



VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

SERVING THE
VEGETABLE
INDUSTRY

since
1964

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VEGETABLE INDUSTRY MEETINGS

Early in 2020 the Michigan Vegetable Council held its first industry meeting lunch at Paw Paw Brewing Company. Turnout was great and so was the food and discussion. The discussion centered around labor, trade, and marketing. During winter 2021, the plan is to host one in Paw Paw again, as well as two others elsewhere in the state. Contact gbird@michiganvegetablecouncil.org if you want to get on the invite list for 2021. You will get a free lunch and a chance to discuss the important topics facing Michigan vegetable growers.

You receive this newsletter twice a year because you are a member of the Michigan Vegetable Council for this year. When you attend the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market 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

No one likes too many emails. Therefore, please see if you can work these into your bookmarks, LIKES and FOLLOWS. The MVC keeps a webpage at <https://michiganvegetablecouncil.org>. The MVC also has a small presence on Facebook and Twitter. I might post something on Twitter that I think needs broadcast to MVC

members. I try to post a photo or two when I am out and about for the council. @michvegouncil gets you to the right location on both Facebook and Twitter. Not having our own marketing division, we help out with the Michigan Agriculture Council <https://michiangrown.org/> (Michigan Grown Michigan Great)

MDARD AND FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Farms that gross \$250,000-\$500,000 will be subject to MDARD produce safety inspections beginning in 2020 and farms that gross over \$25,000 will be subject to inspections beginning in 2021. Any questions should be directed to Kristin Esch of MDARD (eschk@michigan.gov) or 517-930-6592.

EXPO SURVEYS

The GL Expo surveys were successful once again in 2019. The majority of that data goes to MSU Extension for purposes of planning the education sessions. The GL Expo board had a survey a month ago where

we surveyed attendees and trade show vendors. The GL Expo board was very pleased with the response. Some success stories from this survey will be shared in 2020 GL Expo promotional materials.

Head to <https://GLEXP.COM> to find out more about the 2020 GL Expo as planning continues all year long.

FRUIT + VEGETABLE 40 UNDER FORTY AT EXPO FOR 2020

The Fruit Grower News and Vegetable Grower News proudly present awards to those under 40 who are leaders in the fruit and vegetable industries. The award ceremony will be in Devos Place, on Tuesday Dec 8.

*** FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, EXTENSION & EDUCATION

There is quite a lot of vegetable research ready to get going in 2020. The Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) has two Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBG) with MSU that are both in their second year. They are: "Developing integrated crop management and extension programming for Michigan table beet and turnip production" and "Optimizing Production of Processing Squash with Increase Quality and Disease Resistance." The Michigan Vegetable Council submitted two more SCBG proposals this winter. Later this summer, MVC will find out about funding for these new submittals.

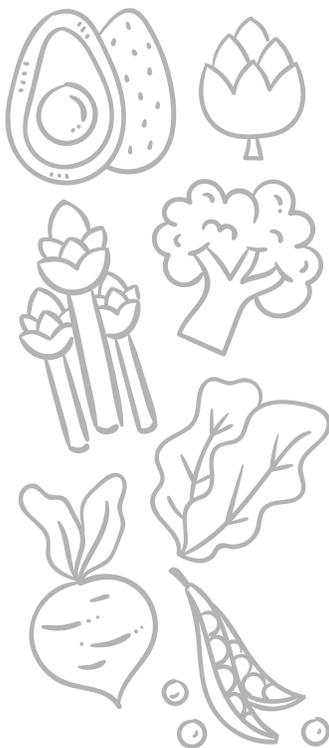
MVC recently awarded \$24,000 in unrestricted funds to support research scientists and extension educators at MSU.

MVC received a few other grant proposals for 2020 which were approved. These include the following:

"Finding solutions to managing above threshold populations of the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne hapla*, in parsnip (cv. Panorama)" proposal of Dr. Marisol Quintanilla.

"Assessment of distribution and augmentative releases of *T. japonicus*, a novel parasitoid of brown marmorated stink bug in Michigan." proposal of Dr. Marianna Szucs.

"Survey of weed resistance in weeds of vegetable crops." proposal of Dr. Sushila Chaudhari. Dr. Chaudhari has taken on the role that was previously filled by Dr. Bernie Zandstra, prior to his retirement. I think you may still see Dr. Zandstra around some, but make sure to welcome Dr. Chaudhari to Michigan if you see her. Dr. Chaudhari was most recently doing post-doc work at Kansas State after completing her PhD at North Carolina State.



GL EXPO STRATEGIC PLANNING

It might be a bit of a buzzword to say that we need to have a strategic planning session to come up with a Mission Statement. The GL Expo board and key partners did just that in January. However, we did more than just come up with a Mission Statement. We spent a day coming up with a new branding for the GL Expo for this year. I look forward to rolling that out to you later this year. We feel we will have the best education sessions ever this year after listening to what you said you wanted. We plan on having more panel and roundtable discussions, following up certain education sessions. We hope to have some tables in the trade show where you can go to talk to an expert or see a demonstration. Oh and by the way, the GL Expo's Mission Statement is: "The Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO is the premier event to interact, learn and continue profitability by providing educational and business connections."

*** ** *NEW* *** ** DIRECTORS

Keith Bouwkamp of Grant, MI (Owner of Bouwkamp Farms LLC. The farm grows root vegetables.) was voted to be a board director for the Michigan Vegetable Council at the 2019 annual meeting.

Michael Kenny of Merrill, MI (President of Kenny Inc. The business is a pickling cucumber receiving, sorting and shipping company. Michael also sits on the Board of Directors of Pickle Packers International.) was voted to be a board director for the Michigan Vegetable Council at the 2019 annual meeting.

MVC SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS) ASSISTANCE

Every year seems to be a year to remember and 2020 is following suit. MVC is staying active and offering support in letters to local, state, and federal government to make sure that our vegetable growers get needed support in 2020. One other way the MVC has been helping our members is: by contacting SOS offices on behalf of our members. Associations are allowed to submit forms for their members to the SOS. The forms contain the information which can be used to help schedule appointments so that farms can get CDL licenses, titles, etc. If this might be of interest to you please contact Greg at the Michigan Vegetable Council (gbird@michiganvegetablecouncil.org).



==== AT THE ==== **2020 GL EXPO:**

The new MSU Food Processing Mobile Lab almost made it to the 2019 GL Expo. There were a few items that were not quite ready so the full size trailer could not join us in 2019. The Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) provided some sponsorship to MSU to help build the unit. Therefore, MVC is excited that we should be able to get this unit in for display in the 2020 GL Expo trade show.



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