



Michigan Department of Agriculture

Annual Report

Fiscal Year **2003**

(October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003)

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

Dan Wyant
Director

Table of Contents

MDA Summary of Accomplishments	2
Michigan Commission of Agriculture	5
Executive Office	6
Agriculture Development Division	9
Animal Industry Division	13
Environmental Stewardship Division	15
Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division	18
Finance and Administrative Services Division	20
Food and Dairy Division	21
Human Resources Division	23
Laboratory Division	24
Michigan Agricultural Statistics	29
Office of Racing Commissioner	30
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division	32
MDA Contact Information	36

Snapshot of Michigan's Food & Agriculture Industry

Agriculture in Michigan contributes \$37 billion annually to the state's economy, making it the second-largest industry. Our state's production agriculture and food processing businesses employ about 500,000 Michigan residents.

Michigan produces over 125 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state second only to California in agricultural diversity.

Michigan leads the nation in the production of 11 commodities (including tart cherries, blueberries, Niagara grapes, cucumbers for processing, geraniums, impatiens, petunias, flowering hanging baskets, and three varieties of dry beans) and ranks in the top 10 of 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 billion annually. They are followed by the dairy industry, valued at more than \$800 million annually, and the floriculture and nursery industry, at about \$580 million annually.

Michigan exports about one-third of its agricultural commodities each year. In 2003, Michigan exported more than \$842 million of agricultural products. Agriculture exports account for approximately one quarter to one third of the value of Michigan farm receipts. Michigan ranks 6th and 8th nationally in exports of fruits and vegetables, respectively. Michigan's largest export commodity is soybeans and soy products, which was valued at \$236 million in 2003.

Michigan has about 10.1 million acres of farmland, and the state is home to 53,300 farms, averaging 189 acres each. There has been significant growth in the number of small farms over the past few years, as well as large farms. More than 40 percent of the state's total farmland is in some form of preservation agreement.

Michigan Department of Agriculture Summary of Accomplishments

Director's Summary

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), created in 1921, serves, protects and promotes the food, agricultural, environmental and economic interests of the people of Michigan.

The department, one of the smaller agencies in state government with an approximate total budget of \$95 million (\$31 million of this from the general fund) and 700 full-time employees, oversees or administers a diverse array of programs that in some way impact all of us, every day. Each division of MDA strives to reach program goals that reflect the department's main priorities of:

- Food Safety and Security
- Animal and Plant Health and Protection
- Environmental Stewardship
- A Viable Agriculture Economy
- Consumer Protection
- Homeland Security

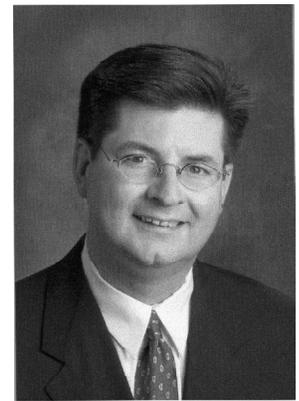
These priorities have been aligned to ensure consistency with the Governor's priorities of Education, Economy, Environment, Health Care and Homeland Security, and the State of Michigan values of Integrity, Inclusion, Excellence and Teamwork.

In addition to staff located at the downtown Lansing office, MDA maintains seven regional offices and two laboratories. MDA's field staff plays an important role in helping MDA meet its mission through service to the citizens of Michigan. Located throughout the state, local experts are available to offer assistance to industry, residents and consumers quickly and efficiently. In most cases, problems are solved at a regional level, allowing businesses to continue serving their customers effectively in accordance with state laws and regulations. MDA has also established an office in Atlanta to address bovine tuberculosis in Northeast Michigan; and four Emerald Ash Borer offices, in Brighton, DeWitt, Almont and Tecumseh, to effectively respond to this exotic pest devastating Michigan's ash resources.

MDA employees are proud to serve the citizens of Michigan and equally proud of the role they play in assuring the safety, economic viability and environmental stewardship of Michigan's food and agriculture industry. This report highlights MDA's key achievements during Fiscal Year 2003 (October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003).

The department successfully implemented and enhanced programs to protect and preserve Michigan's food and agriculture industry and our state's natural resources. During FY 2003, MDA:

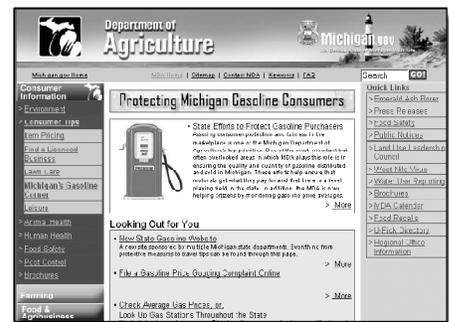
- Spearheaded Michigan's first Food Security Summit of 120 partners representing 63 organizations from the food, agriculture, public health and emergency response sectors, to discuss how to best protect Michigan's food and agricultural infrastructure from farm to fork. Five work groups were formed centering on the issues of inputs, production, processing, distribution/transportation and retail. The strategies developed at the summit were incorporated into a final draft and submitted to the Michigan Homeland Protection Board for review and inclusion in the state's overall Homeland Security strategy.



MDA Director Dan Wyant

- Responded to the 2003 Blackout, which began on August 14, 2003 and lasted three days in parts of Michigan. To ensure the safety of the food supply, 40 MDA inspectors visited 1,532 food establishments, responded to 100 consumer complaints regarding food safety and quality, and seized a total of 394,000 pounds of food, valued at \$734,600. Because the blackout affected the electric pumps at gasoline stations, inspectors also helped ensure a steady, unadulterated supply of gasoline at stations surrounding the blackout area. The blackout also affected the Michigan State Fair, which was scheduled to open August 15. MDA inspectors assured that fresh water was available at the fair for livestock and attendees, and that food safety standards were followed by the fair's food vendors.
- Secured and utilized federal funds for fighting Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan, to: help create the necessary infrastructure to handle response efforts; implement a large-scale survey effort to pinpoint the area of infestation; enforce the quarantine to prevent artificial spread of EAB; provide sanitation and disposal options; initiate research into the pest's biology to identify possible control options; and ensure community and homeowner outreach and awareness.
- Worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a proposed rule for bovine TB split state status for Michigan; conducted bovine TB animal tests, livestock movement investigations and surveillance activities; and conducted compliance activities at privately owned cervid operations in Michigan. The state's Electronic Identification Program was also expanded to 12 counties affected by bovine TB, in an effort to track movement of livestock through saleyards and slaughter facilities.
- Co-hosted Agriculture's Conference on the Environment (ACE), as part of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). MAEAP partners include the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University, commodity organizations and federal and local units of government. About 650 people attended the conference, which featured workshops, general sessions and a trade show focused on ensuring environmental stewardship on the farm and preventing agriculture-related pollution.
- Verified 17 livestock farms and three crop farms in the MAEAP program, an innovative initiative to help prevent or minimize agriculture-related pollution. Participating producers are recognized for their use of effective stewardship practices that comply with state and federal environmental laws and standards. MAEAP provides proactive, comprehensive education, on-farm technical assistance, environmental risk assessments, and action plans that are site and farm specific.
- Participated in the Governor's Michigan Land Use Leadership Council as one of the six non-voting members from state departments that added to the Council's 26-member body. Represented food and agriculture interests by providing recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature designed to minimize the negative economic, environmental, and social impacts of current land use trends; promote urban revitalization and reinvestment; foster intergovernmental and public-private land use partnerships; identify new growth and development opportunities; protect Michigan's natural resources, including farmland and open space; and better manage the cost of public investments in infrastructure to support growth.

- Opened Michigan’s sixteenth Clean Sweep site, located in Ingham County – the first site in mid-Michigan. The Clean Sweep program ensures safe and proper disposal of outdated, unused, unwanted, and potentially harmful pesticides; protects groundwater; and ensures safer farmsteads and households.
- Launched an enhanced “Select a Taste of Michigan” program with the Governor to promote Michigan grown and processed foods and connect local farmers with local retailers. A pilot promotion was held in West Michigan, with 68 retail stores and 152 growers participating in the 2003 campaign. Initial results are tremendous: a Michigan asparagus promotion increased product sales in Grand Rapids by 65 percent, and a Michigan blueberry promotion helped the industry obtain new distribution in 85 retail grocery stores.
- Worked with MSU and industry partners to obtain nearly \$1 million in federal funds for a Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU. MSU was selected to house the new agriculture innovation center based on the strong partnerships that demonstrated a track record of achieving value-added agriculture successes, experienced personnel, a strong work plan and a commitment to measuring performance of value-added activities. The center will provide technical and business development assistance to increase and improve the ability of Michigan’s agriculture producers to develop markets and processes for value-added Michigan-grown commodities and products.
- Launched a new web page to protect gasoline purchasers in Michigan. Through Executive Directive 2003-6, the Governor charged MDA and the Michigan Public Service Commission with tracking gasoline prices to help ensure Michigan families pay a fair price for gasoline. Since the April 2003 debut of the new page – www.michigan.gov/gasprices – the page has received nearly one million hits. Hundreds of complaints regarding potential gasoline price gouging have been filed and investigated via this site and the department’s toll-free hotline for follow-up on gasoline quantity and quality concerns.
- Strived to be good community partners and maintain a positive organizational culture through special employee activities and programs that also tie to the Governor’s Visions and Values. MDA established the “A-Team,” our Agriculture team, to increase internal communication and promote teamwork. Department employees raised funds for the Michigan Harvest Gathering, Livestock Youth Scholarship Funds at the Michigan State Fair and U.P. State Fair, and the State Employees Combined Campaign. Staff also raised funds and coordinated agriculture-related activities for students at Walnut Street School in Lansing, a school MDA employees adopted almost 10 years ago. Walnut activities include field trips, mentoring, classroom reading days, providing turkeys for a Thanksgiving celebration, and hosting school families in need as part of Operation Santa during the holidays.
- Implemented department-wide administrative efficiencies and cost reduction measures in response to budget reductions. This included reducing state service contracts by nearly \$20,000; terminating 66 cellular phone contracts at a \$16,000 savings; restricting out of state travel, saving nearly \$56,000 from the previous year; obtaining nearly \$23,000 in savings due to mailing efficiencies; and reducing procurement card purchases by over \$20,000. Total FY03 savings for the department equaled \$135,000.



- Initiated a reorganization process to align the services offered by the department with available resources to meet the needs of industry and the citizens of Michigan. As part of this reorganization effort, the former Marketing and Communications Division was divided, with program areas moved to three existing divisions: communications and emergency management responsibilities were moved to the Executive Office; marketing responsibilities, including those of the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council, were blended with existing marketing programs in the Agriculture Development Division; and the Producer Securities program and Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board were transferred to the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division.

Michigan Commission of Agriculture

Nora M. Viau, Chair
(517) 373-1052

Members of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture are appointed by the Governor to establish policies and provide administrative direction for the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The five Commission members are appointed for four-year terms, with confirmation by the Michigan Senate. The Commission holds meetings that are open to the public for attendance and comment. Approximately half of the meetings are held in Lansing, with the others held throughout the state. Commissioner Nora M. Viau, Escanaba, chaired the Commission in 2003. Commissioner William Pridgeon, of Montgomery, served as vice-chair and Commissioner James Maitland, of Williamsburg, served as secretary. Doug Darling, of Maybee, continued service on the Commission. In February 2003, Governor Granholm appointed James Byrum, of Onondaga, to complete the term left open with the untimely passing away of Commissioner Jordan B. Tatter.



Michigan Commission of Agriculture members (l to r): Doug Darling, James Maitland, William Pridgeon, Nora Viau, and Jordan Tatter. Insert: Commissioner James Byrum

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture met monthly in 2003 with the exception of May, August, October and December.

Commission meetings were held in Grand Rapids (January), and East Lansing (March and July), with remaining meetings held in Lansing. The Commission met in conjunction with Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at MSU, Ag Expo at MSU, and the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE) Annual Convention.

Prominent issues during 2003 were Emerald Ash Borer, Bovine TB, Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs), Right to Farm issues, West Nile virus, Chronic Wasting Disease and the widespread power outage (blackout) in August.

Commission staff prepared meeting notices, agendas, minutes and director's reports for each meeting. The Commission conducted all meetings and other activities within its FY03 budget of \$19,500.

Executive Office

Dan Wyant, Director
(517) 373-1052

MDA's Executive Office oversees the administrative and policy issues of the department, provides internal and external communications services, and coordinates communications and response activities for state agricultural and homeland security emergencies. The Executive Office consists of the director, deputy director, director of agricultural policy, legislative liaison, public information officer, media support, communications and emergency management staff, and administrative support staff.

Administrative Section

MDA Director Dan Wyant is the chief executive officer of the agency. The director was appointed by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture in October of 1996, and works with them on policy issues. The director also is a member of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Cabinet. During FY 2003, Wyant also represented Michigan on the National Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Committee, and served on the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council and Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force. The director also serves as chair of the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council and holds a seat on the Michigan State Fair Advisory Board.

MDA's deputy director, Keith Creagh, manages the day-to-day operations of the department, working closely with all the division directors and key program staff to oversee the functions of MDA.

The director of agriculture policy, Christine White, works with the director and other key personnel to review, revise and propose department programs and policies, and also serves as the key contact for federal issues and congressional contacts.

The legislative liaison, Brad Deacon, is MDA's link to the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Office of Regulatory Reform. The liaison assists the Legislature in assessing and preparing legislation connected with agriculture. In 2003, the Legislature passed, and Governor Jennifer Granholm signed, a major piece of legislation, creating a grain insurance fund to help protect producers in the event of a business failure. Other legislation enacted in 2003 included initial steps on groundwater withdrawal, regulation of genetically engineered aquatic species, labeling requirements for ethanol, and increased regulation of anhydrous ammonia.

Office of Communications

Sara Linsmeier-Wurfel, Director

The Office of Communications (OC) is responsible for media relations, public information and internal and external communications for the director and the department. The public information officer (PIO) serves as director of this office and MDA's spokesperson. During 2003, the PIO issued 90 press releases, and made over 2,500 contacts with media resulting in extensive state and national exposure for the activities and programs of MDA.

OC staff works on a wide range of communication activities to create and maintain a public identity for MDA, including: creating key communication pieces; planning media and special events; directing critical communication tools at Constitution Hall, including a public meeting notice board, electronic "smart board" computer systems in conference rooms, and a satellite TV

system critical for effectively handling public emergencies; and researching video conferencing and providing audio/visual assistance to other divisions, as needed. During FY 2003, OC:

- Served as liaison with the Governor's Communications Office as well as PIOs in other state government agencies, and served on numerous joint communications committees with federal, state and local agencies as well as university, industry and other stakeholder groups on food, agriculture, public health and conservation issues and programs.
- Developed and implemented various crisis/urgent communications plans and corresponding activities for a variety of the issues that the Department addressed throughout the year, including the blackout of August, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Emerald Ash Borer and West Nile virus.
- Spearheaded message and information development for a variety of Department issues, programs and activities.
- Created communications tools to combat the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, including brochures, door hangers and posters; worker safety vests and hats for identification; banners and educational displays; and press releases and advisories. Served on the EAB Communications Committee, working with partners to develop a coordinated and effective communication strategy for the EAB eradication effort. Coordinated media events, took photos and wrote web articles about key components of the response effort, including firewood blitzes, survey activities, establishment of marshaling yards, tree removal projects, and quarantine issuances and expansions.



- Expanded the department's Internet site to provide cost-effective, easily updated information. Many publications were distributed electronically via the Internet, saving printing and distribution costs and time. The home page of the MDA web site was accessed nearly 14,000 times per month.
- Enhanced and maintained the department's Intranet site that shares important and interesting internal information with MDA staff.
- Served as liaisons to MDA divisions, and researched and advised divisions on how to meet division and department communication needs.
- Provided writing, editing and design services to divisions for booklets, brochures and newsletters. Topics included: Emerald Ash Borer, Chronic Wasting Disease, bovine TB, West Nile virus, Right to Farm, Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices, biosecurity, human health and food safety, groundwater protection, thoroughbred racing, fiscal stewardship, venison processing, analytical service testing fees, market development, and more.
- Provided graphic arts services for all divisions, including development and production of logos, ceremonial checks, original art for displays at the Michigan State Fair, certificates, banners, maps, pie charts, Power Point presentations, advertisements, posters, pictorial displays and more.

- Created a new, magazine-style web portal intended to showcase the many ways in which the department enriches the lives of the people of Michigan. The “Agriculture Every Day” site, officially launched in January 2003, featured new content each month, including information for the media, general public, teachers and children.
- Created and implemented the “A-Team” and events to improve internal communications and facilitate employee interaction. A-Team events included a kick-off rally, an employee appreciation and recognition breakfast, and a chili cook-off. Internal communication activities included development of an A-Team logo to identify internal communications efforts; implementation of “On the Same Page” on the MDA Web, which included weekly media contact summaries, legislative updates, transition information, and hot topics of interest to employees; coordination of “Coffee with the Director” opportunities for employees to meet one-on-one or as a division/region with the director; and implementation of an “Ask the Director” section of the MDA Web for employees to raise questions and concerns or get direct feedback on questions about department activities.
- Coordinated employee activities as part of MDA’s Employee Recognition/Awards Ceremony, Special Events Committee events, and the Governor’s Visions and Values Roll Out.
- Coordinated the 2003 State Employee Michigan Harvest Gathering fundraiser for the Food Bank Council of Michigan.
- Partnered with Walnut Street School in Lansing to help connected with urban kids with their food and agriculture roots. MDA employees adopted Walnut Street School nearly 10 years ago, and have hosted field trips to farms and horse shows, served as mentors and guest classroom readers, provided computer equipment and books for the school, sponsored Thanksgiving meals at the school, and sponsored school families in need as part of Operation Santa during the holidays.



Emergency Management Section

Bob Tarrant, Manager

The Emergency Management section coordinates MDA’s response to serious incidents involving disasters or threats to food or animal safety and/or agricultural economic viability, emergency management and emergency response capabilities. During FY 2003, the section:

- Coordinated MDA’s response to serious incidents involving disasters or threats to food or animal safety and/or agricultural economic viability. Of these incidents, six disaster requests were submitted to the Secretary of USDA.
- Coordinated participation of department emergency management staff in two drills and one exercise for the DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant in June and July.
- Developed continuous in-house emergency management training and exercising throughout the department. About one-fourth of MDA staff participated in some level of Incident Command System Training. Emergency Management staff coordinated approximately one exercise per month during FY 2003, including orientations, drills and table top exercises.

- Helped implement new department initiatives on Homeland Security, including establishment of protocols for emergency response based on the threat level, and representation on Homeland Security boards and committees.
- Coordinated continued development of MDA's emergency response capabilities to meet the challenges posed by threats to Homeland Security. Represented the department on the Michigan Homeland Security Task Force, and chaired the Agriculture and Food Supply Subcommittee of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee.
- Participated in the State Homeland Security Assessment process on both the local and state levels.
- Represented MDA on the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council, participating on the Planning Committee, and the Michigan Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Commission.



Agriculture Development Division

Robert Craig, Director
(517) 241-2178

The Agriculture Development Division (AgD) serves as a catalyst in expanding value-added agriculture initiatives and marketing efforts to attract, expand or retain food processing and agriculture support businesses in Michigan. Other AgD priorities include: the development of new or enhanced domestic and international markets for Michigan food and agricultural products; strengthening profitability for Michigan's family farms; and enhancing opportunities for the state's food and agriculture industry. FY 2003 accomplishments, by program areas, included the following:

- Supported the development of the Michigan State University Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources to improve economic opportunities in the Michigan agriculture, food and natural resources sectors. The Product Center will deliver technical, marketing and business services to farmers, farm associations, agri-businesses, food processing firms, natural resources-based firms and entrepreneurs to develop new products, services and businesses. The Product Center received a \$1 million federal grant in September 2003 to further bolster the contributions that MSU and other partners of production agriculture had invested in the Center. AgD staff members were trained as part of a value-added agricultural and natural resources innovation counseling network.
- Promoted the nine existing Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zones (APRZs) to firms both in and outside of Michigan. Supported new legislation to expand the number of APRZs available to 20, along with eliminating the sunset provision in the original legislation.



- Celebrated the expansion of two APRZ projects:
 - * Zeeland Farm Services opened a new \$5 million soybean oil refinery and bleaching plant in Zeeland, which generated 30 new jobs and retained 35 others. ZFS now produces food-grade soybean cooking oil, called “Select Oil.” Future plans could include converting refined soybean oil into finished biodiesel fuel with a new biodiesel manufacturing facility.
 - * Graceland Fruit Co-op announced the \$21 million expansion of their value-added fruit and vegetable processing facilities in Frankfort, MI. The expansion is projected to create 45 new jobs by December 31, 2007, and at least 75 new jobs by 2017.
- Supported legislation that provides tax incentives for the manufacturing and blending of biodiesel fuel, along with labeling of ethanol blends at service station gasoline pumps that is consistent with national label standards.
- Provided digital pictures and other vital information on vacant food processing sites in Michigan, available through MISiteNet, to share with prospective out-of-state food processing companies, farmer-owned processing co-ops and others that want to get started quickly in the food business in Michigan.
- Celebrated the opening of two new dairy processing facilities in Michigan that renovated vacant food industry sites:
 - * A new cheese plant was developed in Croswell by renovating a former pickle processing plant.
 - * A new milk bottling facility opened in Battle Creek at a former Kellogg Co. research laboratory facility that they expanded and modernized. The plant, operated by Prairie Farms Dairy, an 800-member dairy cooperative in Carlinville, IL, will begin bottling a fluid line of skim to whole milk and chocolate milk in 2004.
- Provided \$100,000 through the MDA International Market Development Grant Program to 11 Michigan food and agricultural organizations. These proposals have the potential to leverage nearly \$326,000, or more than a 3-to-1 basis, in federal and private resources to develop or enhance overseas markets.
- Leveraged \$90,000 in federal funds to promote Midwestern wines in Europe through Mid-America International Trade Council (MIATCO). Michigan wineries participated in promotional activities in Dusseldorf, Germany and London, England.



A Mexican chef utilizes some of Michigan's high quality fruit products.

- Coordinated the promotion of processed apple, blueberry, cherry and cranberry (ABCC) products targeting the Mexican baking industry. Three Michigan companies have obtained at least one distributor and made more than 20 new buyer contacts in Mexico. Michigan companies estimate an increase in sales of \$55,000 of the fruits over the next year. Approximately \$24,000 in sales was made directly at the trade show.
- Participated in an ABCC pavilion at ABASTUR, a hotel and restaurant show, which showcased the many ABCC products available from the U.S. Three seminars were also held in

Monterrey, Guadalajara and Cancun. These seminars trained Mexican chefs on the use of the ABCC products.

- Participated in the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) Buyers' Mission, providing Michigan companies with the opportunity to meet convenience store buyers from South Korea and Mexico. Michigan companies estimated an increase in export sales of \$1 million in the next year.
- Assisted 26 Michigan firms in applying and qualifying for more than \$209,500 in federal funds to reimburse their export development costs. Through its MIATCO membership, MDA enables Michigan food producers and processors to receive reimbursements of up to 44 percent of their export market development costs in the USDA Branded Market Access Program.
- Coordinated participation of 10 Michigan firms in the Michigan pavilion at the Food Marketing Institute/U.S. Food Export Showcase in Chicago, the largest grocery store trade show in the world.
- Provided technical assistance and market research to the Michigan Apple Committee (MAC) and the apple industry in efforts to open the Mexican market for Michigan fresh apple exports since adoption of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The division also encouraged representatives of a dozen Michigan apple shippers and the Michigan Apple Committee to work together and form the Great Lakes Fruit Exporters Association, an export trading company, which will allow them to negotiate international trade terms with the Mexican government without violating U.S. commercial anti-trust laws.
- Expanded the Select Michigan program and obtained USDA funding for the Select Michigan Foods: "Select a Taste of Michigan" Local and Organic Foods Program, a partnership among MDA, Cooperative Development Services, Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS), and many local partners. Select Michigan works to promote Michigan grown and processed foods and to connect local partners and retailers.
- Worked with MIFFS to develop field educational campaigns to promote Michigan-produced locally and organically grown products to Michigan consumers and retailers. Growers were recruited from across the state to produce product for partnering retailers.
- With the assistance of Governor Granholm, launched a pilot Select a Taste of Michigan advertising and marketing campaign in the Grand Rapids area. More than 30,000 consumers sampled Michigan products in 137 food demonstrations. Michigan products were featured in 300 in-store point-of-purchase displays. Preliminary sales data indicate that the Select a Taste of Michigan promotions increased sales of featured Michigan products by an average of 111 percent over the previous year's sales period. New distribution channels were also opened for several producers.
- Sponsored promotional events in Northville, Grand Rapids, Suttons Bay, Rochester, Howell, Brighton, Okemos and Ludington as part of the "Take Home a Taste of Michigan"



marketing program. More than 100 specialty food processors participated in the events. Featured Michigan products included jams, jellies, honey, gourmet coffee, pastries, ice cream, cheese, pickles, baking mixes, salsa and maple products. USDA Federal State Market Improvement Program funds helped offset the costs for exhibitors.

- Implemented activities of the Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council (MGWIC), a 10-member council established by the Legislature to promote Michigan's wine and wine grape-growing industries. Due in great part to the research and promotional activities of the council, new wineries are starting up in Michigan every year; wine grape acreage continues to grow; sales of Michigan wines are increasing; and Michigan is gaining more national and international attention as a world-class wine region. The economic impact of the industry is more than \$75 million, with \$17 million of this attributed to secondary benefits of winery tourism.
- Assisted the MGWIC in a broad-based strategic planning activity to establish future direction for the council's work to stimulate this rapidly evolving industry.
- Facilitated five council meetings and several committee meetings to plan effective programs in the areas of promotion, research and education and to meet the long-term needs of the industry.
- Hosted a 10-day visit by internationally respected wine writer Tom Stevenson, who wrote a complimentary article in Decanter magazine upon his return to London, and hosted a tasting of Michigan wines for other European wine writers in January.
- Attended 95 percent of regular, special and annual meetings for Michigan's 15 legislatively established commodity groups, and worked with the Assistant Attorney General to review proposed programs, statutory issues, and unpaid or unremitted assessment funds. Staff also assisted several commodity groups in implementing program changes outlined in Public Act 232 of 1965, as amended, the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act.
- Received preliminary results from a producer survey of more than 300 Michigan agritourism entities, in cooperation with a Western Michigan University federal grant, to study the economic impact of agricultural tourism in Michigan. Collected an additional 1,500 consumer surveys at numerous agricultural tourism operations throughout the state.
- Administered the Julian-Stille Value-added Agriculture Development Grant Program, created by Public Act 322 of 2000. The program strengthens Michigan agriculture by offering producers, food processors, agri-businesses and others the opportunity to leverage public funds with private investment to foster value-added agricultural initiatives in the specialty crops industry. The division monitored progress on 28 projects that were selected in 2002 to receive funding totaling \$1.14 million and other federal specialty crops block grants.
- Presented a summary of the early successes of the Julian-Stille Value-added Grant Program at the Northwest Michigan Farm and Orchard Show as part of their "Bouncing Back!" program, sponsored by the Grand Traverse Fruit Council.



- Received six Federal State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) grant applications from Michigan companies and forwarded them to the USDA FSMIP office for a nationwide competition for funds. This resulted in \$96,615 awarded to two state projects involving compost marketing and promoting blueberries using food safety benefits.

Animal Industry Division

Joan Arnoldi, DVM, Director and State Veterinarian
(517) 373-1077

The Animal Industry Division (AID) safeguards the health and welfare of livestock and domestic animals in Michigan. The division monitors animal disease, diseases transmitted to humans by animals, and food safety hazards to protect the health of Michigan residents. The division is responsible for administering reportable animal disease programs and overseeing toxic substance contamination incidents relating to animal health. AID also enforces the humane treatment of animals through the licensing and regulation of animal shelters, pet shops and riding stables. The state veterinarian administers the division, and supervises animal disease surveillance and eradication programs throughout the state.

The division remained very active in animal health programs in FY 2003. Major progress was made in the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Project as well as in addressing the threat of Chronic Wasting Disease. Michigan's animal health emergency management planning was also substantially strengthened in FY 2003. During FY 2003, AID:

- Maintained three zones in the state for the Bovine TB Eradication Project. The three zones were designated Disease Free, Surveillance, and Infected.
- Conducted 129,464 bovine TB animal tests using MDA, USDA, and fee-basis private veterinary practitioners. Five cattle herds were found infected with bovine TB in FY 2003, all in the known affected area of Northeast Michigan. As of September 30, 2003, 935,756 animals had been tested for bovine TB (cumulative number since project inception), representing nearly all of the state's total herds.
- Conducted 28 TB livestock movement investigations and imposed \$2,146 in fines for illegal movement of animals.
- Expanded the Michigan Electronic Identification Program for livestock to include Emmet, Charlevoix and Antrim counties. This brought the total number of counties in the program to 12. Since 2001, nine sale barns have received stationary readers, which have read over 30,000 head of cattle. A total of seven livestock packing plants in four states have received stationary EID readers with over 7,000 head read by the readers.
- Conducted surveillance of livestock movement across the Mackinac Bridge to enhance the Bovine TB Eradication Project.



Michigan cattle are increasingly wearing electronic ID tags.

- Worked with USDA to develop a proposed rule for TB split state status for Michigan, which was published in the federal register in April 2003.
- Tested nearly 1,300 privately owned deer and elk for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). All tests were negative.
- Made compliance visits to 300 cervidae livestock operations to enforce compliance with registration of their facilities.
- Conducted 20 cervidae movement investigations. Eleven warnings were issued for violations found and nine investigations found no violations.
- Conducted Incident Command System (ICS) training (level 100) for AID and USDA Veterinary Services staff to help ensure emergency preparedness.
- Outfitted and equipped two trailers with emergency preparedness gear and supplies. The trailers will be crucial for the initial response to a large-scale animal disease outbreak or other emergency situation.
- Tested approximately 200 horses for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). Three horses tested positive, which resulted in issuance of five quarantines.
- Responded to West Nile virus (WNV) cases in 10 equine and two canines.
- Followed up on three cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in horses.
- Followed up on 49 animals diagnosed positive for rabies.
- Maintained Pseudorabies Stage V Free Status for Michigan swine.
- Maintained Brucellosis Certified-Free State Status for cattle and swine.



MDA staff and Agriculture Commissioners gather in front of the Department's new fully-stocked mobile emergency response trailers.

Environmental Stewardship Division

Vicki Pontz, Director
(517) 241-0236

The Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) administers programs related to environmental protection and agriculture pollution prevention. Environmental stewardship activities help ensure that farming operations protect land and water resources, and public health. A summary of FY 2003 program accomplishments follows:

- Funded 13 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technicians through 11 grants. The technicians delivered technical assistance to landowners in the three watersheds and 29 counties with funding through non-point source grant partnerships with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). By the end of FY'03, Michigan landowners executed 4,052 CREP contracts representing 47,896 acres. Landowners enrolled 23,532 acres in Grass Filter Strips, and 1,723 acres in Riparian Forest Buffers. These 25,255 acres of corridor conservation practices, using an average 100-foot width, are reducing agriculturally related sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen loading on over 2,000 miles of watercourses (streams, drains, rivers, and lakes), or the distance from Saginaw, Michigan to Los Angeles, California. Landowners also enrolled 9,768 acres of wetland restorations; 712 acres of shallow water area for wildlife; 7,702 acres of whole field grass plantings (e.g., introduced cool season grasses and native warm season grasses); and 892 acres of field windbreaks.
- Reimbursed producers for 100 percent of costs incurred for establishing conservation practices that control or exclude livestock access to surface waters through the Livestock Access Program (LAP), a state-sponsored component of CREP. By the end of FY'03, the program installed 27 limited access livestock crossings, 33 alternative watering sources, 58.3 miles of exclusionary fencing, and 43 acres of critical area treatment grass filter strips.
- Continued the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program's (MAEAP) Livestock System on-farm verification, with a total program menu of educational sessions, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) assistance, and the development of farm-specific verification. Over 1,800 producers and technical assistance providers have attended Phase 1 educational sessions. Seventeen livestock farms have been verified to date. A MAEAP web site – www.maeap.org - was developed.
- Continued the MAEAP Farmstead System. Trained groundwater technicians to assist producers in assessing the risk of contaminating ground or surface water at the farmstead. Developed a farm-specific action plan to address risks identified for both livestock and non-livestock operations. Verified the first three Farmstead System farms.

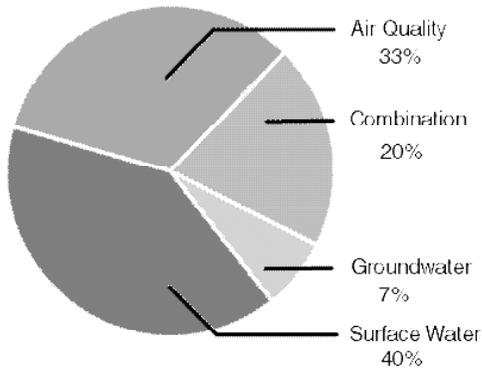


- Participated in planning Agriculture’s Conference on the Environment (ACE), held in Lansing, with 650 attendees. The conference focused on environmental and conservation education for farmers and local resource technical assistance providers.
- Worked one-on-one with over 1,000 farmers through the Groundwater Stewardship Program to identify groundwater risks and to develop plans to reduce those risks. Technicians implemented a wide variety of groundwater stewardship practices, including 544 abandoned well closures, 700 emergency plans, 206 spill kits, 449 acres of custom pesticide application, 20,331 acres of pre-sidedress nitrate testing and 623 acres of integrated pest management.
- Recycled 36,900 pounds of properly rinsed pesticide containers at agri-business sites throughout the state, through the Michigan Pesticide Container Recycling Program.
- Collected, removed, and properly disposed of more than 156,260 pounds of pesticides and mercury. The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, in cooperation with county and local units of government, has established 16 permanent Clean Sweep sites throughout the state.

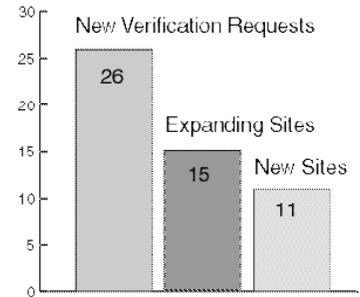


Clean Sweep staff gather outdated and potentially dangerous pesticides for safe and proper disposal.

- **Sampled 215 drinking water wells at no charge to well owners through the MDA Groundwater Monitoring program. The program continued to focus on sampling wells in areas surrounding contaminated wells to help ensure public health. Also screened 2,271 wells for atrazine and nitrate contamination at no charge to well owners.**
- **Administered grants; facilitated education, training, capacity building, and resource assessment; and assisted in local strategic planning, the development of annual work plans, and annual budget preparations for 83 conservation districts.**
- **Inspected and licensed 3,934 individual living units from migrant workers with a capacity of 22,731 workers at 847 locations. Administered \$285,000 through the migrant labor housing construction grant program, resulting in producers investing \$906,000 in housing construction projects, with significant improvements to over 122 living units and the establishment of 41 new living units.**
- **Provided education and assistance to encourage the increased use of biosolids (nutrient rich by-products of wastewater treatment) recycling and application. Currently, 170 Michigan waste treatment facilities apply about 85,000 dry tons of biosolids on agricultural cropland annually.**
- **Partnered with the Michigan Water Environment Association to develop an annual seminar to update industry members on information and technology for biosolids land application.**
- **Developed four quarterly newsletters, "Amendments," to improve awareness of the Michigan Biosolids Program and land application.**



- Responded to 126 new environmental complaints through the Right to Farm complaint response program, which was a decrease in the number of complaints from the previous 12-month period. There were approximately 162 follow-up inspections conducted, and 26 verification requests for Site Selection and Odor Control on new and expanding livestock facilities were received.



- Participated in the annual MSU Ag Expo biosolids demonstration plot and display tent to provide biosolids information to producers.
- Distributed biosolids information packets to all Michigan Conservation District offices to provide producers and the public updated biosolids information.
- Facilitated 31 Intercounty Drain Petition Projects with an estimated project cost of \$13.4 million. A total of 352,000 acres were served by these projects, affecting 97 miles of drain. Utilized \$343,000 in Clean Michigan Initiative dollars for stream restoration and \$261,750 in Federal Emergency Management Assistance grant monies for flood mitigation.
- Responded to 123 drain maintenance requests in 44 different counties, improving approximately 800 miles of drains serving almost 1,765,000 acres of multiple use watersheds at a cost of over \$3 million. Eight of the drains are currently involved in multipurpose watershed projects, investing over \$4.4 million in grants funded by the Clean Michigan Initiative, Section 319 of the Clean Water Act; the Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grant; the Great Lakes Protection Fund; and the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant.
- Processed the renewal of 3,014 farmland and open space preservation agreements, securing 241,120 acres from development. A total of 44,000 agreements are protecting more than 3.5 million acres in Michigan. Legislative changes improved the incentives for enrollment, resulting in an increase from an average of 155 new applications annually in the years 1997-2000, to 308 new applicants in 2003.
- Permanently protected 186 acres of farmland through the purchase of additional farmland development rights easements at a cost of \$638,000. Three additional easements were donated, protecting an additional 354 acres. This brings the number of acres permanently protected in the state to 14,740, as of September 30, 2003.
- Received \$193,900 in 2002-2003 for the Agriculture Energy Program. The Energy Conservation Program receives funding from oil overcharge settlements to implement energy conservation practices. This program has been in place at various levels since 1987. Over \$138,000 was distributed in grants and contracts for programs and projects with an energy conservation component. Efforts from these programs and projects combined to save an estimated 0.743 trillion Btus.

- Administered the Forestry Assistance Program (FAP), which provides education and one-on-one technical assistance to private landowners and communities regarding local forest health issues, through grant monies provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Conservation district resource professionals made 725 on-site assistance contacts with landowners representing 31,000 acres; referred 6,952 acres for harvest; facilitated actual timber harvests on 2,400 acres valued at \$750,000; and coordinated 113,000 reforestation tree plantings on 1,250 acres.
- Completed 110 practices to elevate the protection of wells on Michigan golf courses, including: sealing abandoned wells, physically protecting wellheads from impacts, improving grading around wellheads and increasing security.
- Completed 371 practices on Michigan golf courses to increase the protection of groundwater and surface water from pesticides and fertilizers, including: installing mixing and loading pads, installing spill kits, developing drift management plans, constructing pesticide storage areas, providing secondary containment for pesticides, improving record keeping and posting practices.

Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division

Barbara Hensinger, Director
(517) 373-9763

The Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing (FER) Division oversees Michigan's state, county and local fairs; county horse racing programs; and horse racing breeding and owner assistance programs. The division also administers grant programs for the 89 fairs and the horse racing industry. FER staff, during 2003:

- Partnered with the fair and festival industry to present workshops to fair and festival management at their conventions on subjects such as animal health and ways to increase youth and volunteer involvement.
- Continued to lead a task force to study water safety issues at fairgrounds. Five studies were completed in 2003. The team visited each fair twice, once prior to the fair and again during the fair, to evaluate water supply, distribution system, cross-connection control, abandoned wells, hand washing and drinking water, sewage collection/treatment, animal washing, manure management, and chemical use/storage.
- Worked with the Michigan Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association to enhance the Youth Horse Racing Program. New in 2003, after the conclusion of the four county fair races, FER staff coordinated a championship race at Mount Pleasant Meadows, a premier pari-mutuel racetrack in Michigan. More than 20 of the 65 youth who participated in 2003 competed at the championship race.



Michigan youth enjoy one of the state's many county and local fairs.

- Awarded and supervised \$120,000 in competitive livestock grants to 30 organizations. The program provides funding to increase the development and promotion of adult and youth involvement in the animal agriculture industry.

- Recommended changes to regulations monitored by FER to comply with the changing industry needs. Regulation 808, 811, 812, 813, 814, 816, 817, 820 and 823 were each opened and restructured.

- Worked with the Michigan Youth Livestock Fund to award six \$1,000 scholarships to youth exhibitors at the Michigan State Fair. The fund also provided \$21,000 in educational awards to 125 exhibitors.

- Completed drug testing on horses at 13 draft horse pulls and 78 county fair harness races. Of the 1,427 samples collected at races, only six tested positive for illegal drugs. Only one of the 60 samples collected at the draft horse pulls tested positive for illegal drugs.

- Assisted with the Michigan State Fair, which ran from August 15 through September 1 in 2003. The fair length was extended from previous years, but opened one day late due to the widespread blackout that affected electrical service in parts of Southeast Michigan, the Eastern U.S. and Canada. A FER staff person served as superintendent of the Agriculture Building which houses agricultural entries, exhibits and vendors during the fair.

- Assisted the MSF superintendents, in conjunction with the Animal Industry Division, with animal health checks and records and steer DNA sample collection. Performed drug screening of champion livestock at both the MSF and the UPSF.

- Worked with the Youth Livestock Auction committees at the Michigan State Fair and U.P. State Fair to coordinate the auctions. MDA staff also contributed to the success of the auctions by raising over \$4,465 internally, which was used to purchase lambs at both auctions. The lambs were donated to the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

- Monitored and administered incentives required to present successful fairs. In 2003, 64.3 percent of the total \$1.5 million premiums paid was for competitive exhibits at all fairs throughout the state.

- Provided oversight for the U.P. State Fair. FER Division Director Barbara Hensinger served as the acting fair manager in 2003. Fair attendance and livestock exhibitors increased in 2003.



Governor Jennifer Granholm participated as a “spotter” at the annual Youth Livestock Auction at the Michigan State Fair. The Grand Champion Steer was purchased by Kroger in 2003.

Finance and Administrative Services Division

David Bruce, Director
(517) 373-1100

The Finance and Administrative Services Division (FAS) administers business processes for the department, including budget, accounting, auditing, procurement, fiscal stewardship, resource management, facility management, fleet management, travel arrangements and mail operations. During 2003, FAS:

- Completed the first “early/accelerated” year-end book closing with fewer experienced staff (after early retirements) and with less overtime.
- Realigned and retrained Accounting Section staff to support Emerald Ash Borer needs with a dedicated staff person.
- Started work to bring program divisions into better alignment with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles matching principles, including working toward implementation of a rent allocation model.
- Increased focus and inputs into the Resource Management Team to pursue increased department-wide fiscal stewardship; educated customers and partners; and pursued continuous quality initiatives.
- Continued to improve controls over travel expenditures, including fine-tuning post audits (sample size, summarization, and communication of results) and began implementation of a supervisory review of travel procedure.
- Implemented budget cuts and closed with no overdrafts or supplementals, including handling the Michigan State Fair deficit.
- Negotiated statewide contracts for Emerald Ash Borer eradication efforts.
- Implemented the e-WARS project for time and activity reporting.
- Initiated department-wide Resource Stewardship Group meetings to further the division’s fiscal stewardship efforts.
- Reduced leased warehouse space by 40 percent.



FAS staff were treated to a surprise visit from Governor Granholm. She stopped by to thank them for their extra effort in helping implement budget changes at the end of an especially challenging fiscal year.

- Complied with the statewide vehicle reduction efforts under the Governor’s Executive Directive.
- Facilitated implementation of portions of the state’s LINK Michigan telecommunications contract within MDA, to promote efficiencies and savings.

Food and Dairy Division

Katherine Fedder, Director
(517) 373-1060

The mission of the Food and Dairy Division (FDD) is to protect public health and ensure a wholesome food supply, while working to maintain a viable food and dairy industry. To achieve this end, the division administers food, beverage and dairy laws in Michigan. To ensure that these laws are enforced, FDD conducts regular inspections of food and dairy products and facilities. Inspectors visit and examine restaurants, farms, grocery stores and other food producing, manufacturing and sales establishments. FDD also gives support and assistance in order to maintain a viable food industry. FDD is committed to keeping consumers and stakeholders informed of recalls, outbreaks and other food and dairy-related issues. All of its functions support its primary mission - food safety. In 2003, the Food & Dairy Division accomplished the following:

- Responded to the biggest blackout ever to hit Michigan, on August 14, 2003. Food inspectors were dispatched to the affected areas to monitor retail food establishment efforts and conduct inspections. During a six-day period, 40 MDA staff visited 25 percent of the more than 6,000 food facilities in Southeast Michigan, issuing 117 seizures for 394,000 pounds of food, valued at approximately \$734,600 and investigating 100 consumer complaints. FDD also monitored the 15 dairy plants (all had back-up power) in the affected area. Throughout the crisis, MDA provided consumers and retailers with proper food safety information, issued updates to newspapers, and radio and TV stations, and posted information to the department's and the State of Michigan's web sites. MDA officials spoke on radio stations throughout the affected region to alert consumers and retailers on ways to keep food safe.
- Conducted 31,005 inspections at food and dairy facilities; licensed 29,369 food service establishments and 12,745 retail food establishments; and conducted over 1,100 enforcement actions to address food safety violations including restaurants and cafeterias.
- Provided Foodborne Illness Response Strategy (F.I.R.ST.) training throughout the state to improve coordination during outbreak responses, to identify outbreaks early, to implement control measures promptly, and to prevent human illness. In 2003, the National Environmental Health Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention adopted the F.I.R.ST. program as a national model for foodborne illness outbreak response training.
- Led a multi-agency initiative to evaluate the safety of water supplies at five fairs in Michigan and to identify effective risk and reduction practices.
- Created and distributed materials to producers and consumers including updated regulations on *Processing Guidelines for Venison*. Created on-going materials and education for food safety including numerous articles in newspapers, as well as extensive radio and TV.



MDA food inspector hard at work, checking a wide range of food safety requirements.

- Spearheaded the first Food Security Summit with food, agriculture, public health and emergency response partners, to discuss how to best protect Michigan's food and agricultural infrastructure. Five work groups were formed centering on the issues of inputs, production, processing, distribution/transportation and retail. Incorporated strategies into a final draft to be reviewed by the Michigan Homeland Protection Board.
- Played a leadership role in emergency preparedness events with Michigan food industry associations, governmental agencies, and others representing law enforcement, public health, outbreak investigation, food regulation, emergency management, health care, and public communication/media relations.
- Partnered with the Michigan Department of Community Health to conduct a one-year pilot project testing the feasibility of using the Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN). By this mechanism, partners can send and receive notification of potential and actual emergency or priority situations. They can share detailed emergency-related information via the MIHAN web portal.
- Inspected 23,046 food concession stands at county and state fairs.
- Provided oversight for: 96,095 inspections of 46,356 licensed food service establishments conducted by local health departments; the review of 2,076 plans; and the investigation of 5,274 non-illness and foodborne illness complaints.
- Provided training and consultation for local health departments and industry representatives who investigate foodborne illness outbreaks, on how to promptly implement control measures and identify steps to prevent similar outbreaks in the future.
- Collaborated with state and local public health offices, affected food industries, and federal law enforcement agencies concerning meat intentionally contaminated with a pesticide containing nicotine. The incident led to the recall of approximately 1,700 pounds of ground beef.
- Shared information on 77 recalls with food inspectors, local health staff and the general public.
- Provided consultation to the food industry, regulators and law enforcement officials during foodborne illness outbreaks, unintentionally caused or due to deliberate contamination, food recalls, and other food-related events.
- Conducted 7,959 dairy farm inspections and worked with dairy processors to provide safe, wholesome dairy products to consumers.
- Licensed two new dairy plants in Battle Creek and Croswell.
- Conducted electrical safety checks on over 30 percent of Michigan's dairy farms during routine farm visits during August and September, 2003.



Human Resources Division

Robert Kaczorowski, Director
(517) 373-1057

The Human Resources Division (HR) supports department personnel in a variety of program areas. The division is responsible for the selection, hiring and compensation of department employees, as well as the administration of employee benefits, position classification, labor relations and training. HR oversees programs that ensure equal employment and equitable representation of groups within the department's work force. Programs include: recruitment, student programs, career seminars, reasonable accommodation coordination, sexual harassment complaint investigations, health and safety coordination, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). During FY 2003, HR:

- Collaborated with the Michigan Department of Civil Service to identify appropriate routine human resource activities for centralization in the Human Resources Service Center, and to review and develop business processes for the service center. This program is jointly sponsored by the Executive Office; the Michigan Departments of Civil Service, Management and Budget, and Information Technology; and the Office of the State Employer, as a part of the Human Resources Optimization Project.
- Coordinated, with the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, the development and staffing of the Emerald Ash Borer Incident Response Project.
- Coordinated and processed the hiring of 253 employees throughout the year. This included 101 full time employees; 42 non-career employees, such as students and fruit/vegetable inspectors; and 110 special personal service contractual employees in State Fair operations, conservation services, and horse racing operations.
- Continued to expand the implementation of the web-based Employee Self-Service feature of the Human Resource Management Network.
- Coordinated and conducted numerous training programs throughout the year. These included training in the areas of discriminatory harassment, workplace violence, performance management, targeted selection, and supervisory training.
- Collaborated with the department coaching and mentoring subcommittee to develop and launch the MDA Coaching and Mentoring program.
- Coordinated an annual Employee Recognition Ceremony to honor staff for their commitment to state government. Employees were recognized for years of service, promotions and special achievements. Awards included the Commission Awards for Excellence and Employee of the Year.

Director, Dan Wyant (left) presents the Employee of the Year Award to John Tilden, Food Safety Epidemiologist for MDA's Food and Dairy Division.



Laboratory Division

Steve Reh, Director
(517) 337-5040

The Laboratory Division performs scientific and analytical services that support MDA programs. The laboratory also performs tests and offers technical consultation services for other state and federal agencies, as well as fee-based services to Michigan industry and private citizens.

The Laboratory Division consists of two world-class facilities: the William C. Geagley Laboratory in East Lansing, and the E.C. Heffron Metrology Laboratory in Williamston.

The Geagley Laboratory performs more than 300 different biological, chemical and physical tests on a routine basis. The laboratory examines food samples, beverages, pesticides, seeds, fertilizers and animal feeds to ensure a safe food supply, verify labels, ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and to guarantee product quality. The Geagley Laboratory also monitors food and animal feed for contaminants, tests blood and urine from competing race horses for performance enhancing drugs and tests livestock samples in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.



MDA lab technician performs screening test for the presence of a viral disease in swine.

The E. C. Heffron Metrology Laboratory renders ultra-precise mass, volume and length calibration certification for Michigan businesses, and houses the consumer protection programs for Weights and Measures and Motor Fuels Quality. The Metrology Laboratory also conducts regulatory services; calibrating standards used for enforcement by the Michigan Treasury and Agriculture departments, Michigan State Police, and all county road commissions. The tests and analyses conducted by the lab assure that weights and measures in Michigan comply with national standards, making items eligible for international trade, and preventing economic fraud and deception. Division accomplishments for FY 2003 included:

- Completed a Laboratory Division Strategic Plan that identified five primary goals and numerous strategies for the division to accomplish in the next two years. Held a division wide meeting to present the Strategic Plan and discuss other issues such as budget, accreditation, safety and MDA program updates.
- Selected an off-the-shelf, web-based Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and began configuration work to implement the new LIMS in the Geagley Laboratory to provide future data handling requirements.
- Provided coaching and mentoring training for all division managers.
- Completed renovation of the greenhouse facility providing new glass panels, louvers and automatic environmental controls.
- Implemented or enhanced several internal administrative practices to help ensure smooth division operations, including:
 1. Successfully completed the first management review of the Administrative Section in September, 2003; no corrective actions were identified.

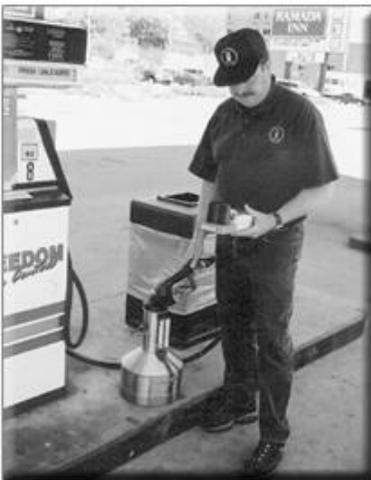
2. Wrote a division purchasing Standard Operating Procedure, which was approved by the Management Team, to meet ISO 17025 standards.
 3. Conducted a financial audit under the provisions of the Single Audit Act in February, 2003, and implemented corrective action plans to address the findings.
 4. Developed a new format for time and activity recording that distributes staff time, including leave times, to federal indexes and meets federal accounting requirements.
 5. Provided administrative support assistance to implement the division's strategic plan which includes eWARS, Cyberlab and ISO 17025 accreditation.
 6. Completed a review of standard supplies procedures and made changes to more accurately and uniformly distribute costs and provide substantial cost savings due to bulk ordering of items.
- Tested nearly 170,000 samples for Brucellosis, Equine Infectious Anemia, Pseudorabies, Johne's, Anaplasmosis and Bluetongue. Approximately 54,000 of these were service samples. Performed confirmation testing, in cooperation with the federal government, of Pseudorabies samples from the State of Alabama. Added a microbiologist to assist with tick tests for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and any unusual or developmental work in the laboratory.
 - Initiated participation in a Johne's disease demonstration project, as part of a cooperative agreement with MSU and MDA's Animal Industry Division. The lab expects to receive and test approximately 4,000 of these samples during the project, which is ongoing.
 - Celebrated the Animal Disease Surveillance section's successful completion of all annual federal proficiency and check test samples.
 - Performed over 150,000 tests on approximately 23,000 samples in the Equine Drug Testing (EDT) laboratory. Over 14,000 of these samples were submitted for Total Carbon Dioxide (TCO₂) testing only. The TCO₂ testing program has been operating since 1998 and over this past year, only one positive sample was found, indicating the program continues to have the desired effect on controlling abuses related to "milkshaking" in race horses.
 - In cooperation with Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division, EDT performed drug testing on approximately 1,500 harness horses racing at fairs and exhibitions throughout Michigan during the summer months.
 - Participated in the "split-testing program", which offers confirmatory testing of samples that have been called "positive" in other states.
 - Offered testing of animals at various livestock shows throughout Michigan and surrounding states to help ensure integrity in livestock competitions. This program has grown due to outreach efforts by the division at the annual Livestock Fair Shows Education Conference.



MDA's Laboratory Division has state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and highly trained scientists and other staff to assure accurate results.

- Received and forwarded 18 samples to the FDA for mycotoxin or pesticide testing as part of a partnership agreement.
- Contracted with FDA to determine the suitability and performance of a rapid test kit for the detection of ruminant protein in animal feed and meat and bone meal.
- Received and tested forage samples for aflatoxin as part of a trace back investigation for a contaminated load of milk.
- Trained staff on microwave digestion equipment to speed up sample preparation for nutrient and metals analysis. Obtained updated chromatography software to facilitate increased drug residue testing in animal feeds.
- Continued progress toward full accreditation to the ISO 17025 standard for laboratory testing.
- Ensured accurate, timely sample test results were returned to customers through the data-related services of the laboratory's Information Services Group. In 2003, ISG provided: one-day turn-around support for 54,000 fee-generating samples for the Animal Disease Surveillance section; testing cards and final reports for 1,800 fee-generating seed samples and 1,110 official seed samples; and reports of analysis for 5,700 official samples for the Microbiology and Food, Feed and Fertilizer sections. The section also handled distribution for 21,000 EDT reports and 4,000 for Pesticide and Environment, Food, Feed and Fertilizer, Liquor Control and Motor Fuels Quality sections. Daily reports were also provided to MDA Finance and Administrative Services for billing for over 55,000 fee-generating tests.
- Retained the Microbiology Section's A2LA accreditation to ISO 17025 Standards in the field of biological testing through an on site audit that took place in June. An antimicrobial efficacy testing procedure was audited and added to the section's scope of accredited tests.
- Continued to work on two federally funded programs – Microbiology Data Program (MDP) and Antimicrobial Efficacy Testing. The MDP program received and tested (for

Salmonella and *E. coli*) over 1,000 samples of tomatoes, celery, lettuce and cantaloupe in 2003. The Antimicrobial program received approximately 20 disinfectant samples during the fiscal year and successfully reported results on 28 product lots (some of the samples were collected during the previous year).



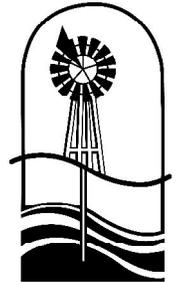
MDA inspector checks for gasoline quality and quantity.

- Received over 300 cider samples as part of a special cider project commissioned by the MSU National Food Safety and Toxicology Center. The samples were tested for coliforms, generic *E.coli*, standard plate count, *Salmonella sp.*, *E. coli* O157:H7 and pH. Of those samples collected, 25 samples tested positive for generic *E. coli* with no pathogens being detected in any of the cider samples.
- Maintained certification for crucial dairy testing procedures through successful participation in yearly FDA proficiency samples.

- Responded to 1,025 consumer concerns about substandard gasoline and/or the wrong amount of gasoline. Retail investigations of gasoline marketers resulted in 75 administrative fines, 43 of those for sale of substandard fuels.
- Ordered the stop sale of gasoline at 62 retail stations because the gasoline contained water or otherwise failed to meet the state's quality standards. Over 720 warning letters were issued to firms who were found violating the law for licensing, water content, labeling and gasoline quality.
- Tested approximately 1,600 gasoline samples for octane, oxygenates, vapor pressure, sulfur content, and distillation range. Of those, 98 were found not to meet requirements for AKI Octane number.
- Obtained one ISL automated distillation apparatus that has aided tremendously in the unit's ability to maintain an acceptable analytical turnaround time.
- Monitored gasoline volatility at over 570 gasoline dispensing facilities to ensure that highly volatile fuels are not being sold in Southeastern Michigan reducing their contribution to air pollution in the summer months. This assisted the area in maintaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards. One gasoline dispensing facility was found to be dispensing high volatility gasoline during routine sampling and received a warning.
- Collected approximately 1,600 food samples for the Pesticide and Microbiological Data Programs (PDP, MDP) and the Triazole Sampling Project. Almost 70 percent of these samples were shipped to other states for analyses per the transshipping arrangement with USDA-PDP participants.
- Received 1,056 samples for pesticide residue analysis from food warehouses throughout the U.S., comparable to the 1,054 received in FY02. A total of 1,011 samples were reported with 623 found to contain pesticide residue, all well below federal tolerance levels.
- Developed and validated a new method for the analysis of sweet potatoes, which is more time and cost efficient and safer for employees. Michigan's Pesticide Data Program lab is the first in the nation to be able to switch to the new method. The MDA lab is analyzing for 30 percent more pesticide product residues in sweet potatoes than those analyzed in celery (USDA replaced celery sampling with sweet potatoes this year). Many of these are newer pesticides creating analytical challenges in their detection. The program continues to work toward meeting the variable needs of EPA in collecting data for registration of pesticides.
- Purchased two new analytical instruments (GC/MSD & LC/MS/MS) with federal funds to enhance pesticide residue testing capabilities. Both systems are up and running and are in the process of being validated. The Pulsed Flame Photometric Detector (PFPD) was validated and used for sweet potato analysis.
- Participated in three proficiency tests covering three commodities and 26 analytes, one from USDA-PDP and two from the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC). The PDP section performed well in all three. Internal proficiency checks were conducted by the Quality Assurance Section covering two commodities and 18 pesticide analytes this fiscal year.



- Progressed toward ISO 17025 accreditation with the completion by PDP staff of the Quality Manual and review of 71 of the 73 SOPs previously written. This resulted in 20 of these SOPs being archived. In addition, 13 new SOPs have been written. A GAP analysis has been completed by staff and most of the findings addressed. SOPs are now on a more rigorous schedule for review. Audits of the Section doubled in FY03 as compared to FY02.
- Analyzed multiple sample matrices for a broad range of pesticides.
- Analyzed 126 Use Investigation samples in support of investigations of complaints from the misuse of pesticides.
- Participated in an EPA funded Seed Corn Worker Protection Project. The joint project included MDA and Michigan State University to determine the exposure that farm workers receive from working in seed corn fields that were recently sprayed with pesticides. A total of 162 samples were analyzed as part of the project.
- Analyzed groundwater samples submitted by the MDA Environmental Stewardship Division as part of the State Management Plan (SMP). The SMP is a partnership program of both MDA and EPA designed to monitor the possible exposure of groundwater to pesticides and fertilizers. Over 2,260 groundwater samples were screened for nitrates and triazine herbicides. Results of the screening tests identified 99 sites for additional confirmation testing.
- Analyzed cheese samples submitted by the MDA Food and Dairy Division to monitor for possible exposure of consumers to fat soluble pesticides. In FY 2003, 33 samples were analyzed, with no residues detected.
- Analyzed 46 pesticide formulation and 40 antimicrobial commercial products to ensure they met label claims.
- Conducted 9,383 weights and measures device inspections at 2,553 establishments. Investigated over 860 complaints involving allegations of short weight, short measure and item pricing violations. Of those inspected, 17.6 percent of the commercial devices failed to meet the requirements of state law.
- Issued 199 warning letters and held seven compliance meetings (compared with 127 and 12, respectively in 2002 and 121 and eight, respectively in 2001).
- Issued 26 consent agreements and conducted one prosecution for weights and measures, with fines and penalties assessed equaling \$123,985.
- Fully implemented the new service registration program, with 186 servicepersons and 84 service agencies registered.
- Received continued accreditation for the E.C. Heffron Metrology Laboratory to the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) and a Certificate of Measurement Traceability from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST named the E.C. Heffron Metrology Laboratory as a regional small volume prover calibration laboratory and provided both technical and monetary support for the setup and accreditation of these calibrations.
- Tested over 11,000 commercial, law enforcement, and official legal metrology standards.



Michigan Agricultural Statistics

Dave Kleweno, Director
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Michigan Agricultural Statistics (MAS) is responsible for compiling Michigan's official agricultural information database, which was established under a formal agreement between Michigan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

MAS conducts numerous surveys and routinely prepares forecasts and estimates on acreage, yield and production of Michigan field crops, fruits and vegetables. Crop-weather information is provided weekly during the growing season to reflect current crop conditions and development progress. MAS also estimates Michigan's livestock, poultry and dairy populations, and tracks related commodity prices. The estimating program provides information on agricultural land values, farm numbers, land in farms, expenditures and labor. Growing areas, production, and value of Michigan's floriculture industry are published annually. Another significant survey component involves collection of agriculture pesticide use data. MAS also conducts the Michigan Census of Agriculture every five years; supplemental surveys are periodically performed for aquaculture, irrigation, horticulture, and land ownership. During 2003, MAS:

- Provided county estimates for 14 major crop and livestock commodities as part of a cooperative program with MDA.
- Published the results of the Michigan Turfgrass Survey, which collected turf management data for the first time from all sectors of the turfgrass industry. The survey, which began in the fall of 2002, shows the turfgrass industry annually contributes \$1.8 billion to the state's economy.
- Collected data on the acreage, varieties, and rootstock of Michigan fruit crops. Questions were added to the survey to analyze the impact that abandoned orchards have on current operations. The results of the fruit tree inventory will be published in the summer of 2004.
- Prepared for the publication of the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Extensive analysis, summarization, and data preparation were involved for release of the information in February and June 2004.
- Prepared a special Michigan Farm Facts publication to provide a graphical snapshot of Michigan's agricultural industry based on the census of agriculture.
- Provided support and the infrastructure necessary for growers to earn pesticide recertification credits for completing chemical use surveys. The PPM Division approved three surveys in which growers could receive one credit for completing the survey. Many growers have expressed appreciation for this survey incentive and benefit.
- Collected chemical use information on corn, potatoes, six fruit crops, nursery crops, and floriculture crops. Survey data will be used to evaluate chemical use levels for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will in turn be used in setting worker safety standards and in administering the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).



- Partnered with the Michigan State University Project GREEN (*Generating Research & Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs*) to collect 2003 chemical use information for grapes. Supplemental funding and program support allowed for the continuation of an uninterrupted data series, which has been published every two years beginning in 1991.
- Conducted the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey, a part of the Census of Agriculture. Irrigated farms were surveyed for information on crops irrigated and the practices being used. These data will be used extensively in establishing the state's water policy with respect to agricultural use.
- Released the annual agricultural statistics bulletin, which included details of 2002 production, stocks, inventory, disposition, utilization and prices of agricultural commodities. The publication included MDA's annual report, Michigan rankings, record highs and lows, county estimates, and chemical usage data. Due to budget limitations, a special four-page Highlights publication was produced to communicate the value of Michigan agriculture to a larger audience in a more economical fashion.
- Worked with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), using telephone and field enumerator staff located throughout the state and employed by NASDA, to assist in collecting data from farmers and agribusinesses.

The Office of Racing Commissioner

Robert Geake, Racing Commissioner
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ORC stewards oversee every pari-mutuel horse race to assure fairness and safety.

The Office of Racing Commissioner (ORC) is an independent agency within MDA that regulates pari-mutuel horse racing in Michigan, in accordance with the state's Horse Racing Law and the rules of the Racing Commissioner.

The Racing Commissioner, appointed by the Governor for a four-year term, prescribes rules, regulations and conditions under which all pari-mutuel horse racing meets are conducted in the state.

The ORC allocates race dates and issues track, race meeting and occupational licenses. The office also collects license and track revenues, appoints stewards and veterinarians to represent the state, approves track-appointed officials, and monitors the daily conduct of horse racing. ORC also conducts equine and human drug testing programs, and investigates any irregularities in racing that may lead to formal hearings and sanctions. ORC functions primarily as a regulatory agency, but also focuses on improving and promoting horse racing in Michigan. During FY 2003, the ORC:

- Welcomed R. Robert Geake, who was appointed Racing Commissioner by the Governor on December 20, 2002.

- Won an important court decision when the Muskegon County Circuit Court denied a motion for a stay of the Horsemen's Simulcast Purse Pool Distribution Order for 2003 on April 17, 2003. The motion was sought by the Michigan Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and the Great Lakes Downs track in Muskegon, to prevent the ORC from implementing the order for the distribution of 2003 purse pool funds among Michigan's seven tracks, as required by the Horse Racing Law of 1995, as amended.



ORC evaluates winning race horses to assure performance enhancing drugs are not used.

- Promulgated a new rule regarding the process for determining the annual simulcast purse pool distribution order.
- Increased the level of security at racetracks by implementing a video surveillance system in addition to mandatory sign-in procedures in the paddock and stable areas.
- Conducted investigations of an application to build a racetrack in the state filed by Triple Creek Associates on December 12, 2002.
- Continued the effort to eradicate West Nile virus from Michigan's equine population by encouraging vaccinations and surveillance of racing breeds.
- Assisted with the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) legislative committee for LIEN status upgrades.
- Strengthened enforcement of the law prohibiting telephone and Internet wagering in Michigan through collaboration with the Michigan Attorney General. As a result, XpressBet, Inc., of Pennsylvania notified all of its clients in Michigan that, under current state law, it cannot accept telephone or Internet wagers and will no longer do so.
- Implemented a simulcast tax deposit program for the seven pari-mutuel tracks in the state. This new program created substantial time savings for employees at the tracks, the ORC, the Michigan Department of Treasury, and MDA.
- Created preliminary guidelines to expand regulatory functions through the licensing of off-track training facilities in the state.
- Promoted public awareness of Michigan horse racing at the 2003 Michigan State Fair in Detroit as a featured exhibit in the Agriculture Building.

Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Ken Rauscher, Director
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The Pesticide and Plant Pest Management (PPPM) Division is responsible for the enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to the manufacture and distribution of agricultural products, the sale and use of pesticides, exotic pest interception and control, pest management, fruit and vegetable inspection and groundwater protection. In cooperation with multiple federal agencies, and under the authority of both state and federal laws, PPPM administers programs to protect human health and the environment from potential risks related to the improper use of pesticides. The division also oversees programs to control exotic pests, certify nursery stock and other plant material for interstate shipment, inspect and grade fruits and vegetables, and certify commodities for export. PPPM also ensures consumer protection through proper storage and labeling of agricultural products such as feed, seed, fertilizer and animal remedies. During fiscal year 2003, PPPM recorded many significant accomplishments. Of note are the many strides made in the attempt to control and eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a destructive insect of ash trees native to eastern Asia that was first discovered and identified in Michigan in the summer of 2002 in Southeast Michigan. During FY 03, PPPM:



- Extended the EAB quarantine in August 2003, to include an additional seven counties (Genesee, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, St. Clair, and Shiawassee). The quarantine prohibited the transport of ash trees and ash products from the quarantined counties unless chipped to one-inch in diameter or less.
- Identified and contacted firms and persons that may have artificially spread EAB, including nurseries, landscapers, firewood dealers, logging companies, utility companies, tree removal and trimming firms, municipalities and/or other government agencies involved with tree work, composting yards, and any ash material marshalling yards. In FY03, PPPM inspectors contacted approximately 7,300 of these firms/individuals.
- Investigated the movement of ash nursery stock, which is prohibited in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Staff also monitored and surveyed the nurseries and surrounding areas for the presence of EAB. In 2003, 3,148 inspections were conducted.
- Conducted trace-back work for each EAB infestation found outside the generally infested area (outliers).
- Identified multiple outliers (infestations outside the core area). Outliers were prioritized for removal, based on their distance from the pest management zones and other criteria.



Emerald Ash Borer quarantined area

- Eradicated, in the spring of 2003, a population of EAB discovered in the Tipton area. Working with researchers at MSU and USDA to determine the extent of the infestation, PPPM hired contractors to remove and dispose of approximately 1,000 ash trees. PPPM monitored the site throughout the summer and found no return of EAB to the area.



EAB surveyors looking for signs of infestation

- Assisted researchers from MSU and USDA at outlier sites located around the state, by establishing “trap trees”, removing and peeling bark from sections of trees, collecting larvae, and monitoring EAB at outlier sites in St. Clair and Ingham counties. Monitoring of these sites continues, with the possibility of eradication in 2004.
- Worked closely with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and other organizations to host EAB forums for legislators, elected officials, and other community leaders, as well as community information meetings.
- Developed, in cooperation with MSU Extension, an EAB outlier communication protocol and response format survey form for reporting new infestations outside the core area. The protocol/survey will ensure timely and uniform reporting of new infestations and information dissemination.
- Worked with PPPM regulatory staff and EAB partners to establish firewood alert checkpoints at key regional rest areas and welcome centers leaving the quarantined area on Labor Day weekend and prior to the beginning of firearm deer hunting season. Conducted radio, print and TV interviews to support the operation and to help further spread word of the quarantine.
- Developed a communications plan for the EAB outlier eradication program, including outreach to impacted residents, public officials and the media.
- Worked with the Governor’s Office and EAB Task Force to present an EAB forum and tour for state legislators.
- Implemented the EAB Task Force recommendation for a no-cost disposal program to provide an incentive to bring ash material to specific government-sponsored locations thereby assuring containment and control over the movement of the EAB infested ash. The program included establishing four “marshalling yards” within the EAB infested core area, which received and disposed of ash materials from municipalities, contractors, and private citizens at no cost. This marshalling yard pilot project helped assure quarantine compliance by providing a disposal location for infested ash that was within the regulated area; and provided economic relief to all parties for the cost of disposal. In total, there were 38,563 tons of ash materials ground and incinerated in the period of March through September 2003.

- Initiated an EAB survey program aimed at defining the extent of the EAB infestation in Southeast Michigan and detecting outlying infestations beyond this generally infested area.
- Added nearly 60 new staff members during the summer of 2003, to perform and manage EAB survey activities. Surveyors follow survey protocol to inspect ash trees for symptoms at a density of one survey site per 10 acres while using GPS technology to navigate through survey plots and to record survey data. During the second half of 2003, surveyors logged 48,158 survey points, examined 300,000 ash trees, and covered over 600,000 acres (940 square miles).
- Examined ash trees at over 1,500 nurseries, campgrounds, sawmills, wood-burning power plants, and new construction sites throughout Michigan.
- Responded to approximately 2,000 calls received on the EAB toll-free hotline in 2003, resulting in the discovery of four outlier EAB infestations.
- Inspected and certified more than 12,000 acres of nursery stock and more than 19,000 acres (736 fields) of commercial Christmas tree production for compliance with interstate and international trade requirements.
- Issued 2,060 federal phytosanitary certificates for exports of agricultural commodities. Commodities certified for export included beans and grain, fruits and vegetables, logs and lumber and propagative plants and plant parts.
- Conducted 95 inspections at facilities producing or distributing animal feeds. PPPM inspectors have been inspecting feed manufacturing facilities throughout the state for compliance with FDA Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) regulations since 1998.
- Investigated four complaints alleging feed-related animal deaths or illnesses and submitted 789 samples to ensure feed safety and label guarantees.
- Collected leaf samples from 29,132 stone-fruit trees to test them for Plum Pox Virus (PPV), as part of a national survey. All samples tested negative, providing reassurance to Michigan's \$1.7 million stone fruit nursery and orchard industry.
- Coordinated the gypsy moth cooperative suppression program, resulting in the treatment of 20,200 acres in five counties and providing relief to residents and communities in heavily infested areas.
- Conducted 3,211 shipping-point inspections and 932 market inspections to determine the grade of produce. Produce entering Michigan from other states and foreign countries, and destined for both the fresh market and processing, was also inspected as part of our Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program.



MDA inspector gathers leaf samples from stone fruit trees for Plum Pox Virus surveillance testing.

- Submitted 17 requests to EPA for emergency exemptions to allow the use of an unregistered pesticide to control an emergency pest problem, in accordance with Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- Conducted pesticide product and use-related inspections and investigations, including 132 pesticide use investigations, 42 of which occurred in agricultural situations; 75 planned use inspections, 32 of which occurred at commercial applicator facilities; 50 pesticide-producing establishment inspections; 21 federal marketplace inspections; 68 restricted use pesticide audits; and 1,261 compliance monitoring contacts/inspections.
- Cancelled the registration of three herbicides containing the active ingredient Dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA), also known as Dacthal, based on detection in groundwater at several Michigan locations. These were cancelled to protect the environment and human health.
- Participated, in conjunction with state partners, in the West Nile Virus (WNV) Core Work Group, coordinating state WNV surveillance and outreach and response activities.
- Administered 14,138 examinations to individuals seeking pesticide applicator certification or registration credentials and approved 702 seminars for recertification credits allowing 1,582 applicators to renew their credentials through continuing education programs.
- Conducted more than 529 sanitation inspections of Michigan's 364 grain elevators and feed manufacturing facilities to ensure the safety and integrity of raw grain commodities in storage.
- Continued a partnership with state agencies and stakeholders to advise agricultural dealers and farmers on how they can help deter illicit use of anhydrous ammonia while protecting its safe, intended use. Projects included presentations, press conferences, creating and updating Internet site information, and distributing bumper stickers, brochures, and tabletop displays to agricultural-related groups.
- Conducted annual inspections of commercial facilities storing bulk pesticides and fertilizers to ensure that all commercial facilities storing bulk agricultural chemicals in Michigan have containment.
- Conducted precision, safety and security inspections of aircraft and spray systems as part of the annual Operation SAFE Fly-In. Seven pilots (all from Michigan), making nine flights over the calibration card line, participated in this year's Operation SAFE, sponsored jointly with the Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association and Michigan State University Extension. The program facilitates partnerships key to ensuring that aerial application standards for safety and security are met and that training and equipment are up-to-date.



Please contact us with any questions or for more information.

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