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Nation's Corn Farmers Support American Ethanol Partnership with NASCAR

(ST. LOUIS) December 2, 2010 -- The National Corn Growers Association and its state affiliates are among the organizations backing American Ethanol, a partnership including Growth Energy and NASCAR. This new partnership, announced by NASCAR today, comes after the popular racing organization said in October it would fuel all races with E15, a 15 percent corn ethanol blend, starting with the 2011 season.

"The productivity of America's farmers is unrivaled in the world and our ability to supply corn for food, livestock feed and fuel should be a source of national pride. This exciting new association with the NASCAR Nation will help to build that awareness," said Bart Schott, NCGA president and a corn grower in Kulm, N.D. "With precision farming, innovation, technology and hard work farmers can double our harvest in the years ahead. NASCAR is a high-profile way to showcase one great use for this abundance." NCGA's involvement comes with the generous support of state corn checkoff investments.

As part of the multi-year agreement, America Ethanol will be highlighted on every vehicle running in a NASCAR race and be prominent on NASCAR's Green Flag. In addition, American Ethanol will sponsor a new award for every race, be featured on-site race day events and more. American Ethanol will support drivers, teams and tracks with marketing, promotional activities and advertising.

"NASCAR and American Ethanol are ideal partners," said NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France. "NASCAR is a great American sport in its third generation of family ownership, and ethanol is produced from the harvest of family-owned farms across our country's heartland."

"American Ethanol's new partnership with NASCAR is much larger and more ambitious than a typical sports sponsorship," France added. "Here we have an entire industry looking to NASCAR to communicate its message that America is capable of producing its own renewable, greener fuel. The entire NASCAR industry will benefit from American Ethanol's multi-faceted support of NASCAR, as well as from thousands of farmers and members of the ethanol supply chain now serving as new ambassadors for the sport."

Led by Growth Energy, nearly 100 different entities – from individual ethanol plants to NCGA to biotech companies – are rallying around NASCAR to communicate their ethanol message.

"E15 is an enormous opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create U.S. jobs, and strengthen national energy security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil," said Tom Buis, CEO of Growth Energy. "There is nothing more American than NASCAR, and there is no fuel more American than ethanol. We are so proud that the bounty of American farming will be used in NASCAR racing."

For more information, visit www.americanethanolracing.com

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Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents 35,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for their members and their industry.