



Michigan Food Policy News

May 2012

About MFPC:

The MFPC was created by executive order 2005-13. It brings diverse, food-related stakeholders together to recommend programs and policies to the Governor. It gives stakeholders a forum to identify policies that harness the potential of Michigan's food system to aid in communities' economic development, provide children and those in need greater access to fresh and healthy foods, and support stewardship of our finite land and water resources.

Vision

Michigan is a state with a thriving food system and industry, well-nourished, healthy people and strong, diverse food economy.

Mission

The Michigan Food Policy Council cultivates a safe, healthy and available food supply for all residents while building on the state's agricultural diversity to enhance economic growth.

Unique purpose

The purpose of the MFPC is to focus on the role of government, at all levels, in supporting and improving Michigan's food system through education, policy change, public engagement, innovative problem solving and private-public sector partnerships.

Could There be a new Network in our Future?



Michigan Food Policy Council & MSU Extension team up to link local food councils

The Michigan Food Policy Council (MFPC), the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems and the MSU Extension Community Food Systems workgroup are collaborating to identify local food councils throughout Michigan and to provide a means with which councils can communicate and access resources available to support their work. The Local Food Policy Council task force of the MFPC formed in January of 2012 with several goals in mind:

- To develop a Michigan food policy council directory
- To identify and make available resources that will assist local food councils
- Explore the interest amongst current and aspiring local councils in forming a network
- Build alignment with the Michigan Good Food Charter, a policy initiative which presents a vision for MI's food and agriculture system and outlines 25 agenda priorities for the next 10 years

The task force is comprised of members from the MI Food Policy Council, MSUE's Community Food Systems workgroup, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Department of Community Health, a Northern MI Food Service Director and the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. A recent statewide survey conducted by the task force resulted in the identification of 20 existing and emerging councils around Michigan.

What is a Local Food Policy Council? Food policy councils (FPC's) are comprised of stakeholders from various segments of a local food system. FPC's are innovative collaborations between citizens and government officials. The primary goal of many Food Policy Councils is to examine the operation of a local food system and provide ideas and recommendations for improvement through public policy changes. Councils can create a forum in which people involved in all different parts of the food system and government can meet to learn more about what each does – and to consider how their individual actions impact other parts of the food system.

In the Good Food Access Report of the MI Good Food Charter, it is mentioned that local food policy councils are one way that communities in Michigan are taking up the task of ensuring that needed policies are in place to support their communities' food system values and initiatives. Michigan is fortunate to have a state-level food policy council that gives food-related stakeholders a forum to identify policies that harness the potential of the food system to aid in communities' economic development, provide children and those in need greater access to fresh and nutritious foods, and support stewardship of our finite land and water resources.

MSU study: Food and agriculture contributions to Michigan economy top \$90 billion

Beth Stuever, Michigan State University, (269) 274-1399 or stuever@msu.edu April 4, 2012

Michigan's food and agriculture business sector has emerged from the recession with flying colors. An updated Michigan State University (MSU) study on the impact of the food and agriculture supply chain shows the industry contributes an estimated \$91.4 billion to Michigan's economy. That's an increase of nearly 50 percent between 2004 and 2010.

Chris Peterson, director of the MSU Product Center, announced the findings from "The Economic Impact of Michigan's Food and Agriculture System" during a Michigan Agriculture and Rural Development Commission meeting April 11 in Lansing. The study is based predominately on 2010 data-the latest available.

Though the largest growth numbers came from the wholesale and retail distribution portion of the supply chain, the largest percentage of growth came from farming. The farming line encompasses food, energy and horticultural crops, as well as animal production and turf production.

"The impact of Michigan's farms and the commodities they produce is 12 percent of the overall total, and their economic contribution has nearly doubled from less than \$7 billion to more than \$13 billion," Peterson said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find another business sector that has pulled through the recession with those kinds of numbers in just six years."

Peterson attributes the growth to a substantial increase in the value of food and agricultural products throughout the world.

"The global population increase and the dramatic expansion of the middle class worldwide mean that more people are consuming more food and, at the same time, pushes the food price higher," he explained.

Keith Creagh, director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) says Michigan's food and agriculture industry remains core to the state's economic recovery and

reinvention.

"As a \$91.4 billion industry, it would rank 47th if it were on the list of Fortune 500 companies. Thanks to Michigan's crop diversity-coupled with our fresh water access and business innovation-this study further highlights that food and agriculture will be centric to Michigan's economic reinvention and lay the foundation for regional economies," Creagh said. "From having an educated talent bank to cultivating a fair regulatory platform, Michigan has worked hard to create an environment where businesses have an opportunity to grow."

According to the report, Michigan has more than 73,000 full-time farmers and farm workers. That's 12 percent of 618,000 direct jobs in Michigan's food and agriculture business sector. Food and agriculture account for 22 percent of all jobs in Michigan when direct, indirect and induced jobs are considered.

The total jobs line showed a downturn overall from 2004 to 2010 with most job losses coming from food wholesale and retail. Jobs in food processing and agricultural production rose more than 6 percent in the same time period.

"It's not surprising that there were job losses in the service sector," Peterson said. "Fewer people are eating out, which leads to fewer wait staff, cooks, restaurant hosts, etc. However, we're seeing the numbers of new jobs created in food processing plants and on farm continue to increase."

The study was first conducted in 2006 using 2004 data. Then, the food and agriculture sector was determined to be valued at \$60.1 billion. An interim study in 2009 showed an increase in value to \$71.3 billion. The newest study shows that the food and agriculture system is on a consistent growth trend.

Food and agriculture will be centric to Michigan's economic reinvention and lay the foundation for regional economies,"
Keith Creagh,
MDARD Director

FOOD HUB UPDATE from MDARD

- Food Hubbers met on March 8, 2012 for another learning and networking session.
- The state budget process continues; there have been some proposed changes to the Governor's budget around the food hub grant program and some differences between the House and Senate versions will be worked out in committee over the next month. At this point, it looks like there will be some level of funding for a grant program and staff support at MDARD. The budget is expected to be finalized by June 1, and we will let you know the final outcome as soon as possible.
- There is a convergence of activities happening around food hubs, and Michigan is right in the thick of things! On April 19, 2012 there was a national conference in Chicago where 78 food hubs and 158 people from across the country gathered, including 16 hubs/people from Michigan. Rich Pirog and Marty Gerencer were both there representing our network in their role as members of the national food hub network. As a part of the conference, USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan released a national Food Hub Resource Guide, which will be a great tool for all of us.
- On the state level, we are transitioning into a long-term model for our food hub network, which is ready to move forward, thanks to network input. The Center for Regional Food Systems at MSU (CRFS) will assume the role of coordinating the statewide learning and innovation network, including the convening of future meetings. Rich will focus on statewide issues, and Marty will focus on local coordination. MDARD will continue to be a part of the core team and will provide technical training and support for our regional food systems partners.
- With the budget and possible grant funding for CRFS both expected in early June, we think it will be necessary to meet again as a statewide group to inform all partners of the outcomes and opportunities. **Therefore, a meeting of the Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network (our new name as we formalize our network!) has been tentatively scheduled for June 18.** Location and meeting details will follow as soon as possible.



Michigan Food Policy Council

Our Mission:

Michigan Food Policy Council cultivates a safe, healthy and available food supply for all residents while building on the state's agricultural diversity to enhance economic growth

Governor Appointed members of the Michigan Food Policy Council

- Auday Arabo of West Bloomfield: president of Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers, Representing Food Retailers
- Eugene H. Barnes of Detroit: board member of Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Representing Urban Agriculture
- Patricia Cantrell of Beulah: owner of Regional Food Solutions, Representing Sustainable Agriculture
- Edward Deeb of Bloomfield Hills: president Michigan Food & Beverage Assn., Representing Restaurant Sector
- Amanda M. Edmonds of Ypsilanti: executive director of Growing Hope, Representing Community-based Urban Development
- Marty Gerencer, Principl, Morse Marketing, Representing Sustainable Agriculture
- Lydia Gutierrez of Dearborn: owner of Hacienda Mexican Foods, Representing Food Processors
- Michael Hamm of Mason: chair of C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems at Michigan State University, Representing Higher Education Institutions
- James Herbert of Lansing: CEO/chair of Neogen, Representing Non-food Manufacturers
- Kenneth Nobis of Saint Johns: president of Michigan Milk Producers Association, Representing Michigan Agricultural Organizations
- Todd Regis of Lansing: vice president of United Food and Commercial Workers 951, Representing Organized Labor
- Michael Rowe of Portage: food service director for Bronson Methodist Hospital, Representing Hospitals, Healthcare Systems, and Public Health Organizations
- Dennis West of Marquette: president of Northern Initiatives, Representing Rural Development
- Wayne Wood of Marlette: president of Michigan Farm Bureau, Representing Michigan Agricultural Organizations

Upcoming MFPC Meeting dates

Thursday, 6/21/12, 10 a.m. until 12 noon
Monday, 10/8/12, 10 a.m. until 12 noon

Meetings to take place at Greenstone Farm Credit Services Office, 3515 West Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823 (thank you!)

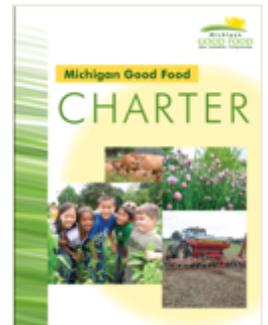
Contact: Jane Whitacre, Director
Phone: 517-243-3987
Email: whitacrej@michigan.gov

2012 Michigan Good Food Summit June 14, 2012 Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

Registration is now open !

Who Should Attend?

- ⇒ People who grow, produce, process, distribute, market, prepare or eat food.
- ⇒ People connected to the food industry, public health, economic development, planning, school food, environmental protection, the media, agri-science education, or state and local governance.
- ⇒ People who want to support good food in Michigan.
- ⇒ You!



The 2012 Michigan Good Food Summit provides an opportunity to network, hear success stories and work with others to advance a food system based on good food - food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable

The 2012 summit will include:

- A report on where we've come since 2010,
- Success stories from across the state,
- Your choice of one of seven action-oriented breakout sessions
- Sharing of tools and resources throughout the day.

For further details and the online registration form, click [HERE](#).

(www.michiganfood.org)



Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network meeting will be held on **JUNE 18, 2012**. For more information, please contact Jane Whitacre