



IN THIS REPORT:

**AgriGrowth
Events**

**Ag Economic
Contribution
Study**

**Advocating
for the Ag &
Food Sector**

**AgriGrowth in
the News**

New Members

CONVENING AGRI-FOOD & BUILDING RESILIENCY IN A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

Dear AgriGrowth Members,

This year has been one of unprecedented challenges, but it has also been one of resiliency, adaptation and true leadership. AgriGrowth prides itself on being a convener for the agri-food industry, and our role this year has been more important than ever, bringing together our industry to collaborate, learn from one another and discover new ways to innovate and overcome. From disruptions across the supply chain to ensuring that every family has food on the table, our members led and AgriGrowth was there to foster collaboration, advocate for our industry in the public policy sphere, and tell the story of agri-food to consumers and policymakers.

Our Ag & Food Summit, a new agriculture economic contribution study, and unique webinars are just a few of the highlights from this year. From all of us at AgriGrowth, thank you for your membership and commitment to helping build and maintain a strong, thriving agri-food industry.



Tamara Nelsen
Executive Director, AgriGrowth



Rod Hebrink
Board Chair, AgriGrowth; President, Compeer Financial



AgriGrowth held events throughout the year, bringing together thought leaders, policymakers, and members to advocate for Minnesota's agri-food industry.

AGRIGROWTH EVENTS

In a year where it was more difficult to gather in person, AgriGrowth's role as a convener brought our members and industry together for many great events and discussions.

Our biggest event of the year - our annual **Ag & Food Summit** - went virtual, with great success. We welcomed keynote speaker Tanner Ehmke from CoBank who shared his presentation on ag and economic outlooks for 2021. Governor Tim Walz joined us for his State of the State of Agriculture address over the lunch hour, and Blois Olson was joined by Agri-Pulse's Sara Wyant and MinnPost's Walker Orenstein for an assessment of the impact of the 2020 election on agri-food. MBold sponsored a timely panel with Ecolab's CEO Doug Baker, Land O'Lake's Senior VP of U.S. Dairy Foods Heather Anfang, and Schwan's VP of Research and Development Stacey Fowler on building agri-food resiliency.

While we missed seeing you in person this year, we appreciate your virtual attendance and look forward to seeing you at next year's Ag & Food Summit on November 4, 2021.

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

- **AgriGrowth's Annual Day on the Hill and Reception**
- **2020 Legislative Wrap Up** featuring Senator Bill Weber, Senator Nick Frentz, Representative Jeanne Poppe and Representative Rod Hamilton
- **The USMCA and Agriculture: Partnership, Progress and Prosperity** webinar featuring Mexican Ambassador to the United States Martha Barcena, Canadian Ambassador to the United States Kirsten Hillman, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, Governor Tim Walz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and more
- **Resilience in Agriculture and Food: Matching Talent to Need** webinar featuring experts from RealTime Talent, AgCentric, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota State Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Food System** webinar dialogue and discussion with the Center for Food Integrity and the Food Industry Association

AGRIGROWTH NEW AG ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION STUDY

This fall, AgriGrowth and more than two dozen leading Minnesota agricultural stakeholder groups released the **2020 Economic Contribution Study of Minnesota Agriculture and Forestry**. This comprehensive new report demonstrates the significant role agriculture plays in Minnesota, from adding \$37.1 billion in value to the state's economy to creating more than 388,000 jobs.

The study was conducted by Decision Innovation Solutions (DIS) to show the overall economic contribution of agriculture to Minnesota's economy with further breakdowns by county and industry. It was the first study of its kind done in Minnesota, and will be a useful tool to show the importance of agriculture to lawmakers and consumers.



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, we saw a number of key successes for our members in the Minnesota Legislature including a **\$1.87 billion bonding bill** and full federal tax conformity to **Section 179 of the federal tax code**. AgriGrowth also advocated for the **Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program**, which did not make it to the finish line this session, but we will continue to champion broadband investments in 2021.

At the federal level, the implementation of the **United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA)** was a significant win for our members.



For Minnesota, Canada and Mexico are our two largest ag export markets, and this new agreement will expand our markets and ensure greater cooperation between our three nations. Especially now, free markets and trade are critical to our highly productive agri-food industry and a strong, healthy economy.

-AgriGrowth Executive Director Tamara Nelsen on USMCA

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.

Belle Plaine Herald
 NEWS SPORTS OBITS A&E NOTICES ANNOUNCEMENTS OPINION MULTIMEDIA COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS
 New Economic Contribution Study of Agriculture Shows Industry Adds More Than \$37B to Minnesota Economy



AGRICULTURE
2020 Minnesota Ag and Food Summit, hosted by AgriGrowth, goes virtual
 AGRI GROWTH Growing MN Food & Agriculture
 AGRI GROWTH Growing MN Food & Agriculture
 Smart Regulations Discussion Keeping Agri-Food Competitive

AGRICULTURE
Kent Thiesse receives AgriGrowth "Distinguished Service Award"

StarTribune
 BUSINESS
Big local companies, University of Minnesota and others form group to tackle food challenges
 Called MBOLD, the coalition is focused on sustainable growth of the food industry.
 By Kristen Leigh Painter Star Tribune | OCTOBER 16, 2020 - 7:48PM
 NATI HARRIK - AP FILE

The Globe
 News Weather Crime & Courts Sports Obituaries Health Business Education More
 OPINION
Column: Food supply chain is resilient
 Written By: Tamara Nelsen, AgriGrowth | Jun 9th 2020 - 10pm.
 ST. PAUL — The agri-food industry is keeping American families fed during this

BROWNFIELD
 AG NEWS FOR AMERICA
 HOME - MARKETS - SPECIAL EVENTS - WEATHER - PODCASTS & PROGRAMS - ABOUT US
 NEWS
AGRIGROWTH HOSTS USMCA WEBINAR AS AGREEMENT GOES INTO EFFECT JULY 1ST
 June 17, 2020 By Mark Dorenkamp Filed Under: Minnesota News

News Tribune
 News Weather Crime & Courts Sports Obituaries Health Business Education More
 COLUMNS
Statewide View: Even in tough times, Minnesota farmers rallying to feed the world
 Written By: Tamara Nelsen and David Preister | Oct 31st 2020 - 10am.

NEW MEMBERS

AgriGrowth was proud to welcome a number of new members in 2020.

As a trusted nonprofit, nonpartisan member association championing long-term sustainability, competitiveness and growth in the agri-food industry, our role this year was more important than ever. AgriGrowth is a place for networking, relationship building and collaboration among our diverse membership.

