VEGETABLE NEWS and VIEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL

SERVING THE VEGETABLE INDUSTRY since 1964

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Michigan Vegetable Council Board Member News

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. You should receive this newsletter as an EMAIL ONLY for our fall newsletter. Our current plan is to send the newsletter as both printed and email in the spring. (unless outside of the US then only email). Someday we may switch to all email, but checking what works best. A valid email address for Expo registration is important. Our policy is to not share your email address and we limit email distractions to our yearly members.

MVC COMMUNICATIONS

6835 S Krepps Rd St. Johns, MI 48879 | 517-663-6725 | michiganvegetablecouncil.org

Like MVC on Facebook and Twitter: @michvegcouncil. The MVC Youtube site has previous award winner videos, plus other content.

Some websites to checkout:

www.youtube.com/@michiganvegetablecouncil/videos
www.michigangrown.org/
www.youtube.com/user/MichiganAgCouncil/videos

GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND FARM MARKET EXPO

PART I

To see who is exhibiting in the trade show this year, go to https://glexpo2025.expofp.com/. The Syngenta Crop Protection Stage is at the end of Main Street. Please check these talks out as they are always great and very relevant to the industry. Here's who will be on the Syngenta Crop Protection Stage this year:

- **Alamo Valley Solar**
- **Syngenta - PLINAZOLIN technology**
- **MDARD FSMA - on farm audits**
- **MSU Respiratory Safety Session**
- **Great American Media Services - 40 Under 40 Awards**
- **FSMA Water Rule Recordkeeping Workshop**
- **Morgan Composting - Tools to Manage Soil Health**
- **Steve Kluemper of Agristrategies LLC - How to Create Positive Cash Flow**

Are drones and the work they can accomplish of interest to you? If so, then consider attending the Drone Spraying Symposium on December 11 from 9am-4:00pm. The Drone Spraying Symposium includes lunch, but there is a $60 add-on cost to attend this day-long workshop. The workshop does provide up to 6 RUP pesticide credits. Register for Expo and the drone symposium here: **https://glexpo.com/attend/register/**

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

New grant(s) in 2025:

Grant Type	Details	Grantee
SCBG	Sustainable Management of Root-Knot Nematodes in Michigan Vegetable Production Systems.	MSU, Dr Marisol Quintanilla's lab

New grant(s) in 2025:

MVC	Food safety in cucurbits.	MSU, Dr Ahmed Abdelhamid' lab
MVC	Cover crop for specialty crop grower.	MSU Ext, Dr Saltanat Mambetova

Get to the Expo to find out the latest results from these current projects:

Grant Type	Details	Grantee
SCBG	Can New Cultivars be the Answer to Rhizomania, the New Table Beet Disease.	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	Testing New Ways to Monitor and Manage Cucurbit Downy Mildew.	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	Testing Integrated Solutions for Pepper Crown and Root Rot.	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
SCBG	AI-based Weed Recognition for Robotic Weeding.	MSU, Dr Yuzhen Lu's lab
GREEEN	Practical solutions to manage powdery mildew of squash and pumpkin.	MSU, Dr Mary Hausbeck's lab
GREEEN	Optimize anaerobic soil disinfestation.	MSU, Dr Jiyoon Yi's lab

MVC Research Grant Funds Provided

	Years	Future Grant Commitments	Funds Granted
Research Grants (SCBG, GREEEN, others)	2002-2023		$1,931,215
Research Grants (SCBG, others)	2024		$157,063
Research Grants (SCBG)	2025-2026	$251,333.62	
Grant Total	2002-2024		$2,088,278

MICHIGAN VEGETABLE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

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
2001-2023	132	$170,300
2024	8	$16,000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S **NOTES**

Have you heard of **PROTECTOURPRODUCE.COM**? Members are: Michigan Vegetable Council, Michigan State Horticultural Society, Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Tree Fruit Commission, Michigan Blueberry Commission, Cherry Marketing Institute, and Michigan Potatoes. The AEWR Coalition has created the Protect Our Produce Media Campaign. If you have not seen it, get out there and share it. The goal is to make sure H-2A Visa workforce program is sustainable for the employers using it. Recently, USDA decided to suspend use of the Farm Labor Survey. Hopefully this is one good step towards stabilizing the Adverse Effect Wage Rate. Protect Our Produce is constantly working on getting things done just like the suspending of the Farm Labor Survey.

What's happening in Michigan? MVC spent time with Kelley Cawthorne LLC in Lansing as it was a busy budget season this fall. There is far too much to list in a short newsletter. But, MVC did follow and weigh in on items for MDARD, EGLE, and some MSU grant programs. It is super important to make sure that state officials know the importance of our vegetable industry. Thank you to McDonald's McDonald's of Michigan, Seyferth, and Mr Chips. This group of companies helped put on a fabulous tour at Mr Chips, pickle processing in Pinconning, MI. The event had a great media draw and even had at least a dozen state representatives and senators in attendance.

For the first time in history, the U.S. imports more than 50% of the fruit consumed by Americans, while the share of U.S.-grown vegetable consumption is also shrinking. This vulnerability, driven by an upward spiral in labor costs, is a threat to the stability of our domestic food supply.

Following is a survey you can take to help an MSU professor with research regarding 21st century issues:

Study Title: Assessing Cybersecurity Among Agricultural Producers

Researcher and Title: Thomas J. Holt, Professor Department and Institution: School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University **https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9v3ALQWtUF1nl1Y**

GREAT LAKES ***FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND FARM MARKET EXPO***

PART II

Chris Butts, the Executive Director of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be at 2025 Expo. Chris will talk more about the FOIA Coalition and the American Fruit and Vegetable Political Action Committee. The FOIA Coalition has some Michigan commodity members and is very similar in nature to Protect Our Produce.

MSU is hosting Restricted Use Pesticide License Core Review and Testing at Expo on Thursday Dec 11 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Register here: (**https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/glexpo-pesticide-applicator-review-and-mdard-testing-offered-in-english-and-spanish**)

Meet The Buyers returns to Expo, December 10 at 4pm in the Main Hall food truck area. Here are a few of the buyers who will be in attendance: Corewell Health, ValleyHUB, Tom Maceri Produce, Gordon Food Service, Riggio Distribution, Kroger.

For 2025, Meet The Buyers will not only offer open house style meetings, but also one-on-one meetings

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension are partnering to bring matchmaking meetings to the Great Lakes Expo!

These one-on-one meetings provide the opportunity for food and agriculture businesses to meet with buyers looking to source Michigan products. The meetings will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, from 4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. on the trade show floor at the Great Lakes

Expo at Devos Place in Grand Rapids. Meetings will be 10-15 minutes with each buyer that suppliers are scheduled to meet with.

Applications are now being accepted for suppliers and will close on November 10, 2025. You must have an expo badge to attend the meetings; a badge can be purchased on the GLEXPO website. The one-on-one buyer supplier meetings are limited to Michigan suppliers because of the MDARD grant system. A general open house style meet the buyer event will be occurring at the same time and the open house is open to any supplier. Top products of interest for the buyers include fresh produce, Made in Michigan Products, and more.

The supplier registration is now open at this link: **https://mdard.connect.space/cm-meet-the-buyers-2025-registration-at-the-great-lakes-expo**

EXPO SOCIAL

Did you attend the Expo Social in 2024? 350+ of you did. The Expo offered you a drink and food from a massive charcuterie board. Everyone who attends Expo is invited to attend the Expo Social. ***The Social is at 5:30pm on Wednesday.*** Specialty crop industry awards are part of the event and those begin at about 6:15pm.

2025 GREAT LAKES
FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND FARM MARKET EXPO

DEC 9-11

2025 Room Blocks at the Amway Grand, JW Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, Hyatt Place, and Holiday Inn are open. (**glexpo.com**) Don't put off reservations as these do sell out.

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