



VEGETABLE NEWS *and* VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

SERVING THE
VEGETABLE
INDUSTRY

since
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

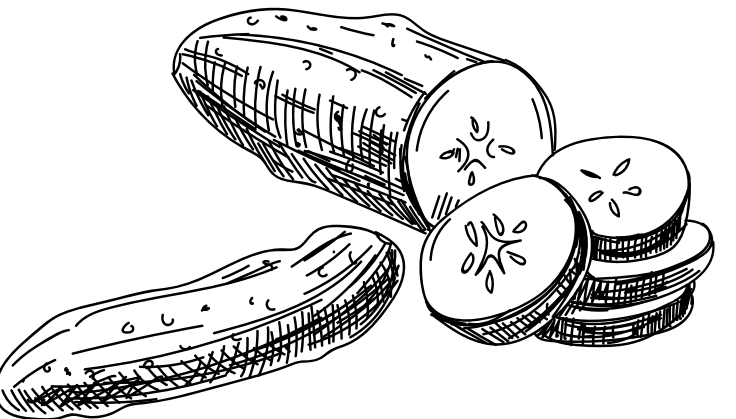
517-663-6725
michiganvegetablecouncil.org

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://michiangrown.org/>
(Michigan Grown Michigan Great)
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MichiganAgCouncil/videos>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Michigan Vegetable Council's mission to serve Michigan's vegetable industry is a broad mission. To Live agriculture, Know agriculture, and Talk agriculture have all been long standing components of an agricultural way of life. Some parts of Knowing and Talking agriculture have probably changed drastically over the past few decades. The Michigan Vegetable Council will be at the front of having and providing its industry with updates on how these parts change year in and year out.

I'll be honest in saying that if I try to explain carbon farming to you, I will confuse myself. However, I can tell you the importance of USDA, EPA, MDARD, EGLE, local drain commissioners, land assessors, and others. I know that politics plays a role in how the government and our world functions. Hot topics like Environmentally Responsible and Climate Smart are things you should know about. How do they play a role in your farm? I can tell you this, that both Environmentally Responsible and Climate Smart are extremely broad and complex and do not always mutually compliment each other. A Climate Smart decision might be to make one pass over a field instead of multiple passes. However, a single pass or multiple passes could both be looked at as Environmentally Responsible or Irresponsible. Doing homework and maintaining



your agricultural knowledge is all you can do in order to make decisions and build your system. Make sure you know how to communicate your decisions to fellow neighbors, citizens, and humans. On a side note, the Michigan IPM Alliance hosts EPA team members each summer for a tour of Michigan agriculture. We will be visiting vegetable and apple farms in West Central Michigan this August.

May 2 - May 13, 2022,
MDARD and the Michigan
Onion Committee will
hold a vote to continue the
Michigan Onion Promotion
and Development Program.
Michigan onion growers are
allowed to cast their vote on
whether the program should
continue. The program has
been in existence since 1977.
The program assesses up to
\$.06 per hundredweight of
onions sold. Program funds
are used for marketing and
research to benefit Michigan's
onion industry.

**MICHIGAN
ONION
COMMITTEE
-2022
REFERENDUM
VOTE

VEGETABLE
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2022 Room Blocks at the Amway Grand, JW
Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, and Hyatt Place
are open. (glexpo.com).
Thank you to those who attended the
2021 Expo in Grand Rapids. It was simply
amazing to be back at our event after being
completely virtual in 2020. The Michigan State
Horticultural Society had a massive display, in
Michigan, as travel was not always as smooth as
during previous years.

GREAT LAKES EXPO
(DEC 6-8) NEWS

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER NEWS

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We have several terms expiring in 2022 and 2023 and will need a few new board members. A few of the board members with

terms expiring are not vegetable growers, but are part of the vegetable industry. We can have board members who are not growers, but participate in the industry. A board member participates in 4 in-person meetings a year.

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. We will need a new

board member to take on this role in the next year or two. The Great Lakes Expo is a company which holds board meetings. The Expo has 2 in-person meetings and several conference calls each year.

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.

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

The Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) has one 2020 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. This just completed year one of two. Get to the Expo to find out the latest downy mildew research from this project.

The Michigan Vegetable Council (MVC) has two 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBG) with MSU which are: "Getting to the Root of the Problem: Increasing Vegetable Plant Establishment and Productivity," with Dr. Mary Hausbeck's lab.

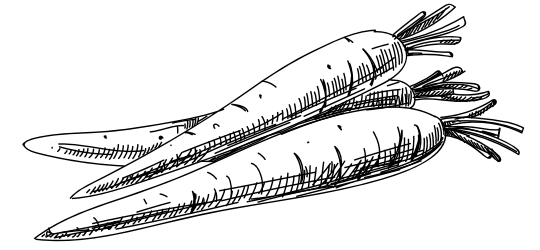
"Advancing Agbot and Drone Technologies for Sustainable Soil and Weed Management in Michigan Vegetables," with Dr. Daniel Brainard's lab.

Dr. Ben Werling and Dr. Zsofia Szendrei received a 2022 MSU GREEN grant with matching MVC funding in order to: "Help turnip, radish, cabbage and rutabaga growers adjust to life without Lorsban."

Dr. Michael Reinke of MSU will receive MVC funding for research: "Identifying the utility of aerial drone chemical application systems for Michigan vegetable crops (carrots, asparagus, and squash)."

MVC Research Grant Funds Provided			
	Years	Future Grant Commitments	Dollars Granted
Research Grants (SCBG, GREEN, others)	2002-2021		\$1,648,774
Research Grants (SCBG, others)	2022		\$42,000
Research Grants (SCBG)	2021-2023	\$211,192	
Grant Totals	2002-2022		\$1,690,774

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.

MVC Scholarships		
Years	Number of Scholarships	Dollars Given
2001-2020	112	\$137,300
2021	7	\$10,500
Scholarship Totals 2001-2021	119	\$147,800

MARKETPLACE EVENTS (PRODUCER \ BUYER EVENT)

Attention Michigan vegetable growers, I wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity coming up to connect with k-12 schools, early care and education centers (ECE) and other institutions that are interested in sourcing produce from local farmers and suppliers. On April 11th, over 75 institutions, buyers, farmers and local food suppliers gathered at a Cultivate Michigan Marketplace event hosted by the Michigan Farm to Institution Network. The event attracted 21 institutional buyers including 10 k-12 schools, 4 ECEs and 7 food resource organizations (food pantries/banks). The event is designed as a way for local farms and food suppliers to connect with institutions and develop relationships

leading to future sales. Many of these institutions are participants in a state funded program called 10 Cents a Meal that supports local k-12 schools and ECEs with funds to offset the cost of purchasing local vegetables, fruits and legumes for their school lunch and breakfast programs. The April 11th Marketplace Event was hosted in an effort to connect 10 Cents Grantees with local farmers and food suppliers. That effort will continue in the fall of 2022 and 2023 when additional Marketplace events will be held in regions across the state. Stay tuned for more information about dates and times for these future events! If you have any questions about the Marketplace Events please contact Garrett Ziegler at zieglerg@msu.edu.

FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY RULE

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) was adopted into state law in 2018, allowing the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to conduct on-farm produce safety inspections. All farms eligible for inspection should expect to have an initial inspection by 2026. Initial inspections focus on helping growers understand how PSR requirements apply to their farms.

In general, farms that grow, harvest, hold or pack produce typically eaten raw are eligible for inspection, although there are exemptions. For instance, a farm growing and harvesting carrots for canning may be eligible for a Processing Exemption.

To understand whether you're eligible for inspection or an exemption, we're asking farms to complete our Produce Safety Grower Tool. The tool will help determine your status after

you provide basic farm information and answer a few questions regarding your farm details and activities. This also helps MDARD determine how to prioritize farms for inspection.

Feedback from FSMA PSR inspections thus far has been positive. The PSR takes a preventive approach to on-farm food safety while providing flexibility to meet requirements. Inspections are free and every attempt is made to schedule them in advance. Inspectors understand harvest season is very busy, respect your time, and work with your schedule. Produce safety inspectors are happy to be a resource for produce farms and answer any questions or concerns growers have. Additional information on Michigan's Produce Safety Program, including free resources and trainings, can be found at www.michigan.gov/producesafety.