

Michigan Department of Agriculture



at a glance

Michigan Commission of Agriculture

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture is a five-member, gubernatorially appointed board that provides oversight and direction for MDA and its programs. The Commission holds regular meetings, many of which are in Lansing, with the remainder held in various locations across the state to gain input and feedback from all segments and areas of the state's food and agriculture industry. All meetings are open to the public and time is set aside on the agenda for public comment. Citizens and/or organizations wishing to observe or discuss matters under the Commission's jurisdiction are encouraged to attend. For a list and contact information of members as well as meeting dates, times and agenda items, please visit www.michigan.gov/mda or contact the Commission Liaison at 517-335-3402.

Michigan Department of Agriculture

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Introduction

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), protects, promotes, and preserves the food, agricultural, environmental, and economic interests of the people of Michigan. MDA is one of the smaller agencies in state government with an approximate general fund budget of \$32.5 million and 500 employees; however, we house a diverse array of programs that in some way impact all of us, every day.

This booklet provides a brief overview of some of MDA's top priorities and key programs of growing the agri-food business industry; ensuring food safety and security; animal and plant health and protection; environmental stewardship; a viable agricultural economy; consumer protection; and homeland security.

Sincerely,



Don Koivisto, Director

A Snapshot of Michigan's Food & Agriculture Industry

Michigan agriculture contributes \$71.3 billion annually to the state's economy, making it the second-largest industry. Production agriculture, food processing and related businesses employ more than 1 million Michigan residents.

Michigan's agricultural economy expanded at a rate of more than five times faster than the general economy (11.9 percent versus 2 percent) between 2006 and 2007 and continues, making agriculture a cornerstone to diversifying Michigan's economy in the future.

Michigan produces over 200 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state second only to California in agricultural diversity.

The state leads the nation in the production of 19 commodities, including tart cherries, blueberries, three kinds of dry beans (black, cranberry and small red), 13 floriculture products (including flowering hanging baskets, geraniums, petunias and impatiens), and cucumbers for pickles. Michigan also ranks in the top 10 for 30 other commodities.

Field crops (corn, dry beans, soybeans, sugarbeets, hay, wheat) are the largest segment of Michigan agriculture, according to production valued at more than \$1.3 billion annually. They are followed by the dairy industry valued at \$1 billion annually and the floriculture and nursery industry at about \$609 million annually.

Michigan exports about one-third of its agricultural commodities each year. Michigan ranks 5th and 8th respectively for national exports of fruits and vegetables. Michigan's agricultural exports generated more than \$1.2 billion and supported 12,788 jobs in 2007, according to USDA. Michigan's top five agricultural exports in 2007 were: soybeans & products - \$290 million; feed grains & products - \$242 million; fruits and preparations - \$122 million; and vegetables - \$106 million. Michigan's top ten export agricultural markets in 2007 included: Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Netherlands, and Austria.

Michigan has about 10 million acres of farmland, and is home to 56,014 farms. More than 90 percent of Michigan farmland is owned by families or individuals with significant growth in the number of small farms with 3,000 new farms being added in the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture. More than 35 percent of the state's total farmland is in some form of preservation agreement.

Growing Michigan's Agri-Food Business Sector

Michigan's agri-business sector is more than just cows, plows, and overalls. It's a cutting edge, growing business industry generating more than \$42.6 billion in direct economic activity, \$71.3 billion in total economic activity, and employs more than 1 million people. As a matter of fact, if Michigan's agri-food sector appeared on the Fortune 500 list, it would rank 55th which speaks volumes on the importance of the agri-food business sector to Michigan's economic health.

Michigan's agri-food business industry is intrinsic to the state's overall economic health and is expanding at a rate of more than five times faster than the rate of the general economy. By continuing to invest in the state's agri-food industry and foster business growth with incentives such as Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones (APRZ), we are significantly contributing to the state's economic development as these business expansions create good paying job opportunities for Michigan's skilled workforce in areas such as food research and development and food science.

“Michigan's ag economy expanded at a rate more than five times faster than the rate of the general economy between 2006 and 2007.”

Source: MSU Product Center

The following showcases a small sample of Michigan's agri-business success stories in 2008:

Agricultural Innovation Grant Program

MDA's Agricultural Innovation Program, funded through the 21st Century Jobs Fund, had a \$10 million total appropriation, with \$5 million earmarked for Fiscal Year (FY) 07 grants, with the charge to accelerate the growth of Michigan's \$71.3 billion food and agriculture industry.

This grant program helps establish, retain, expand, attract, or develop value-added processing and production operations in Michigan through innovative financing assistance to processors, agri-businesses, producers, local units of government, and legislatively-authorized commodity boards in Michigan.

Thanks to the investment in these 40 companies, MDA has been able to leverage state funds to private industry investment at an 8:1 ratio helping to generate more than \$36 million in private capital investment in the agri-food industry - the state's fastest growing economic sector - and create nearly 120 new jobs.



Business Expansions:

Gerber Products Company, Fremont

Thanks to a two-year public-private partnership, Gerber Products Company, headquartered in Fremont, was awarded an APRZ as part of their expansion plans and commitment to Michigan. Gerber's expansion includes modernization of the existing manufacturing facility, the addition of production lines, purchasing of new equipment, and a new warehouse and distribution center.

Gerber Products Company will invest \$75 million in the Fremont facility, maintain 1,100 jobs, and create an additional 200 new jobs. Indirect jobs may also be created as the Company purchases 61,000 tons of produce for their product line from more than 200 Michigan growers. Additionally, they purchase \$36 million in packing and raw materials from 11 key Michigan-based suppliers.

W.K. Kellogg Institute for Food and Nutrition Research (WKKI), Battle Creek

WKKI is the epicenter of Kellogg's global research, development, and innovation activities. New product innovations created at WKKI are eventually produced and marketed all over the world. The largest percentage of commodities used at WKKI is from United States producers. Based on 2006 data, approximately 18 percent of grain, flour, fruit, honey, and other food products are purchased from Michigan agri-business producers.

In February 2008, an APRZ was approved. The APRZ guarantees \$54 million in private investment over the next decade and the addition of 300 jobs in the food science research and development field. This designation enables Kellogg Company to continue to fuel top-line growth through additional pilot plant space, enhanced process scalability, and additional space for a flexible team environment and total technical community. Many of the new products WKKI creates will be manufactured in Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and Wyoming. Kellogg also utilizes Michigan co-manufacturers to produce products created at WKKI.

Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA), Ovid

MMPA, the largest dairy cooperative in Michigan, represents 1,430 of Michigan's 2,500 dairy farms. In 2007, Michigan dairy farms produced approximately 7.5 billion pounds of milk, and MMPA member farms accounted for about 3.7 billion of those pounds. In addition, MMPA owns and operates two processing facilities in Michigan - Constantine and Ovid.

With slightly over five million pounds of daily processing capacity, the Ovid plant could process 25 percent of the state's current annual milk volume of 7.5 billion pounds.

MMPA has committed to investing \$35 million in their existing Ovid facility, maintaining 86 existing jobs, and creating 10 new jobs. Additionally, 166 indirect and induced jobs will be created by their commitment to Michigan as well as 344 construction jobs. MMPA is also considering an additional investment of \$25-27 million for a new spray dryer for manufacturing milk products, which brings their total new expansions and private investment to approximately \$62 million within the designated APRZ.



In the long-term, MMPA's investment will lead to \$182.6 million in both direct and indirect economic impact according to the MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Buy Local – Buy Michigan

The Select Michigan program encourages retailers and consumers to purchase food grown and processed in Michigan. Buying locally directly supports our farmers and agri-businesses, as well as our state's economy. In fact, if every Michigan household spent just \$10 per week on Michigan-produced food, it would generate nearly \$40 million.

The best tasting foods ripen right close to your home. Food travels an average 1,500 miles from farm to table and accounts for 50 percent of the trucks on our interstate system. Buying Michigan locally grown food is a fresher choice. With each local Michigan food purchase, you ensure that more of your money spent on food goes directly to our growers. Growers provide beautiful and productive open spaces and habitat, generate revenue for local, county and state governments, and employ local labor in communities where they farm. They're concerned about our communities because they also live and raise their families here.

The Select Michigan program helps consumers identify Michigan products at the retail level. The Select Michigan logo is used to promote Michigan food products and can also be found on Michigan products sold at grocery stores, farmers' markets, and on-farm markets statewide.

Michigan Worldwide-International Marketing

Safeguarding and expanding international markets for Michigan products are critical to growing our \$71.3 billion agri-business industry and the state's economy. The state exports almost one-third of its 200+ agricultural commodities.

In 2007, Michigan's agricultural exports generated more than \$1.236 billion and supported more than 12,788 jobs. These companies had actual export sales of \$20.3 million and added 39 new employees. Additionally, 57 Michigan companies received reimbursement for international marketing activities and participated in trade missions, trade shows, and buyer's missions.

Promoting Agricultural Tourism

Agriculture and tourism are recognized as Michigan's second and third leading industries. When combined, they create a powerful tool to enhance Michigan's farmgate value, helping create economic stability in the state's food and agriculture industry and keeping farmers farming. Agri-tourism destinations, like farm markets, fairs, agriculture-related festivals, riding stables, Christmas tree farms, corn mazes and others, help enhance Michigan's reputation as a great place to go for great things to do. They promote high-quality, nutritional food products; offer family-friendly, fun activities; provide a connection to our state's rich agricultural heritage; and enable farm families to showcase farmland stewardship and the value of homegrown food. MDA's agricultural tourism Web page, at www.michigan.gov/agtourism, provides a calendar and links to information on agricultural tourism events, activities and businesses statewide, including the Michigan Farm Marketing and Agri-Tourism Directory.

Ensuring Food Safety and Security

Michigan's food safety program is unique and comprehensive because all of the programs regulating food from farm to fork (animal health, feed, pesticides, food processing, dairy, meat, eggs, and retail food and food service) are housed within MDA.

MDA also has uniquely strong partnerships with federal agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and with other state agencies, including the Michigan departments of Community Health (MDCH) and Environmental Quality. This allows for timely and effective joint response to food safety emergencies and security issues.

The top priority for MDA is ensuring the safety of the state's food supply from farm to fork. Each day MDA employees are on the front lines keeping consumers' food safe at processing plants, dairy farms, grocery stores and more. MDA staff inspects all aspects of the food chain from processing to transportation to grocery store shelves.

Staff inspects the plants where food is processed including bakeries, candy manufacturers, cereal and flour mills, and processors of ice, maple syrup, fruit, and vegetables. It's the daily sampling and surveillance that affords Michigan citizens a quick, coordinated response when food emergencies, such as E. coli and Salmonella outbreaks, occur.

MDA has 50 food inspectors stationed throughout the state (17 in the Detroit area). Inspectors carry an average workload of 382 stores each in addition to other assignments (temporary and fair concessions, investigations, complaints, food sampling, etc.). There are nearly 200 food service inspectors at the local health department level who inspect the state's restaurants. On average, approximately 5,650 consumer complaints are reported to MDA and local health departments. About 172 of these are foodborne illness outbreak complaints. The remaining complaints include concerns such as: cleanliness, outdated food for sale, spoiled food, employee hygiene, etc.

Additionally, MDA has 17 dairy inspectors who are responsible for maintaining the food safety viability of the state's dairy industry. Inspectors are stationed throughout the state and each carry an average workload of approximately 218 establishments, in addition to other assignments (investigations, enforcement, etc.).

MDA's long-standing commitment to a safe food supply has earned Michigan a national reputation for strictly enforcing the state's food and dairy laws, placing us among the best in the nation for food safety.

Protecting Animal Health

Bovine Tuberculosis Program

MDA, through a strong partnership created under the Michigan Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Project, has made significant progress in managing bovine TB in Michigan. Key partners include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and MDCH, USDA, Michigan State University, private veterinary practitioners, the state's livestock industry, and hunters.

The state, with tremendous cooperation from federal, state, and private veterinarians and farmers, has completed testing of all of the state's known cattle, goats, bison, and privately owned cervid (deer and elk) herds statewide, representing approximately 1 million animals. In addition, the MDNR has examined more than 162,666 white-tailed deer for the disease.

Due to this thorough and aggressive testing of livestock and wildlife, Michigan has been able to confirm that bovine TB is concentrated in a small area of northeastern Lower Michigan and has refocused its resources accordingly. These efforts have laid the groundwork for MDA to obtain "split state status" from the federal government, allowing MDA to apply for TB-free stats for most of Michigan in 2009.



Consumer Protection

Did you know...

The medicines in your cabinet have the right amount of active ingredients because Michigan's Metrology Laboratory calibrates standards for pharmaceutical companies that supply drugs throughout the world.

MDA's Weights and Measures officials play a critical role in protecting Michigan citizens and businesses. We stand vigilant in consumer protection and ensuring fairness in the marketplace which is the cornerstone of economic health for consumers and businesses alike.

For efficient and effective government, Michigan residents need to look no further than MDA's Weights and Measures Program. The cost of the department's Consumer Protection Section housed within the Laboratory Division, which includes motor fuels quality regulatory activity, is less than 53 cents per Michigan citizen per year. Yet, residents can realize the full return on that investment in a single trip to the market or gas station.

MDA ensures that Michigan gasoline meets quality, quantity, and environmental standards; that net content representations for all commodities sold by weight measure or count are accurate; that businesses use calibrated reference standards for manufacturing; and service agencies that repair and calibrate



measuring devices are certified. Fair and equitable enforcement of the Michigan Motor Fuels Quality Act and the Weights and Measures Act ensures that consumers are protected from economic harm and that industry is protected from unfair competition and is able to meet national and international quality program certifications through the use of accurate standards. The gasoline inspection program also ensures that 28 tons of gasoline vapors are not released into the atmosphere through enforcement of Michigan's lower gasoline volatility requirements.

In 2008, Michigan consumed 4.25 billion gallons of gasoline. Gas station complaints increased in FY08 with 2,475 consumers contacting the department's 1-800-MDA-FUEL pump posted phone number concerned that they received the wrong measurement (2,101 complaints received - up 37 percent) or quality (373 complaints received - up 12 percent) from one of the state's 4,813 retail stations.

Throughout 2008, 236 firms were fined; 101 stop sales issued, and another 407 firms were warned for failure to meet gasoline quality compliance standards. Additionally in 2008, ten percent of the 1,508 gasoline samples tested failed to meet quality standards. Enforcement actions were taken against five locations found to be selling higher vapor pressure gasoline.

Enhancing Regulatory Diagnostic and Scientific Capabilities

MDA's Geagley Laboratory plays a key role in providing a wide array of analytical services for the state's food and agriculture industry, and environmental protection and security for the people of Michigan. The Geagley Lab plays a critical role in safeguarding the food supply. The lab tests food and dairy products for the presence of pathogenic organisms, including Salmonella, Listeria, and E. coli. Important federally funded food monitoring programs include the Pesticide Data and Microbiological Data programs. The Laboratory also tests animal feeds, fertilizers, and seed to ensure accuracy in label claims, and tests animal blood for the presence of reportable diseases like brucellosis, pseudorabies, equine infectious anemia, and Johne's disease.

The Geagley Laboratory conducts all state testing of gasoline in support of MDA's Motor Fuels Quality program and plays a vital analytical role in pesticide misuse investigations, pesticide formulations verification, groundwater testing, and farm worker protection.

The well-trained laboratory staff also develops and adopts new diagnostics when demands shift. For example, animal feed is now being tested for the presence of ruminant protein, to ensure the requirements that protect Michigan from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or "Mad Cow Disease," are followed. Improved capabilities in food and plant pathogen testing are becoming available through expanded use of the latest genetics-based testing equipment and methodology.

The lab is also developing strategies to assist MDA and the state in case of an emergency, such as a terrorist event or natural disaster that may threaten the food supply. The Geagley lab is an official member of FDA's Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), providing networking opportunities with other state and federal FERN labs to better serve in times of crisis.

Managing and Preventing Plant Pests, Invasive Species, and Foreign Animal Disease

MDA has field inspectors and veterinarians located throughout the state who work to manage or prevent the introduction of plant pests and plant and animal diseases. For example, the department inspects nursery stock and agricultural commodities being transported within Michigan or shipped to states or foreign countries, to ensure materials are free of any injurious plant pest or disease.



MDA annually inspects and issues about 2,000 phytosanitary certificates certifying products destined to nearly 70 countries worldwide and inspects nearly 11,500 acres of nursery stock. MDA conducts hundreds of inspections each year of commercial livestock feed manufacturers and dealers to ensure compliance with federal BSE animal feed regulations and ensure Michigan remains BSE free.

Assisting Growers with Market Access

MDA operates a fruit and vegetable inspection program that provides an unbiased, third party inspection service for the state's worldwide produce industry. Inspections are based on federal and state standards, processor specifications and industry needs. The inspection program is mostly voluntary, with mandatory inspections performed for export, school lunch, government purchase, and federal diversion programs.



Helping Market Michigan Grown and Processed Commodities

MDA administers the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act (Public Act 232 of 1965) and other similar assessment and check-off programs for 14 commodity organizations. Some of the department's oversight responsibilities include ensuring compliance with budget and audit requirements and holding renewal referenda every five years or whenever a program or an assessment change is proposed. Through producer-run committees, nearly \$16 million of producer dollars are approved and spent on various promotion, research and marketing activities for their respective commodities, which include apples, asparagus, dry edible beans, beef, carrots, cherries, field corn, cranberries, dairy products, onions, plums, potatoes, soybeans, and veal.



Growing Michigan's Grape and Wine Industry

The Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council is a 10-member council established within MDA by the state legislature to support research and development of Michigan's wine industry. Assisted by the research, education, and promotion programs of the council, the Michigan wine industry continues to grow, and now has more than 60 commercial wineries, up from 17 in 1995. Sales of Michigan wine increased 63 percent over the past seven years, and Michigan wines continue to win acclaim and recognition from national and international wine writers and at prestigious wine competitions. In 2003, the council established a goal of increasing wine grape acreage in the state nearly ten-fold over the next 20 years, from

1,400 acres to 10,000 acres by 2024. The economic impact of this industry is estimated at \$75 million annually in Michigan, and Michigan's winery businesses have made capital investments totaling nearly \$15 million in the past three years.

Additionally, Michigan's wineries are great tourist attractions. Approximately 800,000 tourists visit these establishments every year. For more information, go to www.michiganwines.com.

“The Michigan wine industry continues to grow, and now has 64 commercial wineries, up from 17 in 1995, with new capital investment in vineyards and wineries exceeding \$1 million annually.”

Source: Michigan Grape and Wine Council

Environmental Stewardship

Advancing the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) continues as one of the state's newest and most innovative initiatives to help prevent agriculture-related pollution. It ensures that participating producers are using effective stewardship practices that comply with state and federal environmental laws and standards. The proactive, comprehensive program provides education, on-farm technical assistance, environmental risk assessments, and action plans that are site and farm specific. Once these action plans are developed and implemented, MDA conducts a thorough on-farm inspection to ensure that all requirements are met. If so, the farm becomes “environmentally assured.” To retain this designation, the farm must be inspected at least once every three years. Ongoing plan review and implementation are key to continued verification. To date, over 630 farms are MAEAP verified and over 100 are pending verification. Nearly 7,000 farmers and technical assistance providers have attended MAEAP Phase I Education Sessions. The program aims to have all farms, no matter what size or type (livestock, crop, fruit and/or vegetable, etc.), participate statewide.



Preserving Farmland and Open Spaces

MDA administers three programs that work to preserve farmland and open spaces: the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, commonly known as “P.A. 116;” the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program, and the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund and Board. Currently, the state holds more than 45,000 P.A. 116 agreements, preserving over 3.5 million acres of farmland – about 35 percent of Michigan's 10 million acres of agricultural production land. In fact, Michigan ranks third in the nation in the number of acres protected by this type of agreement. The PDR program offers an alternative method for protecting farmland by purchasing the development rights in perpetuity on selected parcels of land across the state, permanently restricting any non-agricultural development.

Since the program began, Michigan has acquired 72 development rights easements, 13 of which have been donated, protecting over 16,200 acres at an investment of more than \$27 million. Michigan has also obtained more than \$5.5 million from the U.S. Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program. Additionally, the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund Board has finalized its standards, guidelines, application process, and scoring system for selecting grant applications from local units of government for community PDR programs. The board will initiate its first local grant cycle in 2005.

Ensuring a Farmer's Right to Farm

Michigan's Right to Farm law is one of the strongest in the country and serves as a national model. It ensures sound stewardship on farms, while simultaneously recognizing the importance of a farmer's right to farm. Michigan farmers prevent pollution and earn nuisance protection by following scientifically based Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). These farm management practices are reviewed annually by a multi-agency task force committee, and revised by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture as needed.



Since 1986, MDA has responded to more than 3,500 environmental complaints. Over 98 percent of these pollution and nuisance complaints are resolved in a common sense, cost-effective manner protecting the environment without costly legal action. To prevent conflicts between farmers and their many non-farm neighbors, and to ensure the proper siting and management of livestock and poultry facilities, a set of GAAMPs for Site Selection and Odor Control at New or Expanding Livestock Production Facilities is used. This site approval process considers an area's population density, environmental conditions, and potential impacts that animal agriculture can have on neighboring land uses. Additionally, there are GAAMPs for Irrigation Water Use which focus on smart stewardship of water resources and promote sound irrigation system management and water conservation practices.

Contact the MDA Right to Farm program at 1-877-632-1783 for further information, or visit the MDA web site for complete sets of all Right to Farm GAAMPs.

Enhancing Groundwater Protection

The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program (MGSP) has achieved success and national recognition as one of the most effective and efficient groundwater protection programs in the country. It has provided one-on-one technical assistance to over 13,000 farmers to help them identify risks to groundwater associated with pesticide and nitrogen fertilizer use practices, and it coordinates local, state, and federal resources to help individuals reduce those risks. Two key components of the program are Clean Sweep and Pesticide Container Recycling, which work jointly to collect and properly dispose of outdated pesticides that may cause potential harm to the environment and to recycle containers that burden landfills. The program, in cooperation with county and local units of government, has established 15 permanent Clean Sweep sites located throughout the state. More than 1 million pounds of outdated or unused pesticides and mercury have been removed from circulation and properly disposed of at these sites, and more than 468,000 pounds of containers have been properly recycled. Because of MGSP, 6,800 abandoned wells have been properly decommissioned.

Improving Public Health with Intercounty Drains

Michigan has more than 35,000 miles of legally established "public" drains serving over 17 million acres of agricultural and urban lands and roadways. These drains improve the public health, safety, and welfare of millions of citizens by removing excess storm and sanitary water, preventing the loss of life and property damage from flooding, improving soil productivity, and enabling development. Collectively, this \$5.5 billion drainage infrastructure sustains some of the most productive agricultural land in the world and is the precursor to development of our land resources for residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation purposes. In addition, extensive networks of private agricultural and urban drains rely on this infrastructure to receive drainage. Approximately 40 percent of the surface area of the state and 79 percent over \$350 billion in annual gross domestic product in Michigan are drainage dependant.

