere, featuring high-tech, interactive displays, cutting-edge visual effects, top-notch food and beverage selections and headline entertainment later in the evening. The invitation-only event will include 3,000 to 5,000 guests, delegates, policymakers, news media and industry leaders.

The five Platinum AgNite sponsors – AgStar Financial Services, CHS Inc., Hormel Foods, Land O’Lakes and the Minnesota Corn Growers Association – reflect the world-class leadership and innovation that will be featured throughout the event. In addition, dozens of industry-leading companies and organizations, including Monsanto, Syngenta, General Mills, Kraft Foods, American Farm Bureau Federation, Renewable Fuels Association and BNSF Railway have signed-on as Gold,

Silver and Executive sponsors for the event, representing the global reach of America's food, agriculture and bioenergy industries.

“The agriculture and food industry plays an important role in today's economy,” says Joe Swedberg, vice president of Legislative Affairs for Hormel Foods and board chair of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council. “Hormel is proud to host AgNite with other agribusiness leaders, showcasing our industry's contributions to society.”

For more information about the AgNite event or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.agrigrowth.org or contact Daryn McBeth at (651) 905-8900 or daryn.mcbeth@agrigrowth.org.

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (www.agrigrowth.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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