



Minnesota Soybean

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Minnesota Soybean Awards Luncheon Recognizes Excellence in Soybean Industry

MANKATO, Minn. – Outstanding contributors to the soybean industry were recognized today during the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) and Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) Awards Luncheon at the 2011 MN Ag Expo.

“Every year the MSGA President, MSR&PC Chairman and our committees take the opportunity to recognize the work of individuals and businesses that have provided exceptional service to the state’s soybean farmers,” said MSR&PC Chairman, Gene Stoel. “2010 was another exceptional year for MN Soybean and there are many who deserve to be honored today.”

President and Chairman’s Awards

MSGA President Kurt Krueger chose to recognize **Ed Hegland** (Appleton) as the MSGA Director of the Year noting his dedication and years of service to soybean farmers as a past American Soybean Association (ASA) director and as the Chairman of the National Biodiesel Board. The **Red River Farm Network** was selected as MSGA’s Industry of the Year for their tireless efforts to keep soybean farmers in northern Minnesota well-informed about the soybean industry.

MSR&PC Director **Paul Simonsen** (Fairfax) and Ag Processing, Inc (AGP) received the director and industry of the year awards from MSR&PC Chairman Stoel. Though Simonsen is a fairly new addition to the board, he has already served on the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) board of directors and is always a willing and well-informed volunteer.

Not only has **AGP** been a long time supporter of MN Soybean, their foresight to build a shipping facility off the Pacific Northwest has led to more Minnesota soybeans reaching Asian customers faster. Now as they move forward to build new storage silos at their facility they will actually be able to increase the amount and variety of soybean products they are able to ship.

Committee Awards

The Domestic Marketing Committee recognized **Tara Meyer**, formerly with the Minnesota Farm and Food Coalition, for her dedication to growing animal agriculture. As a dairy farmer herself, Meyer’s passion for agriculture isn’t just a job, it’s a way of life.

The winner of the Research & Tech Transfer Committee’s award has shown his support for soybean farmers in a variety of ways. From conducting the soybean quality surveys for the United Soybean Board, to studying amino acids and serving as Dr. Orf’s right hand man in the fields of the research plots, University of Minnesota Research Plot Coordinator, **Art Killam**, is an ally and friend in the world of soybean research.

The Education Committee honored **Kevin Estrem**, a farmer from Nerstrand, who has shown his exceptional dedication to agriculture by annually conducting more than 12 visits to Twin Cities' schools to tell third and fourth graders about agriculture. As families become more removed from the farm, Estrem's work to educate children about agriculture will surely have a positive impact on future generations.

The Communications Committee selected long-time farm broadcaster **Tom Rothman** of the Minnesota Farm Network to receive its award for 2011. As a trusted source of information, Rothman has spent many years highlighting the achievements and activities of farmers throughout the state with one of the most recognizable voices in broadcasting.

Doug Magnus, the winner of the International Marketing Committee's award, has shown his commitment to growing demand for soybeans in several capacities. From hosting international trade teams at his home, to serving as the United Soybean Board's International Marketing Chairman, to participating in overseas trade missions as a state representative, Magnus has proven a strong and dedicated voice for trade in Minnesota.

This year the Membership Committee has decided to select two winners – an individual and a business – that were instrumental in helping MSGA reach its membership goal for 2010. **Theresia Gillie**, a soybean farmer from Hallock, has been on the MSGA board for nearly three years now. Since 2007 she has recruited 77 members. In 2010 alone she recruited 39 members, which put her in third place at the national level.

Thanks to the support of **BASF**, MSGA was able to implement a phenomenal recruiting campaign at Farmfest in 2010, which included pre-event promotion, extended advertising and excellent rewards for those who signed up. The effort resulted in a record 87 new and renewed memberships which was a huge step towards meeting MSGA's goal.

Also recognized during the event were the 2011 ASA Dupont Young Leaders, Michelle and Michael Miller and all MSGA recruiters who worked hard to ensure growth and vitality of MSGA's membership program.

The Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council is an elected board of 15 soybean producers from across the state. They direct the investment of soybean checkoff dollars in international marketing, research, promotion and domestic marketing programs designed to increase the profitability of Minnesota soybean farmers.

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association is a non-profit, farmer-controlled membership organization established in 1962. Its goal is to assure profitable soybean farming by monitoring government policies and supporting research and market development activities.

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