

Pledges to continue working to promote opportunity and prosperity for rural America

Mankato, MN—Yesterday, Congressman Tim Walz was honored for his dedicated service to the agriculture community with the Friend of Agriculture Award from the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA). The MCGA Friend of Agriculture Award is an annual award honoring an individual or organization that has made a lasting and positive impact on corn farming and agriculture in Minnesota.

“I am honored and humbled to receive this award from such a great group of producers who work to feed, clothe, and fuel the world,” said Walz. **“Farmers and ranchers are the lifeblood of rural communities throughout southern Minnesota and small towns across the nation. When farmers do well, Main Street does well. I will continue fighting for passage of a long-term Farm Bill that will give farmers certainty and promote opportunity and prosperity for rural America.”**

This year’s Friend of Agriculture of Award honored two champions of Minnesota agriculture: State Representative Rod Hamilton of Mountain Lake and First District Congressman Tim Walz. Walz and Hamilton were presented the awards at a ceremony held Monday night during the Association’s MN Ag EXPO event in Mankato.

In presenting the award to Congressman Walz, Tom Haag, Minnesota Corn Growers Association president said, **“Congressman Walz has shown a passionate commitment to Minnesota farmers and understands that agriculture is crucial to the growth and stability of southern Minnesota. He has remained adamant that a Farm Bill that provides a safety net to American farmers is essential and should be completed as soon as possible. Further, Congressman Walz has been a good friend to homegrown, renewable energy and understands the economic importance of finding a way for his farming constituents to keep more of the value of what they produce right here in Minnesota.”**

Founded in 1978 by a small group of local farmers, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association now boasts over 6,000 members who farm over 8 million acres annually. Over the years, innovative technology has revitalized the industry and turned corn into a diverse product that can be used to feed, clothe, and fuel the world; the ethanol industry alone contributes an estimated \$5 billion to Minnesota’s economy.

Recently, [Walz was chosen by his colleagues](#) to serve as the lead Democrat on the Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry. Walz will also serve on the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee.

###