

## At a Glance

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) was established under Act 13 of 1921 and was reorganized under Act 380 of 1965.

A five-member Commission appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, provides policy development for the department and are appointed for four year terms.

MDARD takes a customer-driven, solution-oriented approach when working with food and agricultural based businesses in Michigan. The department helps cultivate and expand new economic opportunities for the food and agriculture sector; safeguards the public's food supply; inspects and enforces sound animal health practices; control and eradication of plant pest and diseases threatening the \$71.3 billion agri-food industry; preserves the environment by which the farming community makes their living and feeds consumers; and also protects consumers by enforcing laws relating to weights and measures.

MDARD believes in empowering its staff to be proactive problem solvers and support the growth in the food and agriculture industry to enable the industry to lead the state to economic prosperity.

It's composed of eight divisions:

- Executive**
- Animal Industry**
- Food and Dairy**
- Laboratory**
- Pesticide and Plant Pest Management**
- Environmental Stewardship**
- Operational Services**
- Human Resources**

The **Executive Office** houses the Office of the Director, who is responsible for policy development, strategic planning, daily operations, and more. The following department functions also fall under the Executive Office: Emergency Management, Communications, Legislative Liaison, Budget Officer, Agriculture Development, and support for the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The **Animal Industry Division** has responsibility for programs to control and eradicate reportable contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases of livestock, poultry, aquaculture, equine and companion animals; controlling contamination of animals from toxic substances; enforcing and supporting the humane treatment of animals; and promoting Michigan's animal industries.



The **Food and Dairy Division** administers programs to enforce laws and regulations governing the safety and wholesomeness of food and food products; administers food safety programs; responds to food safety complaints, recalls, and food emergencies;

serves as a key link in the federal-state-local food safety system; assists in the food safety education of consumers, regulators, and industry; and assures the interstate movement of milk and dairy products.



The **Laboratory Division** provides service, analytical, microbiological, diagnostic, equine drug testing, and technical support to MDARD's regulatory divisions and other state and federal agencies. The division also



prevents economic fraud and deception in the area of weights and measures, labeling and advertising, and regulates the sale and quality of motor fuel.

The **Pesticide and Plant Pest Management (PPPM) Division** administers programs and enforces laws to prevent the introduction of invasive and exotic pests and other destructive pests and plant diseases; to prevent the adulteration of animal food, unsanitary grain storage facilities, and misuse of pesticides; and provides assurance that animal feeds, remedies, fertilizers, and pesticides are registered and accurately labeled. PPPM provides grading, inspection, and certification of a variety of commodities including fruits and vegetables; and certifies and licenses businesses in the nursery and pesticide trade. It also administers the Grain Dealers and Farm Produce Insurance Acts.



The **Environmental Stewardship Division** provides migrant labor housing inspections, conflict resolution through the Right to Farm program, assistance and support to soil and water conservation districts, drain commissioners, and other land users, enabling them to carry out programs that maintain economically viable and environmentally friendly land uses.



The **Operational Services Division** administers business processes including: accounting, procurement, facility management, and mail operations. The division also oversees the fiscal data needed to assure the timely, accurate, and efficient use of MDARD resources.



The **Human Resources Division**, working under the Civil Service Commission, provides all personnel, labor relations, training program, and equal employment opportunity services.

The **Office of Agriculture Development** facilitates economic development, strengthens family farming, and promotes opportunities for the food and agriculture industry; helps develop new domestic and international markets; assists farms, food processors, and agri-businesses to expand and attract jobs and capital investment; and supports the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council.



# Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

*at a glance*



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