NEWS RELEASE

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Minnesota Sweet Corn Production Leads Nation

The Midwest Food Products Association (<u>MWFPA</u>) today praised Minnesota's first place ranking nationally for the production of sweet corn for processed in 2022. The rankings, released by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistical Service, may be viewed at <u>nass.usda.gov</u>.

The production of sweet corn for processing in Minnesota totaled 745,945 tons and was valued at \$84.3 million for the year.

"Food processing is strongly tied to agriculture," said Jason Culotta, president of MWFPA. "Minnesota regularly ranks high in the production of sweet corn, oats, sugar beets, green peas, and soybeans in addition to turkeys, hogs, and pigs." In 2022, the North Star State reclaimed its lead of the nation's sweet corn production from Washington state.

Sweet corn production is heavily concentrated in the upper Midwest and the Pacific Northwest. Most of the sweet corn grown for processing is produced in the southern portion of the state. Most sweet corn for processing is grown near processing or canning facilities.

Sweet corn is grown on 93,600 acres of farmland across the state. The majority of the crop will either be frozen or canned for resale.

Minnesota also placed second in the nation for producing green peas in 2022, with 1.71 million tons harvested with a value of \$36.4 million. Green peas are a cool season, annual crop. The majority is grown for processing and is produced in central, south-central, and southeastern Minnesota.

Sweet corn and peas make their way from farms into the frozen food and canned good aisles of grocery stores in the state as well as across the country. The state is a major food processing location, hosting companies with national and international name recognition.