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April 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

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MCIA ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF BENJAMIN J. (BEN) LANG AS NEW PRESIDENT/CEO.

Tim Backman, Chairman of the MCIA Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Ben Lang as the President/CEO of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, effective June 1, 2008. Ben will take over as President/CEO upon the retirement of Dr. Gary Beil, who has served as the association's President/CEO since January 1, 1995.

Mr. Lang is a 1979 graduate of the University of Minnesota and joined MCIA as a field inspector and seed analyst after his graduation from the University. During his career, he has served the association in several senior management positions, most recently as the Manager of Field Services. In addition to his University training, Ben has successfully completed extensive training as a National Seed Health Systems Auditor, Organic Handler and Producer Inspector, ISO/IATCA Quality Management System Lead Auditor and Organic Livestock Inspector. In addition, he has been actively involved on numerous committees of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) focusing on various quality assurance issues.

For additional information on Ben Lang's appointment, contact Cindy Wippler at MCIA.

MCIA is an innovative Minnesota based non-profit association established in 1903 to provide support services to members to improve their productivity and profitability. The association conducts programs under recognized quality management systems, including certification and foundation seed services, National Organic Program (NOP) accredited producers, handlers and livestock certification programs, technology marketing, and various Quality Assurance, Identity Preserved and trait verification audit programs.