



VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

SERVING THE
VEGETABLE
INDUSTRY

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1964

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You receive this newsletter twice a year because you are a member of the Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) for the year. When you attend the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo (GL Expo) if you identify yourself as a vegetable grower then your registration makes you a member of The Michigan Vegetable Council for the year..

MVC COMMUNICATIONS

6835 S Krepps Rd St. Johns, MI 48879 | 517-663-6725 | michiganvegetablecouncil.org

Like MVC on Facebook and Twitter: @michvegouncil. Some websites to checkout:

www.youtube.com/@michiganvegetablecouncil/playlists

www.michigangrown.org/

www.youtube.com/user/MichiganAgCouncil/videos

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

You should receive this newsletter as an email and a printed copy (unless outside of the US then only email). Someday we may switch to all email, but checking what works best. A valid email address for Expo registration is important. We do our best to not share your email address and we limit email distractions to our yearly members.

The Michigan Vegetable Council has been using the lobbying services of Kelley Cawthorne LLC for a good portion of 2023 now. This service focuses on boosting the vegetable industry's

profile at the State level. Having a solid presence in Michigan has helped when dealing with issues that pertain to both the State and Federal Government. For example, East and Southeast Michigan have had some serious floods. The Michigan Vegetable Council is using its connections in the State and in DC to try to get help sent our way. The bulk of this work still has to be done by the individual farms and USDA-FSA. This may lead us to taking a deep dive into available vegetable crop insurance options during a workshop at the 2024 Expo. For now we are hoping to get some county level vegetable disaster declarations made.

The 10 Cents a Meal Program has \$9.3 million dollars available for schools to

receive if they purchase local produce. The program has been successful, but ramping up to the current funding means schools need connections to local produce. The networking to connect a school

to local produce is being worked on by means of creating a Michigan Farm Guide. Do you want to provide produce to schools, then give some basic information to MI Dept of Education, who administers the program. Take this survey so that schools will be able to see that you are interested in participating. (https://msu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dh8ryyTcOyO9VGu)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in coordination with other federal agencies, is announcing up to \$65 million in grants available for the Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP Program).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is working with Central American countries to boost their participation in the H-2A guest worker program. El Salvador has greatly increased their available workforce and has portions of their country's program that could contribute to cost savings for vegetable growers who use H-2A guest workers from El Salvador.

2023 GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND FARM MARKET EXPO

DEC 5-7

2023 Room Blocks at the Amway Grand, JW Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, Hyatt Place, and Holiday Inn are open. (glexpo.com) Don't put

off reservations as these do sell out. Canopy by Hilton is rather new to downtown Grand Rapids and has offered an Expo rate as well.

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MSU is hosting Restricted Use Pesticide License Core Review and Testing at Expo on Thursday Dec 7, details at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2024RUPInPersonTesting/>

Meet The Buyers returns to Expo, December 6 at 4pm in the Main Hall networking area. Go SUBSCRIBE to MVC on YOUTUBE <https://www.youtube.com/@michiganvegetablecouncil/playlists> (6 years of vegetable award videos, 2023 MI Eastside flooding, and MVC mascots)

Did you know that the trade show underwent a bit of a redesign? The Farm Market Hall and the Main Hall both have areas for roundtable discussions. The Valent Main Hall Stage has a full schedule. The stage is at the end of Main Street. There will be several dozen new Ag Tech exhibitors in the Innovation Aisle. Many of these exhibitors are focused on labor saving innovations. To see who, go to <https://glexpo23.expop.com/> Do you have a need for Ag Tech, then consider attending the Ag Tech Symposium on December 7 from 9am-2:30pm. The

innovation companies and others in the innovation space are going to be present to have discussions and hear from others on what needs done to have the latest and greatest Ag Tech supporting the specialty crops in the Great Lakes. The Ag Tech Symposium is included with your Expo registration. Please read more about the agenda at glexpo.com. If you plan to attend the lunch portion (12-2:30pm) please sign up with the next link so we have a head count. (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/698549469267?aff=oddtcreator>)

AG TECH @ 2023 GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND FARM MARKET EXPO

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

New grant in 2023:		
Grant Type	Details	Grantee
SCBG	Can New Cultivars be the Answer to Rhizomania, the New Table Beet Disease.	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab

Get to the EXPO to find out the latest results from these current projects:

Grant Type	Details	Grantee
SCBG	Testing New Ways to Monitor and Manage Cucurbit Downy Mildew	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	Getting to the Root of the Problem: Increasing Vegetable Plant Establishment and Productivity	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	Advancing Agbot and Drone Technologies for Sustainable Soil and Weed Management in Michigan Vegetables	MSU, Dr. Daniel Brainard's lab
GREEN	Improving Cucurbit Pollination in Michigan Farms	MSU, Dr. Zsofia Szendrei's lab
MVC	Developing Molecular Diagnostic Services for Root Lesion Nematode Species Identification in Vegetables	MSU, Dr. Marisol Quintanilla and Dr. Henry Chung

MVC Research Grant Funds Provided:

	Years	Future Grant Commitments	Dollars Granted
Research Grants (SCBG, GREEN, others)	2002-2021		\$1,796,952
Research Grants (SCBG, others)	2023		\$12,000
Research Grants (SCBG)	2021-2024	\$201,500	
Grant Totals	2002-2023		\$1,808,952

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) provides student scholarships that are awarded each December at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo.

MVC Scholarships:		
Years	Number of Scholarships	Dollars Given
2001-2021	119	\$147,800
2022	7	\$10,500
Scholarship Totals 2001-2022	126	\$158,300

The **Expo** has these exhibitors in the **Innovation Aisle:**

- Profarm Group, FarmWise, Kemps Machine Company, OnPoint Applications Group LLC, Soiltech Wireless, Huplaso, Custom Agronomics LLC, Polyexpert, Ridge Automation LLC, Carbon Robotics, MSU Research
- Foundation, Monarch, Agri Spray Drones, Farm-Ng, GarrCo Products Inc, HJV Equipment LLC, ALPEN Swiss Tools by Brookdale, Sun Sugar Farms, Vivid Machines, National Market Maker Network, AgBiome, Hectre

The Expo has these roundtable discussions:

In the Farm Market Hall	In the Main Trade Show Hall	
Local Zoning	How do we determine the payback of tech investments on the farm	Camera-guided cultivators
Employee Retention	What is the value of farm level production (input/output) data to your business?	Autonomous cultivators
Food and Beverage	Smart spraying	Latest Tech in Indoor Infrastructure
Emergency Prep	Variable-rate fertilizers	Financing ideas for new technology
		Tech in the Farm Market

THE EXPO HAS THESE EVENTS ON THE VALENT STAGE IN THE MAIN HALL:

- Smart Tree Fruit Thinning, featuring Accede® and all Valent PGR's
- Kemin's new botanical oil-based biopesticides and novel plant growth technologies.
- Laserweeding: The Future of Weed Control
- Five Benefits Growers and Packers Are Gaining From Early Fruit Sizing AI
- Women in Ag "Fireside Chat"
- 40 Under 40 Awards
- Peterson Farm Bros
- Michigan Vegetable Council Annual Meeting
- Ag Tech Symposium
- Managing Sulphur Nutrition in Specialty Crop Production
- Demystifying Plastic Packaging in the Produce Industry
- What could possibly motivate someone to utilize the H2-A program?
- Workforce Warehouse – A new and more efficient way to EXPLORE, ENGAGE, & EMPLOY seasonal farm workers
- Automated Weed Control in Vegetables with State-of-the-Art Computer Vision

