



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS  
DIRECTOR

**DATE:** July 26, 2012

**TO:** All Local Health Departments (LHDs)  
Attn: Medical Director / Health Officer / Director of Environmental Health  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)  
Attn: Food and Dairy Division Managers

**FROM:** Sandra Walker, Manager  
Food Section  
Food and Dairy Division

**SUBJECT:** State and County Fair Concessions

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Recently, some issues have arisen concerning jurisdiction and conducting evaluations during state and county fair week. As a result, some LHDs have asked for clarification regarding requests received for required paid STFU evaluations and other food related activities during these events.

**The MDARD is designated to perform regulatory duties during state or county fairs and is the only agency authorized under the Michigan Food Law to conduct these functions.** In order for an LHD to conduct such evaluations, an MDARD Director must designate a certified health department. According to the Michigan Food Law, "Certified Health Department" means a county, district, or city health department that meets the criteria for certification of health departments established by this act and that is authorized by the director to enforce this act for retail groceries, food processing plants, or fair concessions." Presently, no LHD in the State of Michigan has this designation.

For consistency and to avoid confusion to our operators and all concerned, during fair week, the MDARD will conduct all food evaluations and for fixed facilities operating during a fair, will refer any findings to the LHD holding the permanent license. In addition, LHD's are to forward notifications for STFU inspection requests received for those occurring during a fair, through the "Notification of Intent to Operate a Special Transitory Food Unit (STFU)" form or otherwise to the Lansing MDARD office.

Distribution List:  
MIFood Listserve  
MDARD Food Section Staff  
MDARD Licensing Unit