

## March 11, 2026 – Burnsville, MN

### Joint Meeting of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) and Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC)

Dress code: Business

#### Remote Access:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89911623407?pwd=OcYWlQbApalUQYbi4d98v5GfXRm17k.1>

Meeting ID: 899 1162 3407

Passcode: 796121

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#### **8:00 a.m.** MCGA President Beck & MCR&PC Chairman Mages

##### 1. Call to order by MCGA President & MCR&PC Chairman

- Recite MCR&PC/MCGA mission statement: **Identify and promote opportunities for corn growers while enhancing quality of life**
- Approval of January 7, 2026 MCGA and MCR&PC meeting minutes
- Today's Guests:
  - Hannah Horn, Lindsey Phillips, Robbi Templin, and Alissa Blommel – Eide Bailly
  - Christina Illiev – MDA

##### 2. Overview of today's agenda – Birr (2 minutes)

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITY UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

***Goal: Shape and enhance public/influencer perceptions and the policy environment of corn farmers in a manner that ultimately protects and supports the economic viability of corn farmers in Minnesota.***

##### 3. Member & Consumer Engagement (30 minutes)

- **Background** – MCE team meeting recording and materials posted [here](#).
- **Discussion** – led by Guentzel/Tate/Gilbertson
  - i. De-brief team meeting
  - ii. MN Ag EXPO de-brief

##### 4. Research, Utilization, and Profitability (45 minutes)

- **Background** – Discovery and Development team meeting recording and materials posted [here](#).
- **Discussion** – Discovery & Development led by Peterson/Fast/Haggerty
  - i. FY26 RFP Research and Innovation Projects
- **Background** – Utilization team meeting recording and materials posted [here](#).
- **Discussion** – Utilization led by Neumann/Vipond/Hoffarth
  - i. De-brief team meeting

##### 5. Advocacy: Public and Policy (20 minutes)

- **Discussion** – led by Syverson/Beck/Bilek
  - i. MCGA Day on the Hill & Legislative Reception debrief

**BREAK**

6. Bridge Non-Farm Influencers (25 minutes)

- **Discussion** – led by Gotlieb
  - i. Sellback campaign update
  - ii. Project updates

7. Sustainability (30 minutes)

- Issues update – Birr

**National Organization Updates and Reports**

8. US Grains & Bioproducts Council (60 minutes)

- MAIZALL update – Willis
- A-Team Updates
- Mission Trip Reports
- A-Team Appointments (due end April) and Board Applications (due March 31)

9. MDA Update – Christina Illiev

**12:00 pm - Lunch**

**10. 1:00 pm Guest: FY25 Audit & MCGA Form 990 – Eide Bailly (45 minutes)**

11. National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Updates (40 minutes)

- Action Team Updates

12. Financials Update – Birr (20 minutes)

13. Old and New Business (10 minutes)

- Conflict of Interest (COI), harassment, and leadership agreement forms – sign and submit

14. Consent Agenda (see next page)

15. Executive Director's Update

16. Chairman's Report

17. President's Report

18. Adjourn by 3:00 pm

**3:05 p.m. Standing Executive Session as needed**

**Consent Agenda for March 11** (Updated on 03-XX-26)

A. Member & Consumer Engagement (MCE) Focus Team

**New Funding Request**

Minnesota Corn Scholarships \$ 10,000

Additional Sponsorship Funds \$ 25,000

**MCE approved sponsorships**

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation \$100,000

Minnesota Pork Board \$ 5,000

MTEEA Supermileage \$ 650

Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation - MARL \$ 75,000

Minnesota Corn Scholarships for MARL \$ 9,800

Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase \$ 500

Minnesota FFA Foundation \$ 10,000

Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota \$ 2,500

University of Minnesota Extension \$ 24,000

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum \$ 20,000

Minnesota 4H - Dairy Conference \$ 250

Minnesota Foundation for Agriculture (MFB) \$ 5,300

Minnesota State Fair \$ 5,000

Pioneer PBS \$ 9,000

Bell Museum \$ 10,000

Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Assoc (MLWPA) \$ 500

Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference \$ 1,000

Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center - Farmamerica \$ 32,500

Education Projects & Partnerships	\$ 15,000
Minnesota Holstein Association	\$ 500
GreenSeam	\$ 7,500
Minnesota Crop Improvement Association	\$ 2,000
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association	\$ 4,000
Second Harvest Heartland	\$ 10,000
KSMQ Public Service Media	\$ 2,500
University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership	\$ 3,500
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers	\$ 6,500
Minnesota Beef Expo	\$ 500
Minnesota Farmers Union	\$ 4,000
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association	\$ 4,000
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association	\$ 3,000
United Pullers of Minnesota	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>

B. Discovery & Development (D&D) Focus Team

**Primary Research Grants Continuing/Extended Duration**

MAWRC-Discovery Farms Research and Education Program - Formo	\$300,000
University of Minnesota Extension Water Quality Education – Schmitt	\$ 83,483
Monitoring/risk assessment of ECB resistance to transgenic Bt corn in MN – Yang	\$105,000
Advancing Nitrogen Smart III – Carlson	\$ 58,715
Nitrogen Smart Online III - Carlson	\$ 25,243
Leveraging a High-throughput & Validating Resistance against Fusarium - Mutuku	\$ 24,999
Reduced Tillage, Cover Cropping and Varied Irrigation in Corn-Soybean - Sharma	\$112,876

Enhancement of Survey Efforts for Corn Insect Pests in Minnesota in 2026 - Yang	\$ 52,464
Past the Learning Curve: long-term soil health mgt. lower N requirements? - Cates	\$ 97,744
Engineering Degradability into Corn-based Plastics – Hoye	\$143,674
Conversion of Corn-Derived Carbohydrates to Jet Fuel via Methanol - Dauenhauer	\$156,821
Soil degradable coatings for innocuous controlled release fertilizer – Hillmyer	\$ 80,000
Minnesota corn’s sustainability story – Eocene	\$120,000
<b>NEW Primary Research Grants</b>	
Tailoring Accelerated Biodegradation of Corn-Derived Polymers -Ellison	\$ 95,435
Designer Biocrude: A Blendstock for 100% Drop-in SAF from Corn – Lee	\$100,000
Developing High-Efficiency Catalysts for Corn Oil-to-Fuel Conversion - Bailey	\$ 37,600
Increasing Maximum Return-to-N Rates & Alternatives to Fall N App. - Fernandez	\$106,891
Advancing Nitrogen Management for Short-Stature Corn - Coulter	\$ 44,179
A-Maize-ing Microbes: Double Duty Against Root Rot & Growth Woes- Khokhani	\$ 43,197
Clinic to Cornfield: Harnessing Liposomes to Improve NUE of MN Corn - Sadok	\$ 61,278
Nutrient & Water Management for NW MN Corn Growers – Pease	\$ 58,400
Resistance Management of Waterhemp and Giant Ragweed - Whitmore	\$ 13,750
<b><u>Innovation Grants</u></b>	
Reinforcing value in GMO traits for crop protection to future ag leaders - Alford	\$ 7,357
Azospirillum brasilense inoculation to enhance corn N uptake Lambertson - Pagliari	\$ 15,000
Azospirillum brasilense inoculation to enhance corn N uptake Becker - Pagliari	\$ 15,000
Reducing Nitrate in a surficial sand aquifer, Mower County Minnesota - Lawler	\$ 23,010
On-farm Eval. & Improvement of an Integrated Precision Corn mgmt - Mensing	\$ 20,000
On-farm Eval. Variable Rate N Tech. in Corn Fields to Supp. Manure Appl. -Anthony	\$ 30,000
Manure vs Comm Fertilizer Corn Test Plot & Drone applied cover crop trial - Hoseth	\$ 6,465

**Sponsorship/Memberships**

	Sands County 2026 Leopold Conservation Award	\$ 2,500
	MCPR Minnesota Ag Retail – Coordinator Position Funding	\$ 10,000
	UMN ROC and SWROC Field Days Vetch	\$ 7,268
	UMN/MIP Minnesota Irrigator Program 2026	\$ 500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,058,849</b>
C.	Utilization (UT) Focus Team	
	USAPEEC Membership	\$ 7,000
	National Cattlemen's Beef Association membership	\$ 239
	MBA Ethanol Partnership/Campaign	\$245,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$252,23</b>
D.	MCGA ONLY	
	Annual membership in the MN AgriGrowth Council	\$ 6,500