

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION HOLDS 33rd ANNUAL BEST BAGGER CONTEST

St Paul, MN – August 17, 2021 - The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) held its 33rd annual statewide Best Bagger Contest on Saturday, August 14, 2021 at the MGA office in St. Paul, MN. Contestants came from all across the state to compete for the title of Minnesota's Best Bagger.

This is a fun, fast-paced, and entertaining contest that is important to the MGA and its membership as it showcases the talents of one of the industry's key employees. Baggers are the people responsible for the last experience customers have in a store, and this contest truly exemplifies the food industry's dedication to customer service.

The six participating contestants were judged on speed, style, attitude, proper bag-building technique, and weight distribution between the bags. Contest attendees witnessed the art of "bagging" by some of Minnesota's best. To showcase the food industry's commitment to consumer choice and the well-being of the communities we serve, baggers used the ever-popular reusable bags!

The first place winner in the competition was Justin Marshall of Kowalski's Market, Minneapolis, winning \$500 cash, a trophy, and a trip to Las Vegas, NV to represent Minnesota at the National Grocers Association (NGA) Best Bagger Championship in February 2022. Second place receiving a trophy and cash prize was awarded to Dylan Crawford of Lunds & Byerlys, Minnetonka. Thank you to all of our 2021 Best Bagger contestants for their outstanding efforts: Emily Dauw from Coborn's, Sartell, Danny Dressler from Mackenthun's Fine Foods, Waconia, Justin Geertsema from Hy-Vee, Lakeville, and Tyler Thorvig from Chris' Food Center, Sandstone.

Three of the nine baggers were also given Bagger Excellence Awards, and a cash prize. The "Traveler" award was granted to Tyler Thorvig of Chris' Food Center, Sandstone, for traveling the longest distance to the contest, nearly 90 miles. The "Balance" award was captured by Danny Dressler of Mackenthun's Fine Foods, Waconia, whose two bags had only .10 pounds difference between them. Finally, the "Speed" award was awarded to Justin Marshall who bagged his two reusable bags in 53.03 seconds.

The Best Bagger Contest was held in conjunction with the Bipartisan Bag-Off (see separate press release), which featured a representative from each of the four legislative caucuses and a member of the Governor's Administration. All legislative participants received \$500 to donate to a food charity of their choice with the winner receiving \$1,000.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 120 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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