



# VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

SERVING THE  
VEGETABLE  
INDUSTRY

since  
1964

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## VEGETABLE INDUSTRY MEETINGS

### YOU ARE INVITED!

Very early in 2020 the Michigan Vegetable Council plans on having 3 statewide regional lunch meetings. We plan on discussing how the Michigan Vegetable Council can be used by the vegetable growers in this state. Does the Council need to focus on legislation (local, state, or federal), do we need to develop some marketing programs, do we need to find a way to raise more money from and for the vegetable industry, do we need to focus more efforts on trade issues, would having more vegetable industry data help in any way? We do not have a guest list as of yet. You can be added to the list if you are vegetable grower here in Michigan. Stop by the Vegetable Council booth and sign up. You will get a free lunch and a chance to discuss these topics.



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).

### DRIED TART CHERRY TRADE COMMITTEE LAWSUIT

A lawsuit was filed in April by the Dried Tart Cherry Trade Committee with the International Trade Commission. Recently there was some good news when the U.S. Department of Commerce issued a preliminary schedule for tariffs on importers of foreign tart cherries. Perhaps as early as this winter there could be final approval. There then would be tariffs imposed which would hopefully stop the flood of Turkish government-subsidized dried tart cherries coming into the U.S. from Turkey.

### EXPO SURVEYS

The EXPO surveys were successful in 2018. Thank you for filling out the survey at the website. Expect a link to the survey website to be available again in 2019. This data is important to MSU session coordinators for planning the EXPO.

Head to  
**GLEXP.COM**  
to find out more  
as the  
**2019 GL EXPO**  
(Dec. 10-12)  
is right around  
the corner.

### 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. The award ceremony will be in Devos Place, on Tuesday Dec 10.

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## FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, EXTENSION & EDUCATION

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There is quite a lot of vegetable research in progress these days. Zach Hayden of MSU is just wrapping up a Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) sponsored by the Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC). It is titled "Optimizing Fall Cover Crop Fertility Management for Vegetable Cropping Systems." If you want to learn more about this and effects of nitrogen, Zach will be speaking during the onion, asparagus, and vine crop sessions at the Expo.

Two other SCBG are just finishing their first of two years. 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 Onion Committee is currently involved in one SCBG called "Leaf Blight Decreases Michigan Onion Yields and May Increase Bulb Rot: New Approaches Are Needed." There is also a brand new USDA Specialty Crops Research Initiative which has been awarded nationwide to 24 researchers and totals \$4 million dollars of federal money. It is titled "Stop the rot: Combatting onion bacterial diseases with pathogenomic tools and enhanced management strategies."

# THURSDAY

## AT THE EXPO

Thursday, December 12, may be the biggest Thursday event at the Expo ever. Thanks goes out to Ron Goldy (MSU Vegetable Extension Educator) and the Farm Market Sessions. The Farm Market Sessions on Thursday will be limited this year as Ron has brought together a fabulous Thursday program for all to enjoy. "Securing Your Legacy - Tomorrow's Success Depends on Today's Decisions" includes:

- Keeping it in the Family - *Paige J. Pratt, PhD*
- What to Consider When Estate Planning - *Rusty Rumley*
- The Lean Farm: How to Minimize Waste, Increase Efficiency, and Maximize Value and Profits on Your Farm - *Ben Hartman*
- Hiring and Keeping Great Seasonal Retail Staff - *Ruth Ann Roney*
- Adding Value to What You Already Produce - *Dr. Bill Knudson*
- Uncovering the Drivers of Profitability on your Farm - *Steve Klumper*
- Preparing for Life Before and After the Auction - *Bill Grabemeyer*
- Recognizing Farm Stress and Steps to Take - *Ted Matthews*

## MICHIGAN GOOD FOOD FUND

Colleagues at the Good Food Fund at MSU, are hosting an educational session (BEES, BOOKS, SOIL & STORIES A Sustainable Environment and Sustainable Business on Your Farm) on Dec 9 in Grand Rapids. As well, the Good Food Fund has its Catalytic Investment Awards available. Please take a look at both this educational session and the grant opportunity at <http://migooodfoodfund.org/>

## MEDIATION NOW AVAILABLE TO HELP RESOLVE LEASE, FARM TRANSITION, NEIGHBOR DISPUTES

Michigan farmers can now mediate a wide range of disputes at no cost through the

Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP) thanks to the 2018 Farm Bill.

The bill enables the MAMP to mediate agricultural issues involving leases, farm transitions, organic certification, next-door neighbors and more.

For details, check out: <https://www.agmediation.org/>



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# DO YOU GROW TOMATOS? DO YOU HIRE H2-A LABOR?

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced a new draft suspension agreement on fresh tomatoes from Mexico. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOC/bulletins/25a05d3>

The Department of Labor (Department of DOL) proposes to amend its regulations regarding the certification of temporary employment of nonimmigrant workers employed in temporary or seasonal agricultural employment and the enforcement of the contractual obligations applicable to employers of such nonimmigrant workers. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/26/2019-15307/temporary-agricultural-employment-of-h-2a-nonimmigrants-in-the-united-states>

Perhaps you might not agree with all the changes being recommended. Let's discuss amongst Michigan vegetable growers. See the opportunity in the Vegetable Industry Meetings section.

## AT THE 2019 GL EXPO: HARVESTING INNOVATION

A few short years ago ACRE began Sewing The Seeds that would bring new technology and innovation to serve the

**WED (2-4pm)**

Michigan Agriculture industry. We started with a simple question to our farmers and processors, what innovations can help you today. ACRE wants to help today, not at some random date in the future.

ACRE has a booth at the 2019 Fruit and Vegetable Expo showcasing innovation and technology many of you can use today. At this session ACRE will be showcasing companies with solutions ready to deploy. At this session you will meeting founders seeking investment capital and customers who would benefit from their technologies. The companies will share their ideas to:

- Humanly and safely repel birds and wildlife from crops increasing yields and avoiding disease.
- Aggregate bio waste materials from farms to convert that material into valuable fuel
- Enable owners of equipment to rent to neighboring farmers to monetize periods of low utilization
- Provide a growing module to produce crops 365 days a year in any climate.

Visit our booth and attend our pitch event to learn more. [www.acreagtech.com](http://www.acreagtech.com)