



PRESS RELEASE

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NEARLY 650 TO CELEBRATE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRIBUSINESS

38th Annual Celebration of Agriculture to Feature Craig Culver, Co Founder of Culver's, as Keynote Speaker

CEDAR RAPIDS – Iowa is a national leader in agricultural production, ranking number one in corn, pork and egg production and among the top producers of soybeans. As one of our state's largest industries, agriculture plays an important role in the economic success of our region.

The importance of agribusiness takes center stage at the 38th annual Celebration of Agriculture on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Cedar Rapids Convention Complex, following National Ag Day on March 24. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a program beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Celebration of Agriculture is proud to support HACAP, helping to fight food insecurity in our region. A cash donation is collected during the event to further support this important cause.

The Celebration of Agriculture offers a unique opportunity for attendees to network and engage with agriculturalists and agribusiness leaders from across Eastern Iowa. This year's event features keynote speaker Craig Culver, Co Founder of Culver's, the nationally recognized restaurant brand known for its ButterBurgers and Fresh Frozen Custard.

Raised in Sauk City, Wisconsin, Craig Culver grew up working alongside his family in the restaurant business. In 1984, Craig and his wife Lea, along with Craig's parents George and Ruth, opened the first Culver's restaurant. Since then, the brand has grown to nearly 1,000 restaurants across the country, built on a strong commitment to quality ingredients, hospitality and supporting agricultural producers. Culver's longstanding partnerships with dairy farmers, beef producers and other agricultural suppliers highlight the vital connection between agriculture and the food industry.

"We are honored to welcome Craig Culver to the 38th Annual Celebration of Agriculture," said event chair April Isaacson. "Craig's story is a powerful example of how agriculture fuels entrepreneurship, strengthens rural communities and connects farmers to families across the country. His appreciation for the people who produce our food aligns perfectly with the purpose of this event."

Nearly 650 people are expected to attend this annual celebration. Tickets to attend Celebration of Agriculture are \$50 per individual and \$500 for a table of ten and can be purchased, before March 12th, at <https://www.cedarrapids.org/economic-alliance-events/celebration-of-agriculture/>.

For questions about Celebration of Agriculture, please contact April Isaacson at april@growthland.com. The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance is a proud supporter of Celebration of Agriculture.

SHORT VERSION FOR TIGHT PUBLICATION SPACE

38TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF AGRICULTURE TO FEATURE CRAIG CULVER AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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This year’s keynote speaker is Craig Culver, Co Founder of Culver’s. Since opening the first restaurant in 1984 with his family, Culver has grown the brand to nearly 1,000 locations nationwide. Built on a commitment to quality ingredients and hospitality, Culver’s maintains strong partnerships with dairy farmers, beef producers and other agricultural suppliers, highlighting the direct connection between agriculture and the food industry.

“We are honored to welcome Craig Culver to this year’s Celebration of Agriculture,” said event chair April Isaacson. “His story reflects the powerful impact agriculture has on entrepreneurship, community and economic growth.”

Tickets are \$50 per individual and \$500 for a table of ten and may be purchased, before March 12th, at <https://www.cedarrapids.org/economic-alliance-events/celebration-of-agriculture/>.

For additional information, contact April Isaacson at april@growthland.com. The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance is a proud supporter of Celebration of Agriculture.