Event Support

The 2014 Minnesota Food Producers Luncheon is hosted by The Food Industry Center in cooperation with the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council.

The Food Industry Center
University of Minnesota
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The Food Industry Center

Founded in 1995 as an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Industry Studies Center, The Food Industry Center (TFIC) has a history of conducting primary research on the food industry and offering forums on current topics and best practices. The mission of The Food Industry Center is to develop and inform food industry leaders through educational programs and research inquiry.

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Agenda

11:30 am  Welcome
11:35 am  Lunch is Served
12:10 pm  Dessert & Video Presentation
12:20 pm  Discussion with MN Food Producers
1:25 pm   Closing Comments

To reserve your place at the luncheon, please RSVP by May 14, 2014 at: https://mnfoodproducersluncheon14.eventbrite.com

Please stay for the 2014 Siehl Prize Award Ceremony beginning at 2:00 pm in the McNamara Memorial Hall. The Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture recognizes living individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the production of food and alleviation of hunger in three separate categories: production, agribusiness, and knowledge. This year’s honorees are:

Production: Richard Magnusson
Magnusson Family Farm

Agribusiness: Tom Rosen
Rosen’s Diversified, Inc.

Knowledge: Mark Seeley
University of Minnesota

Ceremony begins at 2:00 pm with reception to follow at 3:30.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to The Food Industry Center by email at tfic@umn.edu.
STEVE SCHLANGEN
Chairman of the Board, AMPI

Steve Schlangen is chairman of the AMPI Board of Directors. He has served as an elected official for the cooperative since 1991 and has been a member of the corporate board since 2001.

Together with his wife, Cheryl, Schlangen farms 220 acres near Albany, Minn. They utilize robotic milkers for their 65-cow herd and raise all of their own replacement heifers. They have four grown children.

Schlangen currently serves on the board of directors for the National Milk Producers Federation and Midwest Dairy Coalition. He is a past member of the Cooperative Network board of directors and was co-chair of the two-state dairy committee. During that time he was appointed to the start-up board of 40 Square Cooperative Solutions, a health insurance co-op.

He is a graduate of the farm management program at Ridgewater College in Willmar, Minn.

ED WELCH
President and CEO, AMPI

Ed Welch is president and CEO of Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI). With nearly $2 billion in annual sales, 6 billion pounds of milk and 10 manufacturing plants, AMPI is a leading Midwest dairy marketing cooperative owned by 2,600 dairy farmers.

Prior to being named CEO in 2008, he served as AMPI chief operating officer, coordinating the cooperative’s manufacturing divisions that market a full line of consumer-packaged dairy products. He has managed member services and cheese manufacturing plants at AMPI divisions based in Jim Falls and Blair, Wis.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack appointed Welch to serve on the Dairy Industry Advisory Committee. Welch is an active member of the Midwest Dairy Coalition, National Milk Producers Federation and Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy Board of Directors.

A Minnesota native, he earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota.

KATE LEAVITT
Director, International Sales & Marketing
SunOpta Grains & Foods Group

Kate Leavitt serves as the Director, International Sales and Marketing of the SunOpta Grains and Foods Group which was originally established as the Minnesota Waxy Corn Growers Association by over 300 grower members/shareholders.

Ms. Leavitt coordinates the international marketing efforts of the specialty grain and value-added ingredient products.

Ms. Leavitt is currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Soyfoods Association of North America and a board member of the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council.

She graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota, with degrees in Japanese and Mathematics. She is married, the mother of two young sons, enjoys figure skating and scrapbooking.

TODD STENCCEL
Stencel Farms, Inc., Waseca MN

Todd Stencel is a third generation farmer in Waseca County, Minnesota and started farming in 1992 after attending college at UW River Falls and earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Engineering.

Todd’s father, Gerald Stencel was part of the board of directors of MN Waxy Corn Growers Export Co. that later became part of SunOpta Co. He and his father raised waxy corn, non gmo corn, high protein soybeans and non gmo soybeans. Todd also was a Farm Business Management Instructor through South Central College.

Todd and his wife Patty have six kids. Todd is active in his local church, volunteer fire department, township board, and director of McPherson Minnesota Lake Township Mutual Insurance Company. He owns and operates Stencel Crop Insurance Agency.

DAN HUGHES
CEO, Hughes Trading Company

Dan Hughes, second generation edible bean grower, with his wife, Jeena, has continued the legacy of his father, Tom Hughes, who introduced the first edible bean, pintos, to the West Central area of Minnesota in 1970.

Dan has grown a variety of edible beans, pintos, navies, dark kidneys, cranberries and blacks. The farming operation now grows edible beans, non-gmo soybeans and corn. Dan had served on the Northharvest Board for 20 years and is a self-taught entrepreneur. Dan is CEO of Hughes Trading Company (HTC) the farming operation, established in 1989 and CEO of Stony Ridge Foods (SRF), an edible bean food processing plant, established in 2000. The next generation, son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Erika, manage and operate the farm, HTC and daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Joe Wrobleski, manage SRF with the guidance and experience of their father.

REID MACDONALD
President and CEO
Faribault Foods

Reid MacDonald is President and CEO of Faribault Foods. The company started as a pea and corn canner owned by his family and took over the leadership after graduating from the University of Minnesota with his law degree. Reid has made ten additional acquisitions to form the current Faribault Foods which is a diversified edible bean cannner, pasta manufacturer, chili, pouched fruit juice, and recently began producing food in retort pouches. Reid has served as chairman of the National Food Processors Association and on the Executive Committee of the Grocery Manufacturers Association as well as other profit and nonprofit boards. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife Ann and they have four children.

Kate Leavitt serves as the Director, International Sales & Marketing of the SunOpta Grains and Foods Group which was originally established as the Minnesota Waxy Corn Growers Association by over 300 grower members/shareholders.

Ms. Leavitt coordinates the international marketing efforts of the specialty grain and value-added ingredient products.

Ms. Leavitt is currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Soyfoods Association of North America and a board member of the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council.

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