



HISTORY - MTGA & MTRPC

Turkey has a rich history in the United States, from America's earliest explorers to the first men on the moon. In fact, the turkey could have beaten out the bald eagle as our nation's official bird if Benjamin Franklin had his way.

The **Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council (MTRPC)** is an organization of turkey farmers that is recognized as a leading source for the latest turkey information. Since 1965, the MTRPC has worked diligently to encourage consumers to eat more turkey year-round, sponsor innovative turkey research and educate a variety of audiences about the benefits of turkey. Programming at the MTRPC is funded by a voluntary grower checkoff program.

The **Minnesota Turkey Growers Association (MTGA)** has a long and rich history of representing the state's turkey producers. The MTGA has grown phenomenally since 1939 and has worked hard to advocate for the industry through lobbying efforts, media relations, communications efforts and materials, website/social media and special projects. The wisdom gained from decades of experience is an incredible asset to MTGA members. MTGA works in tandem with MTRPC to provide complementary services. MTGA members pay annual dues to join the organization, and in return, are eligible for a myriad of benefits.

While MTGA and MTRPC share some common items, each is a LEGALLY SEPARATE entity.

The general goals of both organizations are to work on behalf of the interests of the turkey industry through research, outreach, education, communications, issues management, lobbying, and providing member services such as publications, disease monitoring and alerts, meetings and conventions and more. (*See Legal Documents section for both organizations as well as the MTGA-MTRPC Action Plan for specific details*).

Prior to 1965, Minnesota only had one organization serving all of its needs, the MTGA. The desire for more participation in the funding of the organization led to the formation of the MTRPC in 1965, creating the arrangement we have today. The basic difference between the two is that the MTRPC was established by an act of the Minnesota Legislature and operates under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, while the MTGA was formed under normal non-profit statutes. Put in another way, the MTGA is primarily a *service organization* with the legal right to engage in lobbying, while the Council is primarily a *funding organization* which cannot engage in lobbying.