

# Michigan Department of Agriculture's Best of the Best Employees



**Heather Brewer** – *Food and Dairy Division*

“Heather demonstrates the very best in a civil servant. She demonstrates a willingness to help people get the information or other assistance they need, she is patient and pleasant with everyone, she is creative in her problem-solving, she has learned the department and knows how to refer people to other divisions but she ensures that they get what they need even from others.”

Heather exemplifies the very best of the MDA's core values.



**Debby Cheresko** – *Laboratory*

“Debby does excellent work and is quick and efficient. She goes out of her way to be helpful and see that every detail is attended to. She is willing to take on additional tasks and is often called upon to do more than her fair share of work. She is an excellent employee.”

Debbie demonstrates MDA's value of Excellence – her work is focused on being correct, on time, and meeting the needs for which it was intended.



**Penny Corbin** – *Animal Industry Division*

“Penny is dependable; she does what she says she will do when she says she will do it. She sets goals and achieves them. She treats all people equal, and does not ask for, nor need, the credit for a job well done. She provides the need before she is asked. Penny always tries to do the right thing and makes the decision to do what is best for the customer.”

Penny excels in all of MDA's values.

# MDA's Best of the Best



**Marianne Courey** – *Food and Dairy Division*

“Inspector Courey believes in food safety and sanitation and is always looking for ways to educate store operators and owners in safe food handling. She always volunteers to train new inspectors and acts as mentor and role model to them. She is always available to help any co-worker when help is needed regardless of the time. She is dedicated to her customers.”

Marianne is highly regarded for her Integrity, Teamwork, Customer Focus, and Continuous Improvement.



**Nancy Crose** – *Office of Communications*

“Nancy is not only a dedicated professional, she is a constant driver of many of the special events that make MDA a great place to work. Her ability to handle multiple projects with great enthusiasm and efficiency is an example for the department. Nancy’s cool and capable demeanor and acting as a competent, reassuring voice for callers is a great asset for MDA.”

Nancy exemplifies MDA’s value of Teamwork, Customer Focus and Continuous Improvement



**Carrie Fata** – *Animal Industry Division*

“Carrie takes responsibility for serving customers and thus the Department with credibility and accountability. She applies this attitude internally, taking it upon herself to promote and improve internal customer service and working conditions. Carrie is always willing and eager to assist others within the Division in times of work overload or when the work force is reduced.”

Carrie demonstrates all of MDA’s values.



**Shelly Harper** – *Laboratory*

“Shelly demonstrates MDA’s “Best of the Best” with every activity that she participates in or project that she has responsibility for. She has a positive “Can do” attitude. Her organizational skills are excellent. She actively participates in new learning activities and makes procedures and suggestions for achieving team goals.”

Shelly demonstrates many of MDA’s core values, including Teamwork, Excellence, Customer Focus, Effective Communication, and Continuous Improvement.

# MDA's Best of the Best



**Arthur Hulkoff** – *Environmental Stewardship Division*

“Art does not limit his contributions to those required by the Environmental Sanitation job description. Art has always been a “go-to-guy” for technical direction and succinct problem solving when time is short or the stakes are high. Art has the ability to take a problem, narrow it down to the major points, and recommend a realistic plan of attack. “

Art excels beyond his great work in the core values of Teamwork, Meeting Staff Needs, and Effective Communication.



**David Johnston** – *Laboratory*

“David provides expert analytical testing of seed which enhances the image of MDA. He has taken on new work to assist his division with priorities that are established. David is high performing and manages time and work very professionally. In addition, Mr. Johnston is courageous, loyal to his peers and the Department, and is respected and liked by all who know him.”

David exemplifies MDA's core values of Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence, and Customer Focus.



**Kevin Kirk** – *Animal Industry Division*

“Kevin finds out what has to be done and plans how to accomplish the goal. He backs up and punts if he needs to. Kevin can work with the grassroots or the leather chairs.”

Kevin regularly exemplifies all of MDA's core values.



**Jeanne Lipe** – *Office of Communications*

“Jeanne is a strong team player and leads by example. She frequently handles projects and assignments that are diverse in scope and complexity. Jeanne demonstrates integrity, initiative and uses best judgment on a daily basis. She is willing to “go the extra mile” and has a “can do” approach on each project.”

Jeanne continuously demonstrates these MDA Values: Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence, Continuous Improvement, Meeting Staff Needs, and Effective Communication.

# MDA's Best of the Best



**Eric McCumber** – *Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division*

“Eric is a hard working, dedicated employee who represents the Department in a positive, enthusiastic manner. He seeks excellence in his work on a daily basis. Eric is recognized by both internal and external customers for his integrity and customer focus. He strives to always find better ways of conducting business through teamwork.”

Eric is an excellent employee and dedicated Civil Servant who represents all of the core values.



**David Pasutti** – *Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division*

“Dave’s interest and willingness to work on and improve database systems make him a highly valued asset to the Department. He routinely provides his expertise to Division and Department staff, and he is well recognized as a skilled person in every effort. It was through his efforts that allowed PPPMD to implement the nursery and agricultural project information suites that connect PPPMD’s inspectors, managers and supervisors to every inspection report. Dave has succeeded where many contractors have failed.”

Dave exemplifies these MDA Valued: Teamwork, Continuous Improvement, and Meeting Staff Needs



**Sue Richardson** – *Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division*

“Sue is a very positive asset to the MDA team. Sue works well with others and is always ready to participate in any MDA or Special event activity. She willingly covers other division’s phones and supports her coworkers. She is supportive of students and other new staff members and makes them feel part of the MDA family.”

Sue demonstrates the values of Inclusion, Teamwork and Customer Service.



**Melissa Rogers** – *Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division*

“Since Melissa has joined the MDA team she has taken on numerous projects and always delivers a quality product. She is a strong, supportive team player and works well with others, always ready to volunteer and take on part of the responsibility of the outcomes. She works hard to deliver a well planned program or document – often in short time frames.”

Melissa exemplifies the MDA values of Teamwork and Excellence.

# MDA's Best of the Best



**Robin Rosenbaum** – *Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division*

"Robin exemplifies personal and professional excellence. She is committed to the mission and dedicated to our stakeholders. Robin has earned the respect of staff, industry and others through positive role modeling. She's friendly, trustworthy, organized, and well spoken. She does what she says she'll do. Robin is also a visionary – she looks into the future and plans ahead to continue to meet the needs of both internal and external stakeholders."

Robin brings to the Department all of the core values and makes it look effortless.



**Jan Wilford** – *Environmental Stewardship Division*

"Jan can take tough issues that several departments are a part of and get everyone to complete the goals. She listens to the 'sticking-territorial' ideas and uses that to get the goals accomplished. She knows it takes all of the values to keep things balance and moving forward. Jan keeps the whole picture a part of the solution."

Jan regularly exemplifies all of the MDA Core Values.



**Maria Zinn** – *Human Resources Division*

"Maria continually places a strong emphasis on customer focus and meeting staff needs. Her positive attitude makes her extremely easy to work with. Maria truly is valuable to the MDA. She treats each employee with a great deal of respect on an ongoing basis. Maria's positive attitude is an example for others in the Department."

Maria exemplifies the values of Customer Focus and Meeting Staff Needs.

**Thank you for your continuous efforts to live the values of both the Department of Agriculture and the State of Michigan!**