



VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

SERVING THE
VEGETABLE
INDUSTRY

since
1964

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2019 MSU Agriculture Innovation Day will take place on July 26, 2019 at Michigan State University Farms in Lansing, Michigan. With a theme of "Focus on Precision Technology That Pays," experts will detail how implementing technology that aids in decision-making can improve yields, increase profit margins and reduce environmental impacts.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/msu_agriculture_innovation_day/agenda

MDARD will begin produce safety inspections in 2019. Farms that gross \$500,000 and over will be subject to an inspection this year. Farms that gross \$250,000-\$500,000 will be subject to inspections beginning in 2020 and farms that gross over \$25,000 will be subject to inspections beginning in 2021. MDARD expects to begin inspections in May or June of this year. Inspections should range from 1-4 hours in length depending on size. Inspections will be announced, free of charge and most likely will not be annual. The main goal of the inspections are educational in nature. Any questions should be directed to Kristin Esch of MDARD (eschk@michigan.gov) or 517-930-6592.

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://michigangrown.org/> (Michigan Grown Michigan Great).

NEW DIRECTORS

Greg Bird of Mason, MI (Executive Director for the Michigan Vegetable Council and Executive Director for the Michigan Onion Committee) was voted to be a board director for the Michigan Vegetable Council at the 2018 annual meeting.

Matt DeBlouw of Capac, MI (Director of Operations of Mike Pirrone Produce and the Farm Manager of Berville Farms. They have packing lines and they grow a wide variety of vegetables) was voted to be a board director for the Michigan Vegetable Council at the 2018 annual meeting.

EXPO SURVEYS

The EXPO surveys were a success in 2018. Thank you for filling out the survey at the website. There were still paper surveys available if needed. We received more results and comments than normal. This data is important to

MSU session coordinators for planning the EXPO.

Head to
GLEXP.COM
to find out more.

2019 GL EXPO
(Dec. 10-12)
planning is underway.

FRUIT + VEGETABLE 40 UNDER FORTY

== AT EXPO FOR 2019 ==

The Fruit Grower News and Vegetable Grower News proudly present awards to those under 40 who are leaders in the fruit and vegetable industries.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE COUNCIL SUPPORT?

If you need crop related weather information one place to turn is <https://enviroweather.msu.edu/> at MSU. Keith Mason became the coordinator of this program last year. The website is going through some extensive changes and should have an updated website for trying things out later this spring. Meanwhile the existing site continues to let you know when that next freeze may be.

MSU has two exciting new projects. MSU is refurbishing its campus fruit and vegetable labs. MSU is building several mobile food processing labs for its Institute of Agricultural Technology program. With a little luck and planning maybe we can have one of the mobile processing labs at the Expo this December.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/food-processing/food-processing-mobile-labs>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/food-processing/fruit-and-vegetable-campus-lab>

The purpose of Michigan's Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) is to improve and protect the health of pollinators in Michigan, while simultaneously protecting our crops, property, and human health. The plan can be found at: <https://pollinators.msu.edu/programs/protection-plan/>

Many crop specific details are still being researched and added to this plan.

ENERGY SURVEY

Here is a survey we are looking for individuals to help complete. The survey should still be available if you get this newsletter by the end of April.

Recognizing the importance of Michigan's agriculture sector and rural communities, the Michigan Energy Office (MEO) has engaged Public Sector Consultants (PSC) and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) to develop a research-driven roadmap. The roadmap

will guide efforts to develop programs and policies to advance energy waste reduction and renewable energy in these key communities. As part of this research, the project team would like to hear directly from agriculture producers and rural community businesses and residents about how energy issues impact you. Please take a moment to complete the survey; you can access the survey using the link below or going to <http://tinyurl.com/MIAgandRuralEnergySurvey>.

You can also access the survey on a mobile device using this QR code.




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ACRE AGTECH

ACRE is pleased to announce we have opened our application portal.

New discoveries are made daily and we want to learn which ones can best provide value to agricultural producers and processors.

ACRE AgTech serves existing agri-businesses statewide and innovative entrepreneurs nationally by understanding challenges, harnessing talent and technology, bringing them together in mutually profitable and environmentally sustainable ways.

Here is the link to gain direct access to the 2019 ACRE Innovators Co-Hort application platform: <http://www.acreagtech.com/innovators-wanted>

If you are in the agricultural industry already and have a technology need you would like to bring to our attention, ACRE can scout innovations for specific needs.

The above link will also guide agricultural producers and processors, and potential sponsors to quick access to connect with the ACRE team.

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

It is important to know that part of your EXPO registration supports vegetable crop research and extension. The net proceeds from the EXPO, in addition to providing for the Council's operating expenses, are used primarily for vegetable research and extension grants. During 2018, the Council made a research grant of \$56,754 that was funded by the USDA through a Specialty Crop Block Grant for "Optimizing Fall Cover Crop Fertility Management for Vegetable Cropping Systems." The remaining balance of \$41,855 will be completed and paid in 2019. Two more Specialty Crop Block Grants are launching in 2019 and portions of their total funding of \$158,751 will be funded in 2019. These projects 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."

Beginning in 2018 and continuing into the future, the Michigan Vegetable Council has named one of the vegetable scholarships awarded at the EXPO banquet as the "Dave Smith Michigan Vegetable Scholarship."

