



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



BUILDING A STRONGER AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY TOGETHER

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Dear AgriGrowth Members,

2022 is coming to an end, and there are many accomplishments to highlight from the past year! AgriGrowth prides itself on bringing voices from across agri-food together to build a stronger industry. From key policy successes to hosting hundreds of agri-food leaders and policymakers at the Minnesota Ag & Food Summit, our organization is leading on the issues that matter.

This year we advanced our collaborative project to build a more resilient ag talent pipeline, as employers look to tackle workforce shortages and hire the talent of tomorrow. Additionally, as global cyber threats place our sector and national security at risk, AgriGrowth helped connect cyber security experts with members to guide best practices for agribusiness.

You can learn more about AgriGrowth's achievements this year in our Annual Report. As always thank you for your membership, partnership, and commitment to helping us build a stronger agri-food industry.



Tamara Nelsen
Executive Director, AgriGrowth



Rod Hebrink
Board Chair, AgriGrowth
President & CEO, 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. The first event of 2022 was our **Legislative Kick-Off Luncheon** featuring a panel with legislative leaders, and concluded with our biggest event of the year, the **Minnesota Ag & Food Summit**.

In early November, AgriGrowth welcomed nearly 400 members, policymakers, and industry leaders to the Minneapolis Convention Center for the Minnesota Ag & Food Summit. The day kicked off with an economic overview from CoBank's Dan Kowalski. It was followed by panels on reimagining supply chains, animal disease threats, Minnesota's legislative landscape, diverse agri-food producers, and future Minnesota agri-food products. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith also joined in person to share their bipartisan work to build a thriving agricultural industry and strong rural communities.

It was wonderful to bring together so many leaders to talk about issues important to our sector!

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

- AgriGrowth members and lawmakers joined us in St. Paul for our **2022 Legislative Reception**
- In March, we put on an **Ag Talent & Workforce Roundtable** led by AgriGrowth and partners from our special project on building a resilient ag talent pipeline
- Two virtual **Capitol Conversation** webinars were held this spring where AgriGrowth's public affairs team shared an update on the legislative session
- A **2022 Legislative Wrap-Up Luncheon** featuring Senator Mark Johnson, Speaker Melissa Hortman and Representative Anne Neu was held in St. Paul in June
- AgriGrowth hosted both a virtual and in-person **Member Input Session** this fall to connect with members and gather feedback about their priorities
- AgriGrowth played a prominent role at FarmFest supporting two **Congressional Forums on Ag and Rural Issues** as well as the **Minnesota Governor Candidates Forum**



TACKLING THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO AGRI-FOOD: AG TALENT & CYBER SECURITY

Finding and retaining top talent is critical to a healthy, robust agri-food industry. Toward that end, AgriGrowth launched the special project **Building a Resilient Ag Talent Pipeline for Minnesota** late last year, and expanded its work in 2022. Part of the project convened the working group **Minnesota Ag Talent and Workforce Coalition (MATWC)** with more than a dozen experts in the agri-food talent space. In March, MATWC put on a special event - the **Minnesota Ag Talent and Workforce Roundtable**. The focus of the discussion was what employers, education, and government can do together at a systems level to create a sustaining trained ag, food, and natural resource ([AFNR](#)) [workforce](#). Nearly 60 attendees joined us for the roundtable including students, educators, educational institutions, consultants, government agency leaders, agribusiness, and cooperatives.

In addition to tackling workforce challenges in our industry, AgriGrowth also took the lead on addressing **cyber security** - a huge challenge for agribusiness that threatens the safety and security of our nation's food supply. AgriGrowth supported two June discussions in Fargo hosted by GrandFarm and a members-only virtual briefing in August that included federal, state, and local cyber experts sharing best practices to keep agribusiness secure.

AgriGrowth will continue to tackle issues critical to our industry! If you or your organization are interested in joining MATWC or supporting special projects, please reach out to Tamara Nelsen at tnelsen@agrighrowth.org.



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, the Minnesota legislative session came to a close without major agreements on tax reform and other important issues, leaving \$9 billion on the table. At the federal level, the passage of the bipartisan **Ocean Shipping Reform Act** was critical to our industry and trade. AgriGrowth and many of its members advocated for its passage.

AgriGrowth members also participated in the **Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Washington, D.C. Fly-In**, advocating for our industry in key areas including trade, worker shortages and regulatory certainty.

Finally, AgriGrowth sponsored several debates at **FarmFest**, supporting two **Congressional Forums on Ag and Rural Issues** as well as the **Minnesota Governor Candidates Forum**. We were proud to help facilitate these opportunities for farmers, agri-food leaders, candidates, and elected leaders to discuss priority issues as well as to highlight our industry's importance to consumers, voters, and the media.

WELCOME TO AGRIGROWTH'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBER!



In November, AgriGrowth announced Nikki Deyle was returning as its new **Director of Strategic Engagement**.



AgriGrowth works hand-in-hand with members and policymakers to drive discussions, engage in advocacy, and solve complex problems to ensure that our world has the food, fuel, and fiber it needs. From developing the next generation of talent to elevating sustainability in agriculture, I am ready to help lift up the voice of our industry and members. - Nikki Deyle



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.

LOCAL NEWS

MN farmers discuss drought, animal diseases, inflation at summit

The longer farmers struggle, the longer consumers deal with high grocery costs.



Senator Tina Smith @SenTinaSmith · Nov 10

It was great to stop by the @mn_agrigrowth ag and food summit.

We need Minnesota leaders to be part of the solution to the challenges the industry is facing and the Farm Bill is an important opportunity. We're working together to make sure the next Farm Bill is the best one yet.

Minnesota Farmers Meeting At Ag And Food Summit

By Ashley Hanley | November 11th, 2022

(Minneapolis, MN) — Farmers from across the state are meeting at the Minnesota Ag and Food Summit. Agriculture workers gathered yesterday at the Minneapolis Convention Center for AgriGrowth's 2022 event. The group discussed struggles farmers are facing such as high planting costs and inflation, drought conditions, and supply chain issues. Senator Tina Smith spoke at the event, saying farmers have the support of the federal government.

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NEWS

MINNESOTA AGRIGROWTH DIRECTOR SEES TENTACLES OF INFLATION THROUGHOUT AG ECONOMY

FOCUS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEXT FARM BILL

November 11, 2022 By Mark Dorenkamp Filed Under: Congress, Farm Bill, Minnesota, New Rural Issues, USDA



NEW MEMBERS

AgriGrowth was proud to welcome a number of new members in 2022.

ELLINGSON
WATER MANAGEMENT



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON



Fredrikson
& BYRON, P.A.



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