

**PPP
PAYCHECK
PROTECTION
PROGRAM -
REOPENED**

An SBA-backed loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 crisis. SBA is currently offering PPP loans until May 31, 2021. If you own your own business or are self-employed this program may be accessible for you. Find out more at the following link, including details about loan forgiveness.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>

**CORONAVIRUS
FOOD ASSISTANCE**

— PROGRAM 2 - CURRENT STATUS - REOPENED —

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced an expansion of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) on March 24, 2021. USDA reopened CFAP 2 signup for all eligible producers beginning April 5, 2021. A deadline for signup will be announced at a

later date. Visit farmers.gov/cfap/specialty for details.

The Great Lakes Vegetable Producer's Network put together a special episode regarding CFAP 2.

Ben Werling and Florencia Colella interview Benita Meekhof, from the Farm

Service Agency about CFAP 2, the renewed and modified COVID-19 support program that specialty crop growers definitely need to check out. <https://www.glveg.net/listen> "CFAP 2, Money for You." This episode can be found in the list at the bottom of the page.



**VEGETABLE
NEWS *and* VIEWS**
FROM THE MICHIGAN
VEGETABLE COUNCIL



VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

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US
DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

**WAGE AND
HOUR DIVISION**
AGRICULTURE
COMPLIANCE
ASSISTANCE TOOLKIT

You may be large enough to work with a labor contracting service agency, but if you are not or you prefer to handle it yourself, the following is a website I would look to for answers to questions regarding managing your labor needs:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/compliance-assistance/toolkits/agriculture>

2021
GREAT LAKES
FRUIT, VEGETABLE,
AND FARM
MARKET EXPO

IS DEC 7-9

2021
ROOM BLOCKS
OPENED ON
FEBRUARY 1, 2021
(GLEXPO.COM)

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

MVC keeps a webpage at <https://michiganvegetablecouncil.org>.

Like MVC us on Facebook and Twitter @michvegouncil.

MVC has only a few videos at YouTube, but we are working on adding more:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsbngVN-MPoYGqiF0ypb81w/videos>

Check out all the podcasts and videos at Michigan Agriculture Council

<https://michigangrown.org/>

(Michigan Grown Michigan Great)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MichiganAgCouncil/videos>



**2021 GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE,
AND FARM MARKET EXPO IS DEC 7-9**

2021 ROOM BLOCKS OPENED ON FEBRUARY 1, 2021 (GLEXPO.COM)

Thank you to those who attended our 2020 Virtual Expo. The attendance at the various educational sessions was astounding. 184 people viewed the asparagus sessions. There were 4 vegetable related sessions which were viewed by over 150 people. The recordings of the event remained available for 1 month after the LIVE

event. Attendance included 1,850 live registrants, and 71 people who registered only to watch recorded presentations.

Thank you for taking the post event survey which was sent out immediately following the Expo. MSU Extension provides the Expo with the great educational programming and it needs feedback to continue

improvement. The survey results are shared with Expo. Survey respondents hailed from 43 Michigan counties, 34 US states, and 8 Canadian provinces. Survey respondents included 39% of the people had over 10 years' experience farming. Our registration data shows that the 41% of registrants farm on 10-200 acres.

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

BOARD

MEMBER NEWS

New MVC board members are elected at our annual meeting each December. In December 2020, Senator Roger Victory was elected to the board of directors for another set of terms, as Roger has been on the board previously. Roger is an owner of Victory Farms

in Hudsonville. Victory Farms is known for growing root vegetables and winter squash.

MVC board members serve up to 3 terms which are 3 years in length. The next time you are at the Great Lakes Expo stop by the MVC booth if you think you may be interested in

being part of the board of directors. We have several terms expiring in 2022 and 2023. One aspect of the board is to help plan the Great Lakes Expo. A few board members serve on the Expo planning committee and get to plan the details of the event.

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

The Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) had one Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBG) with MSU which is: “Strategies are Needed to Protect Michigan’s Cucurbits from Fungicide Resistant Downy Mildew”, with Dr Mary Hausbeck’s lab.

2021 research grants funded by the Michigan Vegetable Council:

“Leveraging solar and robotic technology to address energy and labor constraints for Michigan vegetable growers.” proposal of Dr. Daniel Brainard.

“Beating” the destructive Rhizomania disease by showcasing resistant red beet varieties’ proposal of Dr. Mary Hausbeck.

MVC Research Grant Funds Provided

	Years	Future Grant Commitments	Dollars Granted
Research Grants (SCBG, GREEN, others)	2002-2020		\$1,533,707
Research Grants (SCBG, others)	2021		\$34,200
Research Grants (SCBG)	2020-2022	\$91,577	
Grant Totals	2002-2020	\$91,577	\$1,567,907

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) provides student scholarships that are awarded each December at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo. Here are some notes from a few of our 2020 winners:

Audrey Kruse graduates this spring from Purdue with a BS in Plant Genetics, Breeding, and Biotechnology, and with a minor in German. Audrey is off to an internship in Great Falls Montana for 6 months to work on canola breeding for Cargill. Audrey will then return to the midwest at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she will be pursuing a MS degree in Plant Breeding and

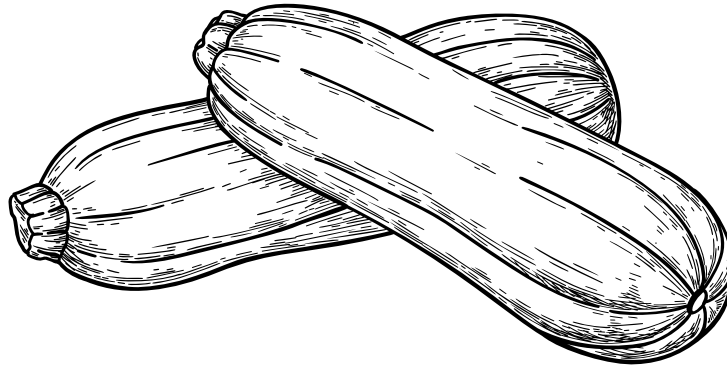
Plant Genetics.

Gayathri Gunathilaka is finishing her PHD in Food Science on vegetable processing at MSU. Gayathri is about done with her classes and lab work and will spend the spring and summer working on her dissertation. She hopes to defend her dissertation later this summer or early fall.

Grace Kenny is about finished with her classes for a MS degree in Plant Pathology at MSU. Grace has focused on cucumber work. Grace will continue working with Dr Mary Hausbeck this summer and will graduate next fall.

MVC Scholarships

Years	Number of Scholarships	Dollars Given
2001-2019	105	\$126,800
2020	7	\$10,500
Scholarship Totals 2001-2020	112	\$137,300



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (USITC) HEARINGS FOR FRESH CUCUMBERS AND SQUASH

The USITC held hearings on April 8 for “Cucumbers: Effect of Imports on U.S. Seasonal Markets with a Focus on the U.S. Southeast”, and “Squash: Effect of imports on U.S. Seasonal Markets with a Focus on the U.S. Southeast” (Investigation Nos. 332-583 and 332-584). Imports from Canada and Mexico affect the fresh markets for these vegetables here in Michigan. I sat through some of the hearing. Representatives from the Mexican and Canadian governments testified in the hearing. The USITC will take electronic

submissions through April 27. Regardless of the outcome, our society is very data driven and data on farming commodities plays an important role in investigations by the USITC.

From a press release: Congressman Bill Huizenga (MI-02) announced his support of a section 332 Investigation by the International Trade Commission (ITC) into unfair trade practices that are negatively impacting operations for cucumber and squash growers in Michigan and across the nation.