

# **AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

**Jamie Zmitko-Somers**  
**Bureau Director**

**Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**  
**525 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933**  
**P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909**  
**Telephone: 800-292-3939**  
**Fax: 517-373-6015**

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# **FOOD & AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**Heather Throne  
Division Director**

# COMMODITY COORDINATION

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Heather Throne  
517-712-0841 | ThroneH@Michigan.gov

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has legal, fiscal and program oversight responsibility for 15 legislatively established commodity boards that manage producer assessments. The MDARD Director delegates this authority to the Agriculture Development Division (AgD) to represent the MDARD Director at all regular and executive board meetings. MDARD also organizes and leads Commodity Executive meetings covering a variety of important topics and current issues for Michigan's food and agriculture industry. Key topics addressed this past year were electronic meetings and record retention.

## IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

- AgD is responsible for ensuring the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act regulations are being followed at the legislatively established check-off boards.
- MDARD is responsible for ensuring funds are being used according to industry adopted programs; and, in compliance with State of Michigan statutory financial and generally-accepted accounting standards.
- MDARD reviews all commodity audits and provides a written review of the audits provided to ensure financial soundness and compliance are generally accepted.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- In 2023, MDARD attended 59 commodity meetings, making 84% of all scheduled commodity meetings.
- Completed the third-party audit review of all 15 commodity groups, ensuring financial compliance.

## LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- PA 232 of 1965, the Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act (MI Apple, MI Asparagus, MI Carrot, MI Cherry, MI Corn, MI Dairy, MI Onion, MI Soybean, MI Tree Fruit, MI Blueberry, and MI Wheat Commissions)
- PA 29 Michigan Potato Industry Commission
- PA 114 Michigan Bean Commission
- PA 291 Michigan Beef Industry Commission
- PA 332 Michigan Propane Commission

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Commodity Meetings with MDARD Staff Participation	Meetings in 2023	Percentage Attended 2023
Apple Committee	6	83%
Asparagus Advisory Board	3	100%
Beef Industry Commission	4	75%
Blueberry Commission	6	83%
Carrot Committee	3	67%
Cherry Committee	4	100%
Corn Marketing Program of Michigan	5	100%
Dairy Market Program Committee	3	100%
Dry Bean Commission	5	80%
Onion Committee	4	75%
Potato Industry Commission	3	100%
Propane Commission	3	67%
Soybean Committee	7	100%
Tree Fruit Commission	5	80%
Wheat Committee	9	67%

### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan Apple Committee
- Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board
- Michigan Bean Commission
- Michigan Beef Industry Commission
- Michigan Blueberry Commission
- Michigan Carrot Committee
- Michigan Cherry Committee
- Michigan Corn Marketing Program
- Michigan Dairy Marketing Program
- Michigan Onion Committee
- Michigan Potato Industry Commission
- Michigan Propane Commission
- Michigan Soybean Committee
- Michigan Tree Fruit Commission
- Michigan Wheat Committee



# Food and Agriculture Development

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Donna LaCourt | 517-614-5518 | LaCourtD2@Michigan.gov

Mission – deliver expertise and leadership to support economic development in Michigan’s agriculture, food, and forest products industries.

The Economic Development Team assists growers, producers, processors, and the agriculture industry in order to promote and accelerate the growth and investment in Michigan agriculture. Assistance includes supply chain connectivity, regulatory navigation, funding/financing, facilitating connections, and export promotional support. The team works collaboratively with other federal, state, and local economic development partners to provide customer service to businesses starting or expanding in Michigan.

## IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

- Increase jobs and investment in Michigan’s food, agriculture, and forest products sectors.
- Enhance business expansion support to companies through MDARD’s grant programs.
- Increase communication between business and regulatory units towards supporting compliance.
- Attract of new food processing investments into the state.
- Contribute to the generation of more than \$104 billion of economic activity annually via Michigan’s food and agriculture sectors.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- MDARD’s economic development team completed 513 business visit, 235 partner meetings and 203 business assists.
- Facilitated \$422 million in investment from small, medium, and large food, agriculture, and forest products businesses in Michigan.
- Collaborated, cooperated, and engaged local, regional, & state economic development partners 235 times in a “Team Michigan” approach to customer service & solutions delivery to the private sector.
- MDARD and the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development supported investment in 7 food businesses with \$585,000 in Food and Agriculture Investment Program grant funding in FY2023 resulting in a total capital investment of \$74,841, 216 and creating 181 new jobs.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Company Visits	497	587	513
Economic Development Activities	1364	1,347	1,089
Company Investment	\$467.3 Million	\$656.7 Million	\$422 Million
New Jobs Created	410	1,263	434

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Accelerate the growth of Michigan agriculture companies through an increase in value-added processing opportunities.
- Promote Michigan as a great place to locate and grow food, agriculture, and forest products companies.
- Provide development consultation to food, agriculture, and forest products companies in order to identify opportunities for growth, collaborate on supply chain efficiencies, and develop long-term support and relationships for economic success.
- Identify opportunities for growth in all food and agriculture sectors with added emphasis on dairy, forest products, and value-added food products.
- Identify development-ready sites that can accommodate food processing growth and work hand-in-hand with food and agriculture industry site selectors.
- Connect businesses with technical and business development resources in order to foster pathways towards expansion and relocation to Michigan.
- Promote the Food and Agriculture Investment Program to facilitate investment and job creation in value-added processing that benefits the overall food and agriculture supply chain
- Implement MDARD diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies, expanding information, access, and opportunity in the food, agriculture, and forest products sectors for all Michiganders.



## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

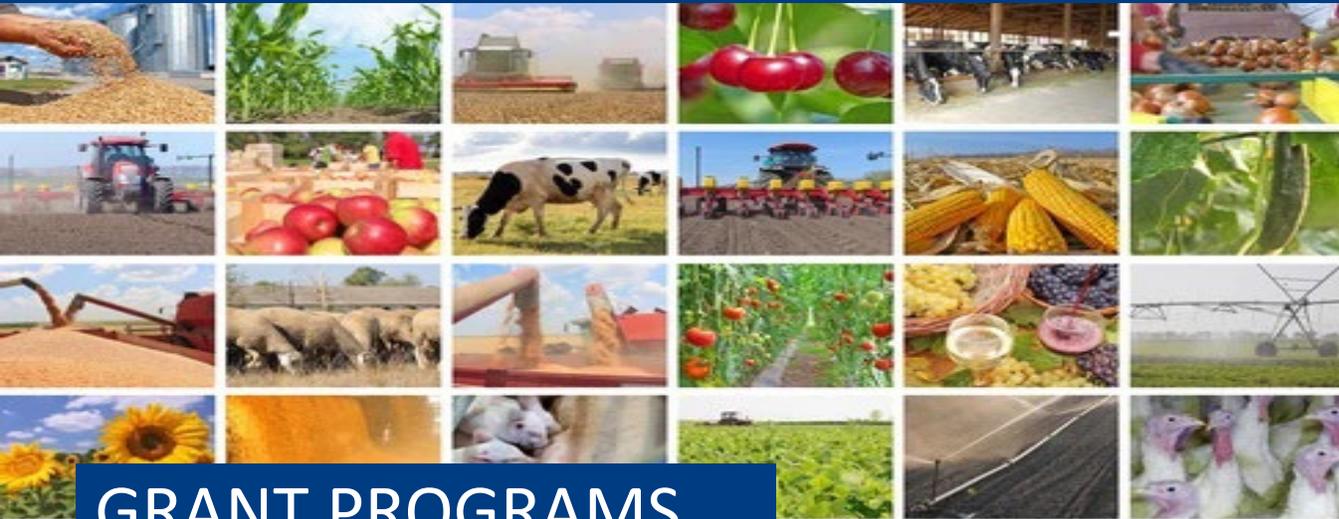
- Consumers
- Michigan growers and producers
- Michigan food, agriculture, and forest products value-added processors
- Regional & local economic development agencies
- Local communities
- Site selectors
- Michigan commodity groups
- Community development organizations
- Rural communities
- Urban agriculture ecosystems

## FY 2023 Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Grants

Name	Location	Amount	Match	Project Outcomes
Carnico Foods, LLC	Litchfield	\$65,000	\$2,235,000	Building renovation and equipment purchases for a USDA inspected facility for meat processing, smoking, drying, packaging, private labeling, co-packing, and product development.
DFC QALICB	Detroit	\$100,000	\$9,551,500	Building construction and equipment purchases for The Detroit People's Food Co-op, a grocery store cooperatively owned by community members and fully licensed incubator kitchen spaces.
D'Still, LLC	Royal Oak	\$65,000	\$196,000	New 500-gallon whiskey still, forklift, grain handling equipment and processing tanks
MG88 Holland Cold Storage, LLC	Holland	\$100,000	\$21,577,000	Additional 73,000 square foot of warehouse freezer storage space for meat packers, fruit growers, and dairy processors.
Perdue Foods, LLC	Shelby	\$100,000	\$26,974,105	Building renovations and equipment to convert a facility to making jerky and other pet treats
Longroad Distillery	Grand Rapids	\$65,000	\$1,270,414	Building renovations, site improvements, and machinery and equipment including new grain handling equipment to support production expansion.
Manthei, Inc.	Petoskey	\$90,000	\$8,640,300	New 24,000 square foot manufacturing facility housing a state-of-the-art plywood press, inspection and repair line, and trimming line, as well as a new dust collection system and boiler.

### FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND:

The Food and Agriculture Investment Program is an incentive program providing support for food and agriculture projects that help expand food and agriculture processing to enable growth in the industry and Michigan's economy. Projects are selected based on their impact to the overall agriculture industry and their impact to food and agriculture growth and investment in Michigan. In Fiscal Year 2022, this program assisted 15 projects in Michigan, leading to 295 new jobs and over \$154 million of new investment to Michigan.



# GRANT PROGRAMS

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Heather Throne | 517-712-0841 | ThroneH@Michigan.gov

MDARD administers the following grant programs: Specialty Crop Block Grant, Value-Added Grant, Food & Agriculture Investment Fund Grant, Rural Development Fund Grant, Farm Innovation Grant, and One-Time Grants. Grant funds are used to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, develop value-added agricultural processing, assist in efforts focused on removing barriers, and leverage food and agriculture opportunities, and enhance land-based industries in rural communities.

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Maximize allocated grant funds with strong industry matches to maximize the funding for the industry.
- Continue to review and streamline grant review processes to improve disbursement response times for grantees and reporting processes.
- Implement additional checks and balances with grant financial reviews and conduct site visits for grant projects.

## IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

- Enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops
- Provides research on new industry technology
- Provides research on implementing and developing waste management relating to agriculture or agricultural products
- Provides research on pest management
- Increases land-based industries in rural Michigan
- Works to increase food and agricultural jobs
- Stimulates growth in the value-added processing sector
- Administered grants to aid in food access across Michigan with Fair Food Network, Double Up Food Bucks, via general funding and CARES Act funding.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- MDARD administers an existing portfolio of 177 grant agreements totaling \$16,551,179.
- MDARD awarded \$1,822,022 in Value-Added grants and leveraged \$1,944,714 in matching funds.
- MDARD awarded \$1,796,997 in Rural Development grants and leveraged \$1,626,749 in matching funds.
- MDARD’s AgD Grant Team processed over 140 grant reviews, distributing nearly \$4.47 million.
- Staff also processed 245 competitive applications and established 94 grant agreements.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2022	CY 2023
Awarded Grant Funds	\$6,728,076	\$6,201,075
Leveraged Grant Funds - VA & RD	\$12,250,655	\$3,571,463
Active Grant Portfolios	186	177

### LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Rural Development Fund – Public Act 411 of 2012
- Value-Added Grants, Farm Innovation, and One-time funding – PA 166 of 2022

### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Agricultural cooperatives
- Food and agriculture businesses
- Universities and research organizations
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Local governments
- Nonprofit corporations
- Economic development organizations
- Food Hubs and Food Access Locations

## FY 2023 Value Added Grants

Name	Location	Amount	Match	Project Outcomes	Completion
Anavery Fine Foods	Traverse City	\$59,600	\$34,600	Egg processing and packaging facility in Grand Traverse County for Anavery Fine Foods.	2/14/2025
Brinks Family Creamery, LLC	McBain	\$78,700	\$33,734	Spreading to new markets	2/14/2025
BS Slaughter House, LLC	Grass Lake	\$95,023	\$40,726	BS Slaughter House Equipment for Value-Added Beef and Pork Slaughter	2/14/2025
Community Foundation for Muskegon County	Muskegon	\$70,000	\$21,012	Community Foundation for Muskegon County (CFMC) Food, Agriculture, Research, and Manufacturing (FARM) Equipment and Refrigeration Capacity Expansion	2/14/2025
Dennis Dairy Farms, LLC dba Dennis Farms Fresh	Laingsburg	\$31,000	\$13,771	Dennis Farms Fresh expansion of egg, beef, and chicken production.	2/14/2025
Dutton Farm, Inc.	Rochester Hills	\$100,000	\$30,000	To provide fresh produce access to adults with developmental disabilities who also live below the poverty line.	2/14/2025
Field la Femme, LLC (Farm Club)	Traverse City	\$100,000	\$46,000	Processing Kitchen and Farm Market Expansion: Produce Preservation, Bakery, Grain Mill, Pasta and Tortilla Production.	2/14/2025
Flatwater Farms, LLC	Buchanan	\$74,000	\$31,000	Increasing access to fresh organic produce through season extension growing that utilizes efficient farming methods.	2/14/2025
Kids Food Basket	Grand Rapids	\$100,000	\$30,000	Promoting Food Security and Building Healthy Food Systems across West Michigan	2/14/2025
Lake Effect Distillery	Escanaba	\$100,000	\$30,000	Increasing Utilization of Upper Peninsula Grown Grains via the Addition of Onsite Grain Handling, Storage, and Milling Capacity at Lake Effect Distillery.	2/14/2025
Lake Superior Oil & Vinegar, LLC	Sault Saint Marie	\$25,300	\$7,700	Lake Superior Oil & Vinegar Improved Production Capability	2/14/2025
Lazy Ballerina Winery, LLC	Saint Joseph	\$40,000	\$40,000	Lazy Ballerina Winery Production Expansion to Process Michigan Grapes and Fruit	2/14/2025
Michigan Farm to Freezer	Detroit	\$100,000	\$444,200	Establish Michigan Farm to Freezer Production Facility in Grand Rapids	2/14/2025
Myrtle & Maude's, LLC	Williamsburg	\$99,300	\$30,700	Expanding Value Added Product Accessibility in Northern Michigan	2/14/2025

## FY 2023 Value Added Grants

Name	Location	Amount	Match	Project Outcomes	Completion
Request Foods, Inc.	Holland	\$100,000	\$157,645	Ready to Eat Soup Production Line Investment	2/14/2025
Rowlands Family Farm, LLC	Swartz Creek	\$23,099	\$9,899	Expansion of business to provide more products and increase customer base	2/14/2025
Shady Side Farm, Inc.	Holland	\$30,000	\$9,200	West Michigan Specialty Grain and Dry Bean Processing Project	2/14/2025
St. Julian Wine Co., Inc.	Paw Paw	\$100,000	\$40,000	Quality & Efficiency Upgrade Through the Addition of A Premium Wine Centrifuge	2/14/2025
Steve & Laura 2, LLC dba DeVries Meats	Coopersville	\$100,000	\$451,500	Purchase automated slaughter floor equipment to increase the capacity of pigs harvested per hour.	2/14/2025
Swanson Grading & Brining, Inc.	Ravenna	\$100,000	\$44,218	Producer of Pickling Cucumbers to Expand into Finished Pickle Production	2/14/2025
Tim Campbell Farm, LLC	Imlay City	\$100,000	\$35,550	Tim Campbell Farm Vegetable Packaging Line	2/14/2025
Top Hops, LLC	Goodrich	\$21,000	\$9,000	Improving the processing capacity and the product quality of a hop pelletizing line.	2/14/2025
Valley Farms, LLC	Imlay City	\$100,000	\$249,452	Carrot Polisher acquisition for Valley Farms to increase carrot production by 15% to 17,250 tons	2/14/2025
Zingerman's Creamery, LLC	Ann Arbor	\$100,000	\$87,208	Construction of a receiving garage with running water and upgrading to hard-line plumbing.	2/14/2025

## FY 2023 Rural Development Grants

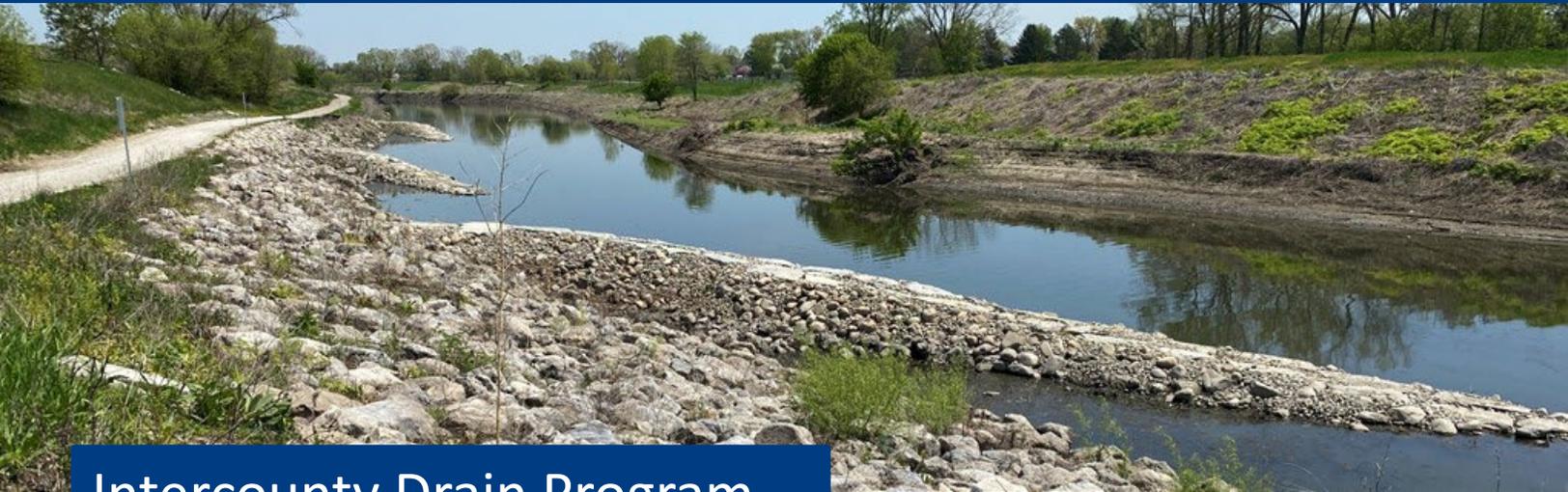
Name	Location	Amount	Match	Project Outcomes	Completion
906 Technologies, LLC	Marquette	\$76,100	\$22,830	City of Negaunee - Broadband Phase 1 2023	10/20/2024
Binkley Deer Processing, LLC	Morrice	\$100,000	\$30,500	Livestock Processing Expansion	10/20/2024
Cass County	Cassopolis	\$100,000	\$44,000	Identifying Parcel-Level Broadband Availability Gaps & Developing a Common-Sense Plan for Broadband Expansion in Cass County	10/20/2024
Cherry Bay Orchards	Suttons Bay	\$100,000	\$68,100	Expanding Housing Infrastructure for Agricultural Workers	10/20/2024
Christian Youth Enterprises DBA New Life Camp	Rose City	\$100,000	\$33,000	Small Town Campground with a Big Impact	10/20/2024
City of Negaunee	Negaunee	\$100,000	\$253,370	Iron St Water Main	10/20/2024
Delta County Road Commission	Escanaba	\$100,000	\$135,375	CR-434 All Season Road Paving Project	10/20/2024
EPIC: Educational Partnership in the Community	Marquette	\$100,000	\$42,900	EPIC's Childcare Compliance and Volunteer Sustainability Program	10/20/2024
Ethanology, LLC	Rapid City	\$100,000	\$73,320	Ethanology Distillation Barrel Warehouse	10/20/2024
Generate Fremont	Fremont	\$7,053	\$3,023	Community Food Scrap Drop Off Center	10/20/2024
GTA Children's Garden	Traverse City	\$20,000	\$7,000	GTA Children's Garden- Project S.E.E.D.	10/20/2024
Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority	Marquette	\$56,000	\$24,000	Iron Ore Heritage Trail Maintenance Equipment	10/20/2024
Jack Pine Lodge UP, LLC	Manistique	\$85,500	\$85,700	Jack Pine Lodge & Campground - Campground Expansion	10/20/2024
Kiwanis Ski Club	Iron Mountain	\$100,000	\$30,000	Renovations at the Kiwanis Ski Club	10/20/2024
Lakeview Hill Farm	Traverse City	\$100,000	\$53,592	Lakeview Hill Farm's Historic One-Room Schoolhouse transformed into a Small Farm Retail Store, 'The Schoolhouse Store at Lakeview Hill Farm'	10/20/2024
Marquette County Land Bank Authority	Marquette	\$50,000	\$25,000	Marquette County Housing Target Market Analysis and Implementation	10/20/2024
McCormick Farmz, LLC	Wolverine	\$67,844	\$29,076	McCormick Farmz, a budding northern Michigan lavender farm.	10/20/2024
River Trails, LLC	Chassell	\$100,000	\$30,000	River Trails LLC Trail System / Pilgrim River Trail connections	10/20/2024
Superior Sawmill, LLC	Trenary	\$100,000	\$102,000	Superior Sawmill Inc. Rural Development Infrastructure Expansion & Business Development	10/20/2024
TCA Management, LLC dba MI Gravel	Millington	\$100,000	\$359,000	Mining screening plant	10/20/2024
Wilson Enterprises, Inc.	Wilson	\$100,000	\$157,563	Natural Wood Surface Product Line Development	10/20/2024

## FY 2023 Specialty Crop Block Grants

Name	Location	Amount	Project Outcomes	Completion
MDARD International Marketing Program	Lansing	\$158,395	International and Domestic Promotion of Michigan Specialty Crops	9/30/2025
MBG Marketing	Grand Junction	\$97,878	Demand for Blueberries: Understanding consumers' preferences to increase Michigan growers' market competitiveness	9/30/2025
Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board	DeWitt	\$100,000	Decision Support to Improve Asparagus Yield, Quality, and Industry Competitiveness Under Weather Extremes	9/30/2025
Michigan Tree Fruit Commission	Lansing	\$98,237	Improving irrigation and fertilizer management in new and established high-density apple orchards	9/30/2025
Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association	Okemos	\$100,000	Time for Alternatives to Glyphosate: Post- and Pre-Herbicide Combos	9/30/2025
Michigan Blueberry Commission	Grand Junction	\$99,000	Advancing etiology, detection, and management of Michigan blueberry viruses	9/30/2025
Michigan Celery Research, Inc.	Hudsonville	\$97,451	A new leaf disease and a seedling root rot require solutions for celery growers	9/30/2025
Michigan Bean Commission #1	Frankenmuth	\$100,000	Sustainable Dry Bean Production Systems: Improving Production for an Evolving Market Place	9/30/2025
Michigan Vegetable Council #1	Saint Johns	\$98,084	Can New Cultivars be the Answer to Rhizomania, the New Table Beet Disease	9/30/2025
Michigan Cherry Committee	DeWitt	\$125,000	Discovering and Targeting Key Buyers for Michigan Sweet and Tart Cherries	9/30/2025
Michigan Onion Committee	Saint Johns	\$98,780	Influence of Tip/Leaf Burn and New Fungicides on Onion Stemphylium Leaf Blight	9/30/2025
Hop Growers of Michigan	Charlotte	\$105,549	Enhancing the competitiveness of the Michigan hop industry	9/30/2025
Michigan State Horticultural Society #1	Benton Harbor	\$100,000	Use of bio stimulants to improve fresh market blueberry quality and value	9/30/2025
Michigan Apple Committee #1	Lansing	\$125,000	#1 Social Media Marketing to Engage Target Audience and Enhance Competitiveness of Michigan Apples	9/30/2025
Michigan Carrot Committee	DeWitt	\$100,000	Determining action thresholds and management strategies for two root lesion nematode pests of Michigan carrot production	9/30/2025
Leelanau Peninsula Vintners Association (LPVA)	Traverse City	\$125,000	Expanding Michigan Wine Demand Across the US Utilizing Consumer and Industry Wine Education	9/30/2025
Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo	Benton Harbor	\$80,000	Advancing fruit, vegetable and farm market grower knowledge and efficiency through the Great Lakes Expo	9/30/2025
Kid's Food Basket	Grand Rapids	\$125,000	Market and promote the expansion of specialty crops to enhance increased consumption in West Michigan.	9/30/2025
Michigan Christmas Tree Association	Durand	\$89,081	Improving establishment of Christmas tree plantations through research and education	9/30/2025
Michigan Potato Industry Commission 2	East Lansing	\$93,796	Educating Food Insecure and Non-English-Speaking Audiences on Michigan Potatoes as a Healthy and Affordable Option.	9/30/2025

## FY 2023 Farm Innovation Grants

Name	Location	Amount	Project Outcomes	Completion
Michigan State University	East Lansing	\$200,000	Improving climate resiliency and economic return of Michigan beef cattle by reducing feed use	3/31/2025
Michigan State University	East Lansing	\$200,000	Improving Irrigation Efficiency in Blueberry Orchards Using an IoT-based Automatic Smart Irrigation System	3/31/2025



# Intercounty Drain Program

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Michael R. Gregg | 517-331-3661 | GreggM@Michigan.gov

The Michigan Drain Code, P.A. 40 of 1956, requires the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) director to chair intercounty drainage boards that affect two or more counties. Each drainage board governs a special assessment drainage district which defines the area served (watershed) and the landowners and public corporations that are assessed the cost for the infrastructure that drains it. Currently there are over 950 intercounty drainage districts with an estimated 6,000 miles of drains serving an area of approximately 4 million square miles in 65 counties in the lower peninsula.

### IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

County and intercounty drains are the prerequisite infrastructure for Michigan’s economic development, with more than 35,000 miles of public drains serving more than 17 million acres of agricultural and urban lands and roadways. The drains play a key role in the development of agriculture, roads, and highways, residential, and commercial properties and by removing excess soil moisture, reducing flood impacts, and improving public health.

### 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Began a \$14 million dollar contract to rehabilitate 7 miles of a 16ft diameter sanitary sewer interceptor in the City of Detroit. The system serves 23 communities and a population of 830,000 in Oakland and Macomb Counties.
- Three Projects completed:
  - 3 miles of the Lamka (Sanilac, Huron) \$700,000
  - 2 miles of the North County Line (Washtenaw, Wayne) \$1.2 million
  - 2 miles on Boyd (Ottawa, Allegan) \$235,000
- Projects bid & under construction:
  - Orchard Park (Livingston, Genesee) 1.5 miles, \$3.2 million
  - Curtice (Gladwin, Midland) 15 miles, \$4.1 million
  - Dokey (Allegan, Van Buren) 3.1 miles, \$97,500
- 12 projects in design totaling over 65 miles of pipes and channels with estimated costs of over \$90 million in 20 counties.

**MEASURING SUCCESS:**

Metric	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Miles of new or improved drains	118	128	112	127	121
Miles of drains maintained	229	222	197	225	211
Acres affected	958,000	1,100,000	981,000	1,250,000	985,000
Public meetings chaired	504	460	359	393	352
Project costs (millions)	\$139	\$179	\$172	\$183	\$126
Counties served	37	46	42	44	46

**PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Maintain a high level of engagement to coordinate and provide leadership to county drain/water resource and public works commissioners to maintain and improve the existing 1,000 intercounty drains and the creation of new infrastructure systems for the protection of health and property and to promote economic development.
- Complete the digitizing by the State Archivist of the more than 4,000 paper files and maps stored at the Record Center and in Constitution Hall.
- Continue to develop a spatial database and GIS system for all intercounty drains/districts.
- Continue to participate as a member of the Board of Directors and committees of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners and attend their educational conferences and meetings.
- Continue the development of project databases to be able to report program metrics more accurately.



**KEY STAKEHOLDERS:**

- County drain, water resource, and public works commissioners
- Agricultural, residential, commercial property owners
- Cities, villages, and townships
- County road commissions
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

- The Drain Code of 1956, Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, MCL 280.1 et seq.



## International Marketing Program

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Donna LaCourt | 517-614-5518 | LaCourtD2@Michigan.gov

Mission – Assist Michigan food, agriculture, and forest products companies in developing domestic and international market opportunities to grow their businesses effectively.

The International Marketing Program works to achieve its mission by assisting Michigan producers and processors in developing trade opportunities, which are expressed through new market development or expanding the reach of existing markets. To showcase Michigan companies in the global arena, the program organizes and implements activities such as export seminars, buyers' missions, trade missions, and Michigan Pavilions – a group of booth spaces at select domestic and international trade shows.

### IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

- Increase exports of food, agriculture, and forest products.
- Encourage companies to become involved in exporting which increases economic impact to the state.
- Benefits the economy by increasing jobs and creating stable prices for Michigan growers and farmers, and diversified market outlets to assist in overcoming market fluctuations.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Successfully organized Michigan Pavilions at four domestic and one international trade shows with 31 companies or commodity groups participating. Results included immediate export sales of \$124 million and projected sales of \$4.26 million; immediate domestic sales of \$3.26 million and projected sales of \$8.72 million. Companies reported 784 domestic buyer leads and 294 international buyer leads.
- Organized a trade mission to Toronto, Canada in partnership with Food Export. A total of four Michigan companies participated resulting in 25 buyer introductions and projected export sales of \$60,000.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Michigan companies participating in Food Export Association of the Midwest programs and services	85	72	68	70
Export meetings with Michigan companies	28	40	68	62
X (Twitter) Followers	1,869	1,937	2,009	2,018

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Assist Michigan companies in the export of food, agriculture, and forest products whether first-time exporters or experienced exporters with specific technical support needs.
- Provide support to companies navigating federal export assistance programs.
- Increase MDARD outreach to Michigan companies with international marketing offerings.
- Increase participation of Michigan companies in domestic and international trade shows
- Collaborate with Michigan commodity groups to promote increased exports.



## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Food, agriculture, and forest products companies.
- Michigan commodity groups
- Growers and producers
- Food Export Association of the Midwest
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation – International Trade Program
- VanAndel Global Trade Center



# Michigan Craft Beverage Council

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Jenelle Jagmin | 517-930-0696 | JagminJ@Michigan.gov

The Michigan Craft Beverage Council (MCBC) is a program of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, established on October 1, 2018.

The mission of the MCBC is to advance a well-connected craft beverage industry through research, promotion, and agricultural business development, reinforcing Michigan as a world-class craft beverage destination.

## **IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:**

The MCBC program contributes to an industry that serves as an important statewide economic driver. Craft beverage businesses create jobs and opportunities in multiple sectors, including agriculture, tourism and agritourism, manufacturing, distribution, and services.

Michigan farmers currently manage 3,375 acres of wine grape vineyards, and there are nearly 700 acres of hops in production. Craft beverage companies contribute significantly to the economic stability and placemaking efforts of rural and urban communities.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Approved ten research projects for a total of \$350,000 in priority-driven grant funding.
- Managed second year implementation of PA 135 of 2022, the Qualified Distiller Program, resulting in 37 qualified distiller certificates.
- Coordinated with Pure Michigan Business Connect to create the first-ever Distilling Grain Summit to connect farmers, distillers, and others in the supply chain.
- Completed Specialty Crop Block Grant project, implementing the Michigan crop directory and promoted to craft beverage producers.

**MEASURING SUCCESS:**

Metric	FY 2022	FY 2023
Outreach to business and stakeholder groups	97	94
Number of grant projects funded	13	10
Number of industry newsletter followers	3,570	4,069
New users to Michigancraftbeverage.com	18,000	14,000

**PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Provide Michigan Liquor Control Commission with a list of certified qualified distillers by the deadline to meet the Qualified Distiller Program requirements.
- Initiate project plan, timeline, budget, and consultation support for the year-two phase of Specialty Crop Block Grant crop directory activities.
- Outreach with Craft Beverage Council members, stakeholders, partners, academic institutions, businesses, and industry experts, with goal of 60 partner/stakeholder meetings and 30 business
- Engage a consultant for FY24 Strategic Planning.
- Work with consultant to engage Council members in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for phase two strategies, including creation of a DEI Committee.

Expenditures	FY 2023
Administration	217,200
Council Expenses	1,650
Research and Education Grants	350,000
Promotion and Consumer Education	116,500



**KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

- Wineries, breweries, distillers, and hard cider producers
- Wine grape and fruit growers, hop growers, grain and barley growers, and maltsters
- Industry trade partners: retailers, restaurants, and wholesalers
- Michigan universities, fermentation programs, and other educational institutions
- Tourism organizations

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

- Public Act 154 and 155 of 2018
- Public Act 58 of 1998, MCL 436.1303

## FY 2023 MCBC Research Grants

Name	Location	Amount	Match	Project Outcomes	Completion
Michigan State University	Berrien, Clinton, Ingham, Leelanau, Schoolcraft, Berrien, Clinton,	\$29,711	\$14,974	New Apple Varieties for MI Hard Cider Production	August 2024
Michigan State University	Kalamazoo, Ingham, Alger	\$38,939	\$0	Evaluation of Corn Varieties for the Michigan Craft Distilling Industry	August 2024
Michigan State University	Alger	\$36,716	\$0	Developing Quality Analysis Protocols for Non-Barley Grains Used in Craft Beverages	August 2024
Michigan State University	Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Berrien	\$26,500	\$0	Meeting Michigan's Grape and Wine Industry Educational Needs in 2023	August 2024
Michigan State University	Ingham	\$48,000	\$0	Meta Analysis and Diagnostics to Improve Hop and Barley Quality Through Improved Late Season Disease Management	August 2024
Michigan State University	Ingham, Berrien, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Allegan	\$48,000	\$0	Field scale management of late season cluster rots to increase crop quality of Michigan wine grapes	August 2024
Michigan State University	Ingham, Leelanau; sampling from Berrien, Van Buren, Kent, Oceana, Grand Traverse	\$31,250	\$0	Investigation of apple fruit rot control and of the diversity of wild yeast populations on hard cider apple varieties with outcomes on fermentation	August 2024
Folklor	Charlevoix	\$10,440	\$1,125	Monitoring Grape Growing Conditions in Charlevoix County	August 2024
Lakeshore Environmental	Allegan	\$64,446	\$0	Wastewater Characterization of Craft Beverage Industries in Michigan	August 2024
Lakeshore Environmental	Allegan	\$15,998	\$0	Evaluation of Vermifiltration on Winery Wastewater	August 2024

## FY 2022 MCBC Research Grants Results

Primary Researcher	Grant Proposal	Results	Amount
Michigan State University	New Apple Varieties for Michigan Hard Cider Production	This project supports ongoing efforts to develop new apple varieties optimized for hard cider production in Michigan, including high-acid, high-tannin, and red-juiced varieties.	\$25,770
Michigan State University	Evaluation of Corn Varieties for the Michigan Craft Distilling Industry	12 varieties of corn grown in several MSU locations. The corn is mashed, fermented, and distilled to a white corn whiskey and further evaluated for quality, flavor and applicability to be used in Michigan craft whiskey.	\$26,527
Michigan State University	Evaluation of new herbicide (tiafenacil) in Michigan hops for crop safety and weed control.	This project identified optimum rate and timing of tiafenacil in Michigan hopyards, comparing different hop cultivars.	\$10,466
Michigan State University	On-going Investigation of Winter Hardiness to Advance Winter Malting Barley as a Climate Adaptation Strategy in Michigan	A genetics X environment study using field experiments across the state of Michigan and lab analysis of plant tissue to identify key factors driving winter hardiness in malting barley.	\$40,000
Michigan State University	Role of planting date and seeding rate in optimizing winter survival, yield, and quality of malting barley	Third and final year field trials involving five planting dates and five seeding rates will be conducted at MSU Mason farm. Data on yield and various quality parameters will be collected and analyzed over the three years of project.	\$19,641
Michigan State University	Evaluating Terroir of Rye Whiskey in Michigan – Genotype x	Rye variety research and further evaluate the specific impact of environment on the flavor and quality (terroir) of rye whiskey. Final results will be available March 2024.	\$25,877
Michigan State University	Investigation of apple fruit rot control and of the diversity of wild yeast populations on cider and dessert apple varieties and outcomes on fermentation	Evaluated the susceptibility of cider and dessert apple cultivars to bitter rot and black rot diseases and fungicide control of these diseases. We will also identify wild yeasts associated with cider and dessert apple cultivars and assess the effects of selected yeasts on the polyphenol content of the fermented apple product.	\$25,909
Michigan State University	Field scale management of late season cluster rots to increase crop quality of Michigan wine grapes	This project investigated control options to the bunch and sour rot challenges that growers are facing in SW and NW Michigan and to deliver that information through our extension educator’s programs with the goal of improving fruit quality and reducing environmental impact of Michigan viticulture.	\$40,000

## FY 2022 MCBC Research Grants Results

Primary Researcher	Grant Proposal	Results	Amount
Michigan State University	Monitoring statewide grapevine cold hardiness evaluations in order to develop the Michigan Grapevine Cold Hardiness Model.	Climate change and the introduction of new varieties has made grape cold hardiness and crop potential less predictable across the diverse growing regions of Michigan. The proposed field and environmental chamber studies of grape bud hardiness will provide toward development of a Michigan cold hardiness model for crop prediction and guiding crop loss prevention strategies.	\$20,172
Michigan State University	Meeting Michigan Grape and Wine Industry's Educational Needs	Climate change-related environmental factors are a major cause of the inconsistency of Michigan wine grape production, and through this educational project, we hope to improve Michigan grape growers' knowledge to minimize effects of climate change while also enhancing viticulture and wine production sustainability in Michigan.	\$21,746
Michigan State University	Reducing fungicide inputs without sacrificing late season disease management and crop quality in Michigan hop and barley production	Hop and barley disease management for improved crop quality.	\$35,000
Michigan State University	Evaluation of a Greenhouse Ecosystem to Manage Craft Beverage Wastewater	Proof-of-concept study of the novel, compact greenhouse ecosystem for craft beverage wastewater treatment to determine design data that will allow for an engineering cost estimate. Included is an assessment of disposal flexibility and reuse potential for irrigation and other non-contact purposes. Development of a tool to compare this technology, the previously developed cold weather constructed wetland system, and conventional treatment approaches to give facility managers valuable, objective insight on their wastewater management choices.	\$39,892
Parallel 45	Parallel 45's Proposal to Bring More Educational and Training	To promote and represent the common interests of and improve conditions for persons and entities engaged in the vineyard and winery industry located in the Grand Traverse Bay Area of the Northwestern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, primarily through support of research and dissemination of information leading to sound practices with regard to vineyard and winery establishment, operation and marketing.	\$4,000



# **PRODUCER SERVICES DIVISION**

**Stevie Glaspie  
Division Director**



# Farmland Conservation Easements

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Chip Kraus | 517-294-2298 | KrausF@Michigan.gov

The Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund provides grants to eligible local units of government and their qualified Purchase of Development Rights programs. The grants are used for the purchase of permanent agriculture conservation easements to protect quality farmland and help conserve Michigan's agricultural heritage.

## IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The availability of permanent conservation easements on agricultural land and open space provides a focal point for local land use planning, zoning, and associated farmland preservation efforts. Agricultural and open space lands are an integral part of the state's economy. More than 28,000 acres of land are in conservation easements.

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Conservation Easement Donation Program closed on two new conservation easements, covering approximately 350 acres.
- The Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund awarded four grants totaling \$1,144,699 to local farmland preservation programs to preserve approximately 500 acres of land.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
<b>New Conservation Easements</b>					
Conservation easements recorded	5	4	3	5	12
Acreage enrolled	668	289	514	530	1,500
<b>Program Total Conservation Easements</b>					
Conservation easements recorded	146	150	153	158	170
Local conservation easements	11	12	14	16	26
Acreage enrolled	26,000	26,500	27,000	27,500	29,000
<b>Easement Monitoring</b>					
Donated development rights	66	69	70	73	13
State purchase of development rights	50	50	50	50	14
USDA farm and ranch land	21	21	21	21	1
Total	137	140	141	144	28

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Work with the agriculture community, federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, township and county farmland preservation programs to award state grants for farmland conservation easements.
- Collaborate with local and national conservation organizations to develop additional best practices.
- Assist new local farmland preservation programs with grant funding qualification requirements.
- Develop and implement an annual monitoring schedule.



### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan farmers
- Agribusinesses
- Consumers of Michigan-grown food
- Rural and urban residents

### LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended, MCL 324.36101 *et seq.*
- Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement Act, Sub Part 11 of Part 21 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451, as amended, MCL 324.2140 *et seq.*
- Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended, MCL 324.36201 *et seq.*



# Farmland Preservation

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Chip Kraus | 517-294-2298 | KrausF@Michigan.gov

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program or Public Act 116 (P.A. 116) preserves farmland from being developed for non-agricultural uses. Participating landowners may be entitled to receive a Michigan income tax credit for property tax above 3.5 percent of total household income and exempt from some special assessments. There are approximately 3.1 million acres of farmland enrolled in P.A. 116.

## **IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:**

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) is designed to protect farmland and open space from development . Preserving agricultural use lands is crucial to satisfy the food production needs of a changing and growing society. Protecting farmland from urban development and preserving adequate crop production under proper conservation practices helps to promote soil health and proper drainage for rural and non-rural residents living in the drainage area.

## **2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Implemented online payment option for lien payments creating efficiencies for customers .
- Contributed to climate change initiatives by reviewing and approving five solar development projects, expected to generate a total of 380-Megawatt hours of renewable energy.
- Farmland staff reviewed and processed more than 4,500 requests submitted by landowners.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
<b>Request Processing (rounded values)</b>					
Applications reviewed	600	600	450	500	508
Transfers reviewed	1,550	900	1,200	1,550	1217
Extensions reviewed	1,600	700	1,650	1,050	1870
Expirations reviewed	250	100	300	100	206
Splits reviewed	300	150	250	250	239
Other reviewed	700	450	650	550	554
Documents prepared	5,750	2,600	4,500	4,000	4726
<b>Program Participation (rounded values)</b>					
New acres enrolled	34,000	27,500	27,000	29,500	22,548
Acres expired/released	36,500	25,500	34,000	35,500	36,506
Tax credits issued (\$ millions)	60	57	67	58	58
Total acres enrolled (millions)	3.26*	3.28*	3.10	3.09	3.09

\*Estimate reported includes expired agreements.

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to propose statute amendments to make the program more adaptable to the needs of our customers.
- Additional outreach to landowners, local agencies, and environmental stakeholders to provide program information and encourage participation in farmland conservation.
- Continue to meet demands for renewable energy through the review of additional wind and solar energy projects.



## KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan farmers
- Agribusinesses
- Consumers of Michigan grown food
- Rural and urban residents

## LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 361 (Farmland and Open Space Preservation), as amended



# Forestry Assistance

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Benjamin Schram | 517-614-7362 | SchramB1@Michigan.gov

The Forestry Assistance Program is designed to support family forest owners in realizing the economic, social, and ecological sustainability of their forests. Conservation district foresters help family forest owners understand the value of actively managed forest resources. They also refer landowners to private sector professionals for management plan development, forest management, timber valuation, and harvests.

## IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Nearly 50 percent of Michigan’s 19 million acres of forestland is owned by non-industrial private forestland owners (family forest owners). Family forest owners contribute 64 percent of Michigan’s timber supply. The forest products industry contributes more than \$20 billion to the state’s economy annually with the potential to contribute much more. Only one-third of the growth of timber on private forestlands is currently being harvested.

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Conducted 1,715 landowner site visits.
- Referred \$8.1 million in forest management projects for private landowners.
- Completed 44 risk assessments for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program’s Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat System.
- Completed 53 forest stewardship certification inspections of family forest land utilizing the American Tree Farm System Certification.
- Delivered 242 outreach events targeted to family forest owners, foresters, and loggers.

**MEASURING SUCCESS:**

Metric	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Outreach events	398	190	210	263	242
On-site visits to family forest owners	2,098	2,021	2,143	1,913	1,715
Service referrals to the private sector	1,129	1,107	1,101	938	808
Service referrals to the public sector	797	1,999	1,064	1,092	1,197
Service referrals for timber harvest	426	360	385	287	233
Estimated value of referrals (millions)	\$11.9	\$13.4	\$10.5	\$9.9	\$8.1
Acres referred to Qualified Forest	167,883	71,381	69,034	50,333	48,920

**PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Increase awareness and enrollment in Michigan’s Qualified Forest Program.
- Implement “Climate Action and Reforestation in Northern Michigan” Regional Conservation Partnership Program project.
- Conduct 2,000 on-site visits to forest properties.
- Conduct 2,000 referrals to the public and private sectors.



**KEY STAKEHOLDERS:**

- Family forest owners
- Private sector professional foresters
- Michigan’s forest products industry
- Local units of government
- Conservation districts
- Forestry, wildlife, and conservation advocacy groups

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 93 (Soil Conservation Districts), as amended

## Fruit and Vegetable Inspection

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Patricia Bizoukas  
517-212-5603 | [bizoukasp@michigan.gov](mailto:bizoukasp@michigan.gov)

The Fruit and Vegetable (F&V) Inspection Service offers third-party grading services and verification of fruit and vegetable quality based on government standards and/or processor specifications. This program provides Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP), third-party food safety audits, and licensing and inspection of controlled atmosphere storage facilities.

### IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The F&V program provides an unbiased, third-party inspection that protects buyers, brokers, and consumers from receiving poor quality produce or produce that does not meet the grade or condition. Inspected produce can come from anywhere in the world. The F&V inspection staff also perform GAP/GHP food safety audits, opening markets for Michigan producers and handlers.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Increased the number of commodity licenses held by inspectors with restricted licenses from 11 to 13.
- Increased the number of inspectors holding an unrestricted license from 2 to 3.
- Increased the number of licensed auditors from 5 to 7.
- Completed 100% of all requests with 24 hours.
- Completed 100% of all audits with less than 1 week variation from requested date.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	FY 2022	FY 2023
Federal Market Inspections	705	494
Shipping Point Inspections	1,174	971
Total Hundredweight of Produce Inspected	703,113	326,854
Audits (GAP/GHP, Harmonized & Harmonized Plus+)	226	258

*Federal market inspections and shipping point inspections are requested on an as needed or contracted basis. Various factors impact the demand for inspections including technology, growing season and transportation conditions.*

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase the number of licensed harmonized auditors.
- Update electronic forms to provide efficiencies for field and office staff.
- Pursue the implementation of an electronic inspection system for Shipping Point inspections.
- Increase services provided to auditees through education/outreach.
- Increase number of restricted licenses per commodity held by inspectors.

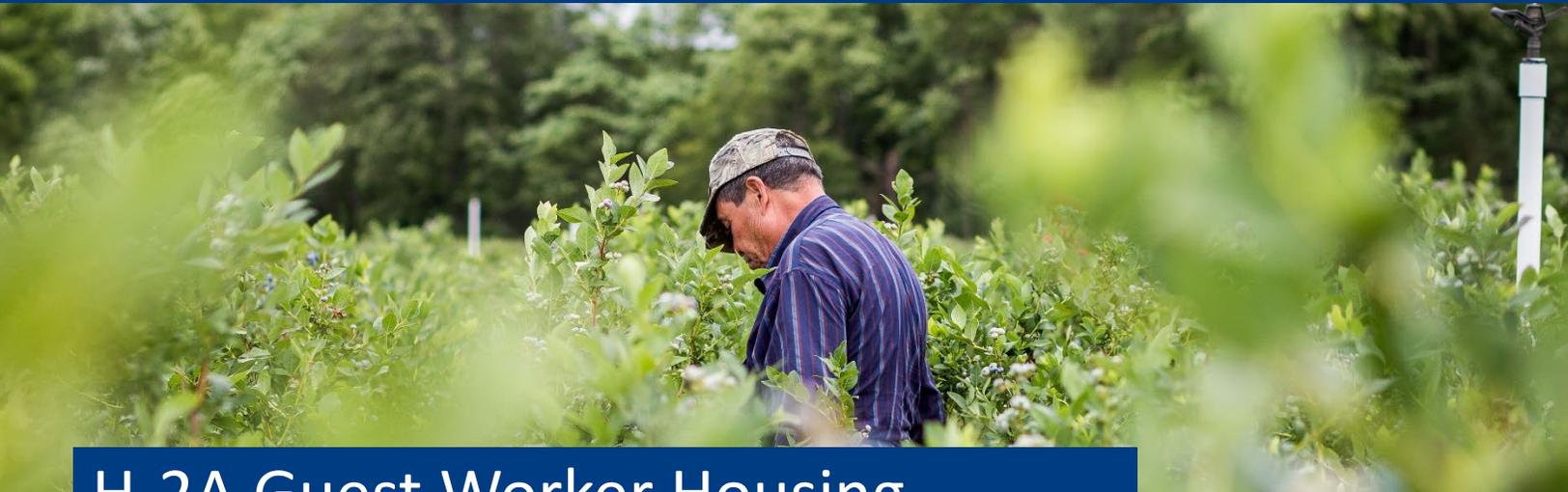


## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan fruit and vegetable growers and processors
- Michigan shippers
- Buyers, brokers, and consumers
- Food retailers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Marketing Services
- The public

## LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Market Conditions, PA 91 of 1915
- Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture



# H-2A Guest Worker Housing

**PROGRAM MANAGER:**      **Majed Ghussaini | 989-390-7637 | GhussainiM@Michigan.gov**

The Migrant Labor Housing Program is designed to ensure the safety of housing occupied by five or more migrant agricultural workers. Licensure indicates safe water supplies, fire and structural safety, proper sanitation facilities, proper food preparation, storage facilities, and waste treatment and disposal.

**IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:**

The H-2A program allows United States employers, or agents, who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs. Housing used by H-2A guest workers in Michigan is required to meet applicable standards as part of the documentation of the H-2A application. H-2A workers play a vital role in the planting, cultivating, harvesting and packaging of labor-intensive crops grown in Michigan.

**2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Staff responded to an increase in H-2A inspection requests, which included providing paperwork necessary to support timely visa approvals.
- Developed a shared electronic inspection reporting system to share H-2A inspection reports with the Michigan Foreign Certification Office and Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to enhance and expedite approval of housing used by H-2A workers.

**MEASURING SUCCESS:**

Metric	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Migrant Labor Housing Camps	437	492	564	717	768
Inspections	1,005	1,488	1,809	2,061	2,080
Units Licensed	2,085	2,202	2,469	2867	2,865
Licensed Capacity	12,116	15,401	16,583	20,446	21,349

**PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Continue partnering with the Michigan Foreign Labor Certification Office and explore ways to improve the efficiency of inspection reporting delivery and communication.
- Continue to engage with stakeholders and regulatory agencies to better understand the ever-changing federal laws relevant to the H-2A Guest Worker Program.
- Provide timely inspections and plan reviews for growers and farm labor contractors seeking H-2A workers.



**KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

- Fruit and vegetable growers
- Migrant farm workers
- Farm worker advocates
- Consumers of fresh fruits and vegetables

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

- Public Health Code, Public Act 368, 1978, Part 124, as amended



# Migrant Labor Housing

**PROGRAM MANAGER:**      **Majed Ghussaini | 989-390-7637 | GhussainiM@Michigan.gov**

The Migrant Labor Housing Program is designed to ensure the safety of housing occupied by five or more migrant agricultural workers. Licensure indicates safe water supplies, fire and structural safety, proper sanitation facilities, proper food preparation, storage facilities, and waste treatment and disposal.

## **IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:**

Migrant workers play an important role in the planting, cultivating, harvesting and packaging of crops grown in Michigan. These crops generate \$2.3 billion in farm gate revenues each year. Quality housing is needed to retain Michigan's reputation as a good place to work and attract this much needed seasonal workforce.

## **2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Program staff worked diligently with stakeholders to ensure safe inspection and licensing of migrant labor housing.
- Staff worked directly with over 500 housing providers and conducted over 3,000 housing inspections, ensuring safe housing and proper sanitation for over 28,000 migrant occupants.
- Staff continued to update and improve the electronic inspection system.
- Continued to work with U.S. Department of Labor and other regulatory partners.
- Introduced online application payment process to expedite licensing issuance.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
<b>Applications</b>					
Not opening/rescinded	83	94	64	69	57
Opening	870	829	881	980	1,002
<b>Inspections</b>					
Licensing	1,097	1,059	1,117	1,214	1,368
H-2A Licensing	919	980	1,172	1,736	1,813
Corrective Action Plan-Follow up	535	422	325	429	438
Occupancy	829	753	752	792	841
Enforcement/Referrals	6	1	72	59	7
Plan Review	82	91	132	174	171
Status Check	93	135	208	245	201
COVID-19	0	1,230	1,108	0	0
<b>Licensing</b>					
Migrant Labor Housing Camps	815	830	881	980	1,002
Units Licensed	4,052	4,062	3,937	4,125	3,938
Licensed Capacity	25,215	26,734	29,002	31,225	28,197

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue updating and optimizing the electronic inspection system.
- Continue improving model housing plans supporting reduced cost/modular building technologies.
- Continue working on the document management system to automate and expedite licensing.
- Continue working with program stakeholders and local health departments on related public health issues concerning migrant labor housing.
- Work with the Migrant Labor Housing Advisory Board to improve housing and living conditions for the agricultural labor workforce in the state.
- Improve the geographic information system mapping of all migrant labor housing.
- Update existing standard operating procedures and memorandum of understandings with partner agencies to improve licensing processing efficiency.
- Introduce an online referral and complaint form to expedite referrals and response time to housing complaints.



### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Fruit and vegetable growers
- Migrant farm workers
- Migrant farm worker advocates
- Consumers of fresh fruits and vegetables

### LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Public Health Code, Public Act 368, 1978, Part 124, as amended



# PRODUCER SECURITY

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Jeff Haarer | 571-896-2236 | HaarerJ@Michigan.gov

The Producer Security Program regulates the storage, warehousing, and sale of farm produce in Michigan. The Farm Produce Insurance Authority (FPIA) administers the collection of producer assessments, the payment of producer claims, and the investment of producer funds.

This program assists with producer security regulations under the Wholesale Potato Dealers and the Manufacturing and Fluid Milk Programs. The program also provides financial, compliance and assessment review services for legislatively enacted commodity associations.

The Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Program works with the industry to establish marketing and processing pricing for asparagus and apple crops grown in Michigan.

### IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Producers rely on licensed grain dealers to hold and protect grain deposits similar to when we deposit our savings in a bank. The Farm Produce Insurance Act was enacted to protect farmers in the event of a farm produce dealer’s financial failure. In 2023 there were over \$4.17 billion in cash receipts for barley, corn, dry beans, oats, soybeans, and wheat handled by Michigan’s 203 licensed grain dealers (183 in-state). Since 2003, 339 producers have recovered \$6,886,158 in claims under the Farm Produce Insurance Act. Insolvencies among grain dealers, wholesale potato dealers, livestock auctions, and dairy plants impact communities, businesses, and farmers through loss of jobs, income, and market.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- On December 31, 2023, the Farm Produce Insurance Fund’s balance was \$8,694,908.
- Ongoing FPIA administrative assessments are at .00015 or 15 cents on \$1,000 of grain sold.
- The total claims paid out by the Farm Produce Insurance Authority in 2023 was \$6,750 that helped to make a producer whole due to repayment from the 2021 Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing for Pipeline Foods, Inc. Pipeline Foods, a US-based supply chain solutions company focused exclusively on organic, non-GMO and regenerative food and feed purchased grain from Michigan producers.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	FY 2022	FY 2023
Risk Based Audits	145	160
Working Capital Audits	29	20

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Work with licensees to increase communication with producers regarding settlement, expiration, and transaction information.
- Develop software which implements metrics and procedures that identifies entities that require working capital audits through a risk-based analysis approach.
- Work with stakeholders to develop policy for efficiencies in the administration and protection of Michigan producers from financial loss through the Farm Produce Insurance Authority and the Grain Dealers Act.



## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Agricultural producers
- Michigan Agri-Business Association
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan Agricultural Commodity Marketing Associations
- Agricultural lenders

## LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Grain Dealers Act, PA 141 of 1939, as amended
- Farm Produce Insurance Act, PA 198 of 2003, as amended
- Wholesale Potato Dealers Act, PA 158 of 1964
- Manufacturing, PA 266 of 2001, and Fluid Milk, PA 267 of 2001, Acts, as amended
- Livestock Dealers Act, PA 284 of 1937, as amended
- Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, PA 232 of 1965, as amended
- Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act, PA 344 of 1972, as amended



# Qualified Forest Program

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Benjamin Schram | 517-614-7362 | SchramB1@Michigan.gov

The Qualified Forest Program (QFP) provides a property tax exemption for private landowners who actively manage their forestland for commercial harvest. The goal of the program is to fuel regional economies through timber harvest and individual tax savings.

## IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

More than 10 million acres of forested land in Michigan is owned by “non-industrial” private landowners. These lands are currently harvested at one-third the rate of forest growth. Consequently, millions of dollars of timber that could be harvested is going unutilized. By helping landowners manage their forestland, it is estimated that the QFP will stimulate more than 900 additional forestry-related jobs, \$195 million in business revenue, and \$44 million in labor income.

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Enrolled 48,920 new acres from 414 applications and 372 forest management plans.
- Total participation is 904,594 acres.
- Streamlined and improved queries and functionality of the current database to provide meaningful data to partners in forestry.
- QFP and Forestry Assistance Program are continuing collaborative marketing efforts to landowners that may be eligible for program enrollment, based upon acreage and property classification.
- 2,002,353 cords harvested from QFP land valuing \$19,247,778.

## MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Applications Submitted	614	452	576	375	414
Forest Management Plans Received	604	432	504	355	372
Acres from Commercial Forest (DNR)	1,676	1,266	3,835	N/A*	N/A*
New Acreage Enrolled	167,883	70,679	69,034	50,333	48,920
Cumulative Acres Enrolled	665,628	736,307	805,341	855,675	904,594
Harvested Wood Products (cords)	93,347	352,339	270,788	749,905	2,002,353
Harvested Timber Value	\$3,890,722	\$6,110,208	\$6,992,302	\$9,721,478	\$19,247,778
Revenue Received from 2 Mill Fee	\$482,171	\$660,810	\$648,194	\$499,756	\$621,414

*\*The transitional qualified forest program allowing acres to transfer from the Commercial Forest program into the Qualified Forest program sunset on September 1, 2021.*

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase enrollment in the program by 60,000 acres for the 2025 tax year.
- Continue working with Forestry Assistance Program staff and other marketing partners toward the development and implementation of new and existing targeted marketing campaigns to raise awareness of the benefits of the program.
- Meet with forestry stakeholders and other groups (i.e., local units of government) to develop relationships, discuss the program and its benefits, and encourage collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors.



### KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Private forestland owners
- Forest plan writers
- Commercial foresters
- Conservation Districts
- Forest products industry

### LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- MCL 211.7jj[1] (general provisions)
- MCL 211.1033 (recapture tax imposition)
- MCL 211.1034 (recapture tax rate)
- MCL 324.51305 (private forest land enhancement fund)
- MCL 324.51306 (qualified foresters)
- MCL 380.1211 (exemption of qualified forest property)
- MCL 211.1091-211.1101 (transitional qualified forest)