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Dear AgriGrowth Members,

We look back on the year as one full of challenges, but also full of determination and accomplishments. The 2023 legislative session brought mixed results, solidifying the need for AgriGrowth's work as an advocacy organization. With policy successes in the legislature and a multitude of opportunities for members to network and innovate, AgriGrowth is striving for a stronger industry and a business environment in which members can thrive.

This year, we worked to strengthen our industry through information and innovation. As economic, geopolitical, and environmental threats around the world impacted members and the greater agri-food industry, AgriGrowth provided support by connecting experts with members and championed forward-looking ideas for our sector.

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



Tamara Nelsen  
Executive Director, AgriGrowth



Sheryl Meshke  
Board Chair, AgriGrowth  
President & CEO, Associated Milk Producers, Inc.



## AGRIGROWTH EVENTS

AgriGrowth was excited to kick off another year of exceptional events by welcoming over one hundred elected officials, members, congressional office staff, and agency leaders for our annual **Legislative Reception**. It was a terrific time that fostered greater collaboration to strengthen our ag and food sector in Minnesota.

AgriGrowth capped off its 2023 events in November nearly 400 members, policymakers, and industry leaders gathered at the Minneapolis Convention Center for AgriGrowth's biggest event of the year, the **Minnesota Ag & Food Summit**. The day kicked off with a presentation from Jacob Shapiro on how geopolitics will impact the future of ag & food. It was followed by panels on Minnesota's role in global food systems and climate change, success in building the ag & food talent pipeline, and a timely event on ag & food start ups and talent. We were also joined by Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Commissioner Thom Petersen to deliver the Annual State of the State of Agriculture address followed by a discussion on the importance of trade with Consul General Beth Richardson, from the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis.

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

- Three virtual **Capitol Conversation** webinars were held this spring where AgriGrowth's public affairs team shared updates on the legislative session.
- A 2023 **Legislative Wrap-Up Luncheon** featuring Commissioner Thom Petersen, Senators Aric Putnam and Gary Dahms, and Representatives Samantha Vang and Paul Anderson was held in June.
- In April, AgriGrowth joined with EDF to convene a **Climate-Smart Ag and Finance Roundtable**.
- In August, AgriGrowth was pleased to participate in a dialogue about the importance of gene editing to agri-food coordinated by the **Center for Food Integrity**.
- Later in August, AgriGrowth co-hosted **Legislator Day** on the Farm at Janski Dairy in St. Augusta to give legislative leaders a first-hand view of farm operations and conservation practices.
- In October, AgriGrowth hosted leaders and Fellows of **Purdue University's DIAL program**.



# TACKLING THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO AGRI-FOOD: INFORMATION & INNOVATION

Whether its promoting current and future innovations, supporting science-based sustainability best practices, or growing knowledge about our industry, AgriGrowth is proud to be a champion for our members and for our amazing industry.

Knowing it takes collaboration to provide the fuel, food, and fiber our world needs, AgriGrowth was excited to co-host a Climate-Smart Ag and Finance Roundtable alongside EDF with the intent of learning more about climate-smart projects in Minnesota and their impact on farm economics. AgriGrowth leaders also joined a joint Center For Food Integrity (CFI) dialogue on gene editing and how this and other innovations will create greater resiliency for agri-food. Lastly, it was AgriGrowth's pleasure to foster dialogue over the summer with lawmakers and give them a first-hand view of farming practices and conservation efforts in Minnesota. Through information and innovation the agri-food industry thrives, and AgriGrowth will be there every step of the way!



EDUCATING  
LAWMAKERS



DIALOGUE ON GENE  
EDITING WITH CFI



CLIMATE-SMART AG &  
FINANCE ROUNDTABLE

## 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 presented many challenges, but important key wins like **Drivers' Licenses 4 All** were achieved. Other legislative wins for AgriGrowth members included raising the agriculture homestead credit and funding for small- to- medium-size dairy operations grants.

AgriGrowth also is an advocate for a strong regional agri-food economy. Over the summer the **Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI)** convened a **meeting of Midwest state agribusiness associations**, including state grain and feed, crop protection, and other councils like AgriGrowth. This was a key opportunity to share ideas, priorities, and ways we can better collaborate to serve our members and champion a strong agri-food sector across the Midwest states.



# 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.

## 11-06-2023 Minnesota AgriGrowth Council

Nov 6, 2023 Updated Nov 6, 2023

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This morning on Open Mic on KWLM, JP Cola had a chance to talk to new Director of Strategic Engagement for the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council, Nikki Doyle. They talked about the upcoming 2023 Minnesota Ag & Food Summit Hosted by AgriGrowth.

As featured on



ON DEMAND - Open Mic

To save audio: Chrome: Click the download arrow. IE: Right click the audio file and "save as..."

## Shapiro Delivers a 'Big Picture' Look at Ag Issues

Published Yesterday

For decades, the United States was the sole global superpower. In the view of geopolitical analyst Jacob Shapiro, the shift has been made to multipolarity without a dominant global power. In this environment, Shapiro said U.S. agriculture needs a more focused trade policy with countries who share its interests. "So China is probably not a long-term partner from us on a trade or economic basis; our interests are just not in common," said Shapiro. "Neither is a



NEWS

## U.S. TRADE WITH CANADA UNRIVALED

November 9, 2023 By Mark Dorenkamp Filed Under: Ethanol, Fertilizer, Minnesota, News, Trade



NEWS

## BEARISH OUTLOOK FOR U.S. AG EXPORTS TO CHINA

November 9, 2023 By Mark Dorenkamp Filed Under: Crops, Minnesota, News



## Green and Growing: Despite inflation a growing number of farms are going "organic"

"Consumers are interested about where food comes from, but more importantly how is my food produced?"



## NEW MEMBERS

AgriGrowth was proud to welcome a number of new members in 2023.



GREATER MINNESOTA  
GAS

Isane Farms, Inc.



Navigator CO<sub>2</sub>



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