



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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New Members

Dear AgriGrowth Members,

AgriGrowth is proud to be a convener that brings together voices and perspectives from across the agri-food industry to advance our sector. The ongoing pandemic, labor shortages, drought, rising prices and supply chain issues were just some of the shared challenges that our members faced in 2021. But there were also a number of wins for our industry. Vaccines helped protect frontline workers from COVID-19, the federal infrastructure bill will inject significant investments into industry priorities like broadband and roads and bridges, and we were able to gather in person for our annual Minnesota Ag & Food Summit this November.

From welcoming new members to a collaborative special project on workforce and talent, there is so much to be proud of this year, and we invite you to learn more in our 2021 AgriGrowth Annual Report. Thank you for your membership, partnership and commitment to helping us build and elevate a strong, thriving agri-food industry in Minnesota.

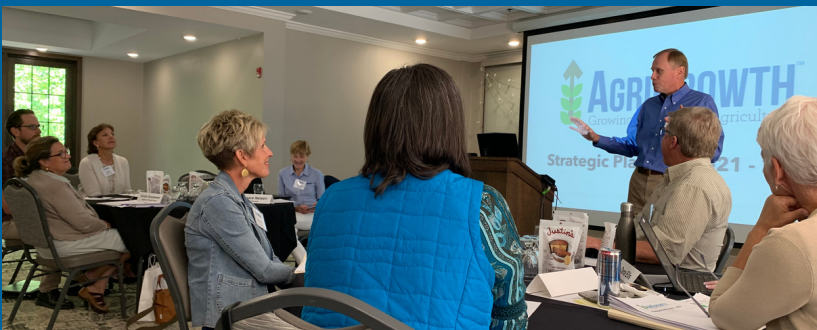
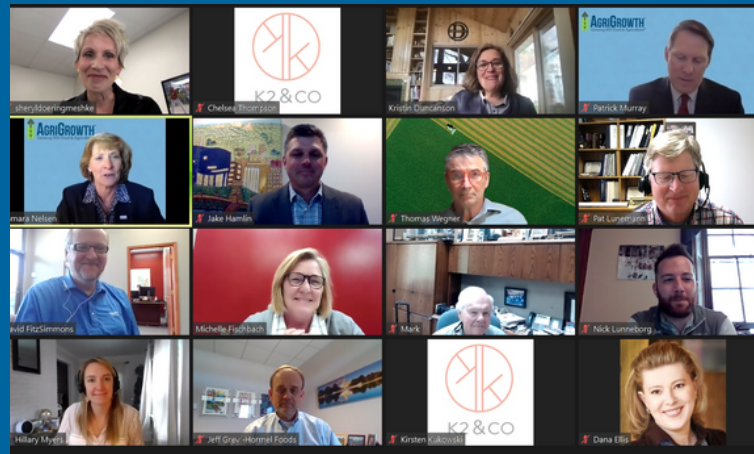


Tamara Nelsen
Executive Director, AgriGrowth



Rod Hebrink
Board Chair, AgriGrowth; President, Compeer Financial





AGRIGROWTH EVENTS

AgriGrowth is proud to be a convener, bringing our members and industry together for many great events and discussions throughout the year. While 2021 started virtual, by mid-year we also began hosting in-person events, concluding with our biggest event of the year - our annual **Minnesota Ag & Food Summit**.

In early November, AgriGrowth welcomed more than 300 members, policymakers and industry leaders to the Minneapolis Convention Center for the Summit. The day kicked off with keynote speaker Dr. John Newton, the Chief Economist for the U.S. Senate Committee on Ag, Nutrition & Forestry. A panel on The Next Big Ag Disrupter: Cybersecurity included experts from Cargill, General Mills, the Department of Homeland Security and the University of Minnesota. Governor Tim Walz joined us for a State of the State of Agriculture address and Undersecretary for Marketing at Regulatory Reform at the USDA, Jennifer Moffitt, spoke on the future of agriculture. Finally, a special discussion on politics in D.C. included panelists from the Environmental Defense Fund, Gordley Associates, Michael Torrey Associates, and Syngenta.

What other great events did AgriGrowth put on for our members and industry this year?

- AgriGrowth went virtual for our **Annual Day on the Hill**
- Members joined AgriGrowth's policy team for two **Capitol Conversations Policy Webinars** in March and April
- A **2021 Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon** featuring Senator Paul Gazelka, Senator Susan Kent, Representative Ryan Winkler, and Representative Kurt Daudt was held in St. Paul in June
- AgriGrowth Board held discussions on federal agri-food issues with **Congressman Jim Hagedorn** and **Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach**
- AgriGrowth hosted both a virtual and in-person **Member Input Session** this fall to connect with members and gather feedback about their priorities
- AgriGrowth also joined agri-food member and peer organizations throughout the year including FarmFest and the **FFA Foundation's event Making a Future in Agriculture: One Student at a Time**



A SPECIAL PROJECT ON BUILDING A RESILIENT AG TALENT PIPELINE FOR MINNESOTA

Finding and retaining top talent is critical to a healthy, robust agri-food industry. Toward that end, AgriGrowth recently announced the launch of a special project for members: [Building a Resilient Ag Talent Pipeline for Minnesota](#). We look forward to engaging members and growing this special project in 2022!

This [special project](#) builds on AgriGrowth's 2020-2021 efforts to address agri-food workforce and talent issues, which included a members-only webinar, a member survey and convening the Minnesota Ag Talent and Workforce Coalition (MATWC). The MATWC, a working group of more than a dozen experts in the agri-food talent space, will serve as the project steering committee and provide in-kind guidance, resources, etc. to project supporters.

As a first step, MATWC developed a new Ag Talent and Workforce landing page on AgriGrowth's website that connects talent, educators and employers on opportunities in Minnesota's agri-food industry, and details the industry's contribution to a strong, thriving Minnesota economy. Members are encouraged to visit that page at agrigrowth.org/mn-ag-talent-workforce-corner. Please contact tnelsen@agrigrowth.org to join the project.

Minnesota Ag Talent & Workforce Corner

Spotlighting resources and solutions to grow & find top talent.

ADVOCATING FOR OUR AG & FOOD SECTOR

AgriGrowth advocates for a positive business climate for Minnesota's food and agriculture sector. During the legislative session and throughout the year, AgriGrowth actively represents the interests of our members with the Minnesota Legislature, governor's office and state agency officials.

This year, we saw a number of key successes for our members in the Minnesota Legislature including **full federal tax conformity** to ensure Paycheck Protection Program loans are not taxed, **\$70 million for the Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program**, and funding for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Board of Animal Health, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. AgriGrowth also testified against overreaching House legislation that would have added additional burdens on the meat packing industry.

At the federal level, the passage of the **bipartisan \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill** will bring many wins to the agriculture industry including significant investments in broadband, and improvements to our nation's roads, bridges, railways and ports.

WELCOME TO AGRIGROWTH'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBER!



In September, AgriGrowth announced the hiring of Josie Lonetti as its new **Director of Strategic Engagement**.



AgriGrowth plays an essential role in convening discussions, advocacy efforts, and special projects designed to solve complex issues affecting agri-food members. I look forward to working with members to support and enhance the business climate and Minnesota's economy. - Josie Lonetti



AGRIGROWTH IN THE NEWS

Throughout the year, AgriGrowth advocated for our members, elevating our industry and telling the story of agri-food in the media.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

'Thank you for everything': Officials credit Minnesota ag leaders for keeping food chain running during pandemic

Policymakers credited farmers and food producers for preventing a backlog in food supply chains as the pandemic bore down on Minnesota.

Written By: Dana Ferguson | 4:28 pm, Nov. 4, 2021



COLUMNS

Food-chain workers are behind-the-scenes heroes in pandemic

From the column: The agri-food industry has been "ensuring that every American family has access to a safe, healthy food supply."

Written By: Tamara Nelsen | 1:00 pm, Mar. 20, 2021

NEWS

AGRIGROWTH DIRECTOR SEES CYBERATTACKS AS NEXT BIG AGRICULTURE DISRUPTOR

October 13, 2021 By Mark Dorenkamp
Minnesota. News

Filed Under: Beef. Crops. Cybersecurity. Livestock.

Despite high farm profits, producers increasingly pessimistic as costs climb

Energy and fertilizer costs threaten to cut short an impressive rebound in farm profitability.

By Brooks Johnson Star Tribune | NOVEMBER 4, 2021 — 4:20PM



AGWEEK

AGWEEKTV POLICY OPINION MARKETS WEATHER AGRICULTURE SUGARBEET SECTIONS

PEOPLE

Dave Preisler honored for his leadership role in Minnesota's pork industry

Minnesota Pork Producers Association CEO Dave Preisler was presented with the Distinguished Service Award at the Minnesota Ag & Food Summit.

Written By: Noah Fish | 5:30 am, Nov. 16, 2021

NEW MEMBERS

AgriGrowth was proud to welcome a number of new members in 2021.



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MINNESOTA AGRIGROWTH COUNCIL