



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

April 29, 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

May 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. The business session is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The meeting is open to the public and this notice is provided under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. By authority of the Open Meetings Act and the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the County of Ingham, Resolution #21-219, this meeting is being conducted electronically to protect the health of commission members, staff, and the public due to the Coronavirus by limiting the number of people at public gatherings. To join the meeting, dial by telephone: **1-248-509-0316** and enter the Conference ID: **893 148 134#**.

In accordance with the Commission's Public Appearance Guidelines, individuals wishing to address the Commission may pre-register to do so during the Public Comment period as noted below and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. Documents distributed in conjunction with the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.

To pre-register to speak during this remote meeting, individuals should contact the Commission Assistant **no later than Friday, May 7**, via email at MDA-Ag-Commission@michigan.gov and provide their name, organization they represent, address, and telephone number, as well as indicate if they wish to speak to an agenda item. You may also contact the Commission Assistant at that email address to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Commission at the meeting. The Commission Chair will call upon each person by name and telephone number when it is time for them to speak and there will be a meeting moderator facilitating participation. All others wishing to speak will be provided two minutes to do so. Instructions on how to be recognized will be provided at the beginning of the meeting.

Those needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Commission Assistant at 800-292-3939 one week in advance, or may use the Michigan Relay Center by calling 711 for deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired persons.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary McDowell".

Gary McDowell
Director

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Meeting via Remote Technology

Call-in: 1-248-509-0316 and Enter Conference ID: 893 148 134#

MAY 12, 2021
TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Agenda (action item)**
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the March 10, 2021, Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Meeting (**action item**)
4. **Next Scheduled Meeting** (information only)
- July 21, 2021
- 9:05 a.m. 5. **Commissioner Comments**
- 9:10 a.m. 6. **Commissioner Issues (action item)**
- Retirement Resolution for Vijaya Pandit
 - Retirement Resolution for David Pasutti
 - Retirement Resolution for Vicki Sue Chickering, DVM
- 9:15 a.m. 7. **Director's Report**
- 9:25 a.m. 8. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission must complete a Public Appearance Card and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. This was accomplished through pre-registration for this meeting pursuant to the Meeting Notice. Those not pre-registering will be allowed up to two minutes to present. Documents shared as part of the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.
- 9:35 a.m. 9. **Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Request:** Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Division Director (**action item**)
- 10:00 a.m. 10. **Budget Update:** Sylvia Renteria, Director, Finance and Budget (information only)
- 10:10 a.m. 11. **State of Michigan Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative:** Poppy Sias Hernandez, Equity and Inclusion Officer, State of Michigan - Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer (information only)

- 10:30 a.m. 12. **Spotted Lanternfly Update:** Rob Miller, Invasive Species Prevention and Response Specialist, and Robin Rosenbaum, Plant Health Section Manager, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (information only)
- 10:45 a.m. 13. **Legislative Update:** Ashley Steffen, Legislative Liaison (information only)
- 10:55 a.m. 14. **Public Comment**
In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission must complete a Public Appearance Card and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. This was accomplished through pre-registration for this meeting pursuant to the Meeting Notice. Those not pre-registering will be allowed up to two minutes to present. Documents shared as part of the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.
- 11:05 a.m. 15. **Adjourn (action item)**

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Held via Remote Technology

MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2021

PRESENT:

Dru Montri, Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Charlie Meintz, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Tim Boring, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Patricia Bergdahl, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Montri called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 10, 2021, noting March is Food and Agriculture Month, celebrating the diversity of products grown and processed in Michigan. Today's meeting is being conducted electronically to protect the health of Commission members, staff, and the public due to the Coronavirus by limiting the number of people at public gatherings. She advised the Governor's appointment of Cheryl Kobernik to the Commission was rejected by the Senate, which was one of many rejections by the Senate in a display of disapproval of the Governor's COVID-19 response.

Commissioner Boring called the roll with the following Commissioners present: Commissioner Bergdahl in Skandia, Michigan; Commissioner Boring in Stockbridge, Michigan; Commissioner Meintz in Stephenson, Michigan; and Commissioner Montri in Bath, Michigan. Director McDowell, in Rudyard, Michigan, was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR MARCH 10, 2021. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BORING. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 20, 2021, MEETING MINUTES, WITH CORRECTION TO THE SPELLING OF SKANDIA. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGD AHL. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is May 12, 2021. Commissioner Meintz recommended the meeting be held in person if possible. Commissioner Montri advised that suggestion would be considered.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners shared information relative to their farm operations and agriculture in their respective areas, as well as industry meetings in which they participated. They expressed concerns relative to milk pricing, rise in grain prices, and uncertainty around agriculture and the carbon market. Even so, it was noted it should be a good year for Michigan agriculture.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director McDowell introduced Joseph Rivet, new Deputy Director for the department. Deputy Director Rivet advised he is looking forward to continuing to work with the department's extraordinary team.

The Director shared details relative to the Office of Rural Development, the Ag Housing Task Force Report, Council on Climate Solutions, Migrant and H2A Vaccinations, and an update on return to work for State of Michigan employees.

He announced the Biennial Review of Commission Policies will begin this summer, with presentation for approval targeted for the September Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued relative to conducting the May Commission meeting. The Director advised currently outdoor meetings are limited to 25 people and the Legislature is considering various changes to the Open Meetings Act which will drive decisions for meetings going forward.

In response to question from Commissioner Montri relative to the Council on Climate Solutions, the Director advised he will be reporting to the various stakeholder groups, all workgroups are open to the public, and all proceedings will be posted on the Council's website.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There was no public comment relative to agenda items.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE MAGAZINE: Jeanne Hausler, Food and Dairy Communications Specialist

Ms. Hausler reported the Michigan Agriculture Magazine is published annually in March as part of Michigan Food and Agriculture Month. She shared details around the development and content of the 2021 edition, noting it shares many success stories and highlights the perseverance of food and agriculture in Michigan.

She reviewed various ways the publication is being distributed, including the electronic version available at www.farmflavor.com/michigan-agriculture. Commissioners received copies for sharing, and advised if they would like more, to please advise Ms. Ayers.

Commissioner Meintz emphasized this year's issue was well illustrated and contains even more excitement for Michigan agriculture.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MDARD)
GOALS AND OUTCOMES: Kevin Bambenek, Business Performance Specialist

Mr. Bambenek advised he manages the performance management initiatives MDARD deploys throughout the organization. He outlined the various components of the department's performance management framework and specifics around the monthly development of MDARD's Scorecard Performance Summary of outcome measures which support the department's key goals. Results are published and utilized to identify opportunities for improvement.

He highlighted one metric of which the department is very proud and used it as an example of how outcome measures are managed. The Employee Survey Champions metric was 72 percent for MDARD, which represents employees with a high level of engagement and high likelihood of staying within the department. The department saw a 93 percent response rate, which is significantly higher than the average State of Michigan agency for the third year in a row.

In response to questions from Commissioner Montri, Mr. Bambenek advised the Employee Survey does provide personal demographic data to a level that still ensures anonymity. As such, he is involved with the MDARD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup. Relative to the outcomes and measures, the fundamental maps are utilized to prioritize which metrics will be included on the scorecard.

MDARD DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) STRATEGIC PLAN: Kenneth McFarlane, Chief Deputy Director, Ashley Batteen, Recruitment and Professional Development Specialist, and Johnathon Schweda, Departmental Technician

Chief Deputy Director McFarlane introduced DEI Taskforce facilitators Ashley Batteen and Johnathon Schweda, recognizing their exceptional efforts over the last 18 months in developing the department's DEI Strategic Plan.

Ms. Batteen and Mr. Schweda shared highlights around development of MDARD's three-year DEI Strategic Plan, which focuses on the key goals of recruitment and retention, training and outreach, and internal/external stakeholder interactions. A strong management team supports commitment to the initiative in creating a deep DEI culture within MDARD. The DEI Taskforce and four dedicated Expert Area Teams will be driving collaboration and activities of the plan as it moves forward. In addition, Monthly Think Tank sessions will offer opportunities for all staff to provide additional input and ideas for the DEI effort going forward.

Ms. Batteen announced Commissioners will have an opportunity to complete the Implicit Bias Training through a special State of Michigan portal, which will become available within the next two months.

Director McDowell noted he is extremely proud of all MDARD staff, noting Ashley and Johnathon are two prime examples through what they have been able to accomplish with the DEI effort.

In response to questions from Commissioner Montri, Chief Deputy Director McFarlane advised Ms. Batteen, in her role as MDARD's Equity and Inclusion Officer, addresses the larger programmatic issues to ensure the department engages the industry to

confirm we are using the DEI lens wherever possible. An initial opportunity for external engagement will be through recruitment efforts with other state agencies and the industry, as well as external ambassador opportunities being developed. MDARD will be integrating Employee Engagement results into accomplishing key goals for the DEI initiative. Measurement of DEI within the department's scorecard falls within the goal of efficient and effective government.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS UPDATE: Nora Wineland, State Veterinarian and Director, Animal Industry Division

Dr. Wineland reviewed the current Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) split-state status for Michigan, as well as a brief history that included the various milestones accomplished within the program. She discussed details around the 2020 Bovine TB-positive cattle cases and deer surveillance numbers. Pursuant to the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), three positive herds within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) are allowed in a 12-month period. The current MOU expires in December 2021 and will need to be renewed this year. Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) deer surveillance during 2020 and after-action items were also reviewed.

A federal review team visited Michigan the week of August 24, 2020, overall results of which were positive, confirming MDARD is meeting the intent of its MOU with USDA. Details of USDA's three recommendations were discussed. She also provided a research update, including objectives of the Bovine TB Eradication Collaborative Adaptive Management Program.

In response to questions from Commissioner Meintz, Dr. Wineland advised owners of Herd #79 chose to shift their operation from being a dairy herd to a beef herd. MDNR is currently conducting a postcard survey to gather statistics that will help determine if collection numbers were lower simply because of less deer being harvested, or if COVID-19 was a key factor. The department will discuss with MDNR and USDA effects of the pandemic, as well as improvements in various approaches to deer surveillance and deer head collection as part of the MOU renewal discussions with USDA.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Chairperson Montri recessed the meeting at 10:40 a.m. for a brief break. She reconvened the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

WATER USE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Laura Campbell, Council Co-Chair and Manager, Agricultural Ecology Department, Michigan Farm Bureau

Ms. Campbell provided background on how water is regulated in Michigan, noting the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact protects the Great Lakes Basin, which represents 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water. Details around the Water Withdrawal Assessment Program and formation of the Water Use Advisory Council were reviewed. Copies of the Council's 2020 report were shared with the Commission, as well as the website link. Reports will be issued every two years with recommendations for program improvements.

Details around the Council's recommendations relative to conservation, data collection, and modeling were discussed, along with other recommendations outlined in the report.

Next steps include support of the budgetary requests, stakeholder outreach, monitoring process on current recommendations, and work on new priorities and recommendations to improve the program.

In response to questions by Commissioners Montri and Meintz, Ms. Campbell will research and forward to Ms. Ayers information relative to water use by each sector, including how much water is used by bottling companies for sharing with the Commissioners. She emphasized that regardless of the water use, everyone follows the same regulatory program in Michigan.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUEST: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised one project is presented for Commission approval today, which is Shamco Lumber, who is expanding and modernizing their facility. She introduced Shamco Lumber officials Jon Richter, President, and Scott Shamion, Treasurer. Mr. Shamion provided a history of the company and details of their extensive expansion project, as well as the positive effects it will have on the Upper Peninsula lumber industry. The total project investment is over \$1.9 million.

Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised MDARD staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$50,000 for Shamco Lumber, Inc.

Discussion ensued regarding expected project outcomes, which will create a positive, sustainable impact. In response to question from Commissioner Meintz, Mr. Shamion confirmed their new equipment includes state-of-the-art computer guidance and electric eye scans for precision cutting.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANT OF \$50,000 FOR THE SHAMCO LUMBER, INC., PROJECT AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for Shamco Lumber's investment in Michigan's agriculture industry.

BUDGET UPDATE: Sylvia Renteria, Director of Finance and Budget

Ms. Renteria discussed details of the Fiscal Year 2022 recommended budget for the department, which includes \$13.6 million in federal dollars, \$57.9 million in general funds, and \$44.8 million in restricted dollars, for a total of \$116.3 million. Breakdown by program area was reviewed, as well as the single general fund reduction of \$1.3 million.

She reviewed investment requests for expanded testing, information technology, and rural communities included in the budget. Implications of the Water Quality Protection fee sunset and details around an additional supplemental request focusing on migrant labor housing were also reviewed.

In response to question from Commissioner Montri, Ms. Renteria advised the Office of Rural Development position is included in the line item for the Agriculture Development Division. That individual would report at an executive level, and this is an excellent method of initiating the concept for furthering rural communities.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Nathan Kark, Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs

Commissioner Montri congratulated Mr. Kark on his new business opportunity, noting this will be his last update as Legislative Liaison for the department. Mr. Kark advised it has been a huge honor and he has truly enjoyed working with the Commission.

Mr. Kark advised the new Legislative session has begun and referred to the MDARD Legislative Update provided to the Commissioners, which includes legislation for which the department is responsible. He reviewed activities and status around bills of interest to the department. Also discussed were activities with the Legislature around the department's budget.

In response to question from Commissioner Meintz, Mr. Kark advised the department is working with Senator Outman on his bill to ensure awareness of any spray operations that might affect beekeepers. Although mechanisms currently exist, the Senator is proposing more proactive measures. Various concerns are currently being discussed. Commissioner Montri advised her understanding is the bill is focused on state-administered aerial spraying related to EEE, with notification to beekeepers in advance.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for all of Mr. Kark's work while with MDARD and wished him well in his future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment on non-agenda items was requested.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021*
- C) *Director's Update March 10, 2021*
- D) *MDARD Performance Excellence Graphic*
- E) *MDARD January 2021 Scorecard*
- F) *MDARD DEI Taskforce Update Presentation*
- G) *MDARD DEI Strategic Plan 2021-2023*
- H) *MDARD TB Update Presentation*
- I) *Michigan Water Use Advisory Council: 2020 Recommendations Presentation*
- J) *Michigan Water Use Advisory Council 2020 Report*
- K) *MDARD Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Presentation*
- L) *Legislative Status – March 1, 2021*

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RESOLUTION COMMENDING

VIJAYA A. PANDIT

WHEREAS, The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor Vijaya A. Pandit upon her retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on April 30, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Vijaya was born and raised in India where she earned both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Bangalore University. In 1992, Vijaya also graduated with a Master's Degree in Nutrition and Food Science from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, Vijaya's early career in the private sector included microbiological testing at Absopure Water Company and supervision of 20 staff in the Nutrition Department at Michigan Healthcare Corporation. In 1996, she came to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) as a food safety inspector in Southeast Michigan, and began what would be an impactful journey in food safety and public service; and,

WHEREAS, in 2008, Vijaya was promoted to the position of Senior Food Safety Inspector with a specialty area of specialized food processing, contributing as a valued resource amongst her peers and partners in food safety; and,

WHEREAS, Vijaya made significant and lasting contributions in leading and developing Michigan's National Shellfish Sanitation Program efforts as the Shellfish Sanitation Officer for the State of Michigan, which included specialized training, providing training for others internal and external to MDARD, standardizing an MDARD Shellfish Sanitation Inspector, program coordination with FDA, active committee(s) participation, and serving as Michigan's voting delegate at the biennial Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to Vijaya's impact on the Shellfish Program, she has been involved in many special projects, committees, and assisted in developing policy related to subject matters such as ethnic foods, special transitory food units, and sampling to name a few; and,


WHEREAS, Vijaya resides in Southfield with her husband, Arkesh, with whom she plans to enjoy more time during retirement, as well as her pride and joy daughters, Abhi and Surabhi, son-in law Shamik, soon-to-be son-in-law Ajay, and her beloved granddaughters, Anika and Simran; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize and with great honor, admiration and gratitude acknowledge Vijaya's contributions throughout her MDARD career; and,

WHEREAS, as her colleagues, peers and friends, Vijaya will be greatly missed for her knowledge and expertise, as well as her kindness, generosity, and genuine care for all those she encounters – both professionally and personally; and,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development commends Vijaya A. Pandit for 25 years of loyal service and contributions to MDARD, food safety, and to the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins her family, friends, and professional colleagues in wishing her health, success, and joy in her retirement.

Adopted April 20, 2021
Lansing, Michigan



Dru Montri, Chair

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RESOLUTION COMMENDING

David William Pasutti

WHEREAS, The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor David William Pasutti upon his retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on April 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, David (Dave) was born in Des Moines, Iowa and received his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University, where he majored in Horticulture. Dave continued his education as a Cyclone, getting his master's degree in Plant Breeding & Genetics. He began work toward a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin but ultimately decided instead to start his family with his wife, Rhonda; and

WHEREAS, Dave began his career with the Michigan Department of Agriculture in 1997 as a Plant Industry Field Scientist in the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (PPPMD). He was promoted to Lead Inspector in 2012 while working in Southwest Michigan. Dave has assisted and led on many projects, including development of the pine, spruce and Douglas fir compliance agreement program, development of procedures for virus free certification of blueberries and temperate fruits, and eventually becoming a state and regional expert in animal feed safety; and

WHEREAS, Dave's monumental contribution to MDARD and PPPMD was his singlehanded development of a suite of inspection and management databases that carried the Division's plant, fertilizer, feed, and bulk storage programs for more than 20 years. This system came to be known as the Pasutti Suite, and it was far ahead of its time when developed in the late 1990s. It moved the Division from the era of paper to the era of data, allowing for electronic reporting, filing, and information retrieval, saving countless hours and dollars. In addition, Dave frequently provided technology training for staff, was a founding member of the Division's Regional Advanced Technology (RAT) team, and helped develop other large software systems, including Accela and INTELS; and

WHEREAS, Dave and his wife Rhonda have three children, April, Jennifer (Jenny) and William (Bill) and six treasured grandchildren: Carter, Rachael, Lillie, Natalie, Aurora, and Luke; and

WHEREAS, Dave looks forward to many retirement years, enjoying time with his family, including his newest family member, a Yorkshire terrier named Andy, and teaching his grandkids everything he knows, including being a jack of all trades and a problem solver with a passion for a cause, just as he was for PPPMD; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development thanks David William Pasutti for his 23 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, the agriculture industries, and to the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins Dave's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement and great success with future endeavors.

Adopted April 1, 2021
Lansing, Michigan



Dru Montri, Chair

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RESOLUTION COMMENDING

Vicki Sue Chickering, DVM

WHEREAS, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor Vicki S. Chickering, DVM upon her retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on May 15, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Chickering was born in Greenville, Michigan, grew up in Belding, Michigan, and in 1976 received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Chickering began her career with the Michigan Department of Agriculture in 1990 as a field staff veterinarian in the Animal Industry Division. Over the years, Dr. Chickering advanced to a Senior Field Staff Veterinarian. She was trained by the United States Department of Agriculture as a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician. Thus, Dr. Chickering was called upon to investigate possible foreign animal diseases which often occurred late in the day or on weekends. She always accepted the challenge and went above and beyond to determine the cause of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Chickering was active in 4-H growing up and has served local 4-H clubs over the years. She served as President of the Mid-Michigan Veterinary Medical Association. Her honors include Commission Excellence Award (Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Team), MDARD Team Excellence Award (Saginaw Dairy TB), the Governor's coin for teamwork during Texas TB traces in Michigan, MDARD Team Excellence Award (Peanut Butter Recall) and the Governor's coin for customer service. She is known to all for her amazing ability to be both empathetic and supportive with the public, while staying firm and resolute to accomplish necessary results. She will be remembered by MDARD staff for her quality work and her passion for making a difference when protecting, regulating, and promoting animal health in the State of Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Chickering looks forward to several years of retirement, enjoying time continuing her pursuit of equine interests, traveling, camping, and spending time at her cottage on the lake. She is an avid Spartan football fan and hopes to be able to soon attend the games again!

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development thanks Dr. Chickering for her more than 30 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Animal Industry Division, and to the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins Dr. Chickering's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her a long and happy retirement and great success with future endeavors.



Adopted April 30, 2021
Lansing, Michigan

Dru Montri, Chair

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
May 12, 2021 - Ag Commission Meeting

Ashley Steffen – Welcome New Legislative Liaison

I'm pleased to introduce Ashley Steffen who started as the department's new Legislative Liaison on April 5. Ashley previously worked for the Michigan House Democratic Policy Office covering the Agriculture Committee and the Commerce and Tourism Committee, as well as the Appropriation sub-committees on Agriculture, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Affairs.

Prior to her work as a policy advisor, Ashley served as a Government Affairs and Communication Associate with Disability Rights Michigan, as well as a writer for the Michigan House Democrats. Most importantly, she's a proud Yooper! Please join me in welcoming Ashley to the MDARD team.

Michigan Propane Commission

On April 9, Governor Whitmer announced the members of the newly established Michigan Propane Commission. The first meeting of this 5-member Commission was held on May 5. A variety of topics were covered including the Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, audit procedures, Senate Advise and Consent, board training, referendums, and standards of conduct for public officers. This is an exciting chapter for our propane industry and MDARD stands ready to provide any assistance to ensure our newest check-off program is a success.

UK Consul General & Commodity Groups

On April 20, Jamie Zmitko-Somers and I met with UK Counsel General Gogbashian (Gog-Bash-in) and his team to discuss trade opportunities between the UK and U.S.; Michigan in particular. Several commodity organizations participated as well. In 2020, Michigan exported over \$2 billion in food and agriculture products. Michigan's exports to the UK in 2020 totaled nearly \$11.6 million, which was a 24% increase. Top exports included various food preparations, beer, prepared fruit including cherries, dry beans and a variety of other value-added food products. We're hopeful these discussions will result in additional opportunities in the UK market for Michigan growers, producers, and companies.

Governor's Meeting w/Farmers

On April 28, Governor Whitmer met virtually with a few farmers to hear what's happening on the ground at the start of the growing season including weather conditions, challenges they are facing, and how she can be an advocate for them. Producers represented included cherries, apples, asparagus, blueberries, and a farmer from the Western Lake Erie Basin. It was an informative conversation about ag and rural Michigan. The group was appreciative of the Governor's interest in providing assistance when/if necessary.

Making it in Michigan / Ag Summit

Director McDowell provided welcome remarks at the “Making it in Michigan” summit on May 6. MDARD and Pure Michigan Business Connect (PMBC) partnered with the MSU Product Center in coordinating the event which hosted one-on-one matchmaking meetings bringing together 19 purchasers including grocers, retailers, distributors, institutional buyers, and those looking to procure Michigan-made food, with Michigan food and agriculture businesses from around the state - all with one common goal to strengthen Michigan’s food supply chain.

Participating buyers included Cherry Capital Foods, Kellogg, Meijer, Michigan Fields, Michigan Medicine, Sodexo and more. These meetings provided Michigan food businesses an opportunity to pitch their fresh produce, packaged foods, and other unique Michigan-made products to companies looking to buy local and support Michigan’s dynamic food and agriculture industry.

Return to Work Update

In early April, the Office of the State Employer notified state employees that we’ll be working remotely until at least July 12, 2021. DTMB and OSE are currently compiling and reviewing information from each department on potential work plans for its office employees.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 12, 2021

TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development

FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers
Director, Agriculture Development Division

SUBJECT: Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery – Food and Agriculture Investment Program

Background

Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery manufactures and sells individual-serving size, Scottish-inspired, fully cooked meat- and veggie-filled savory pies, shortbread, scones, and cooked and raw sausages. The bakery has sold their products in a brick-and-mortar retail shop for 70 years, shipped nationwide for the last eight years and have had an e-commerce site for the last five years. In 2020, the company shifted 100 percent of their business to their e-commerce platform, increasing sales 31 percent from the previous year. To diversify revenue streams, the bakery is pursuing USDA inspection and wholesale accounts and co-packing opportunities, but their current 3,000 square-foot facility is too small and there are production inefficiencies that cannot be addressed without more equipment and space. After a decade in corporate strategic sourcing, Megan Ackroyd assumed the role of president of Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery in 2014, and then owner in 2017. Under her leadership, Ackroyd's has evolved its business model in multiple ways, including launching e-commerce, catering, and experiential events.

Project Description

With a capital investment of \$1,200,000, 4 jobs will be created and 12 retained. The newly purchased 7,600 square-foot building will have a building layout in line with the goal of producing raw and cooked meat products under USDA inspection. The larger space will accommodate a more efficient production line including two pieces of key equipment, the horizontal flow wrapper and the roll-in blast chiller freezer. This new equipment will increase production and the packaging process efficiency and significantly increase packaging volume.

Impact to Michigan Agriculture

Ninety-seven percent of the raw materials, supplies, and vendors from which the bakery sources are headquartered in Michigan. This includes, but is not limited to, Gus and Grey, a small jam company and Kap's Wholesale, a meat wholesaler that supplies lamb, pork, and beef products; both are in Eastern Market. Other vendors include King Milling Company, Pioneer Sugar, and Baker Boy Cake Mix. As the company grows, they expect to increase Michigan-based sourcing by at least 20 percent.

Additional Impacts

The company is working closely with their energy provider to be as energy efficient as possible, including LED lighting. They are also working to reduce their footprint by sourcing locally and using refurbished equipment instead of buying new. The company is focused on diversity and has

previously hired a team member with intellectual disabilities and is also looking at the possibility of hiring veterans and returning citizens in the future. The company owner takes training very seriously and provides leadership development training for all employees, as well as food safety training.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

MDARD staff recommends the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Program performance-based grant of **\$50,000** for Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 12, 2021
TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers
Director, Agriculture Development Division
SUBJECT: Carbon Green BioEnergy LLC – Food and Agriculture Investment Program

Background

Carbon Green BioEnergy, LLC (CGBE) is a biofuels and animal feed production facility located in Lake Odessa, Michigan. The plant began operations in 2006 and currently produces 60 million gallons per year. This fuel alcohol is produced from approximately 20 million bushels of corn annually. The corn is procured from over 600 local Michigan farms, generally most within a 90-mile radius of the plant. The low carbon ethanol produced is then used in local fuel markets, blended with gasoline to produce both E-10, E-15, and E-85 for flex fueled vehicles. The companies' animal feed co-products, DDG and corn oil, are an extremely important component of animal feed rations and return nearly one-third of the corn that is processed back to the feed market.

Project Description

With a capital investment of \$5,265,000, 40 jobs will be retained. The industrial and pure grade alcohol market demand is expected to increase globally with growth in the cleaning and sanitizing market focused around "green" products, as well as all grades of pure neutral alcohol, including beverage/food grade. This project will give CGBE the ability to diversify product offerings and serve a market in Michigan that is currently sourcing high-grade alcohols from out of the state or country. CGBE wants to produce this product with a focus on supplying in-state customers and add stability by diversifying the customer base. Product diversification will keep CGBE a large volume processor of Michigan corn. The total investment for the project will be over \$8.7 million.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry

This new product will allow CGBE to not solely rely on the fuel ethanol market but allow the business to rely on all the various grades of alcohol markets. Historically, the purer grade alcohols have been a higher priced, higher valued product. This new process will allow the company to process more corn to make pure grade alcohols while continuing to supply fuel alcohol needs. Currently, the company processes approximately 20 million bushels of Michigan grown corn. After completion of this project, CGBE estimates having the ability to process up to another two million bushels of corn per year which equates to an additional \$11 million worth of corn purchases per year, with a real impact on the agriculture industry adding value to locally produced grain.

Additional Impact

Having production of the product in Michigan will shorten the supply chain for companies in Michigan that typically purchase the product outside of Michigan making the logistics more efficient. The company offers a career advancement program including a biofuels technology

certification program, hazmat, confined space and first aid training. Additionally, other professional development training is provided based on job duties.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$85,000 for Carbon Green BioEnergy LLC.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 12, 2021
TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers
Director, Agriculture Development Division
SUBJECT: Coulter Farm Properties LLC – Food and Agriculture Investment Program

Background

New Era's American Asparagus (New Era's) part of Coulter Farm Properties is a leading fresh market asparagus grower, packer, and shipper in Oceana County representing 29 growers from seven counties. They also have a sister company New Era's American Apple that consists of growing and packing fresh apples from their own farm, as well as from several neighbors. It is one of the farthest north apple packing facilities geographically in the state.

Project Description

With a capital investment of \$4,580,000, six jobs will be created and twelve retained. New Era's is building additional controlled atmosphere (CA) rooms for apple storage, which will also be used as cold storage for the asparagus operation, along with other seasonal commodities such as peaches and cherries. The construction will also include a 40,000-bushel dual-purpose storage with two direct loading docks. A 23,000 square-foot asparagus pack room will also act as a Honeycrisp apple preconditioning room and a tart cherry barreling room. This space will also serve as additional packaging storage and have a 4,000 square-foot employee pavilion-style break room. The current asparagus lines will be retooled to ease employee fatigue and increase efficiency, and additional lines will double American Asparagus' capacity while retooling to reduce food waste.

As part of this expansion, over \$550,000 for a new hydrocooler has been invested for this year's asparagus season. The new larger hydrocooler will provide more efficient cooling for asparagus during the season peak and provide capacity to handle additional pounds. It will also help facilitate the handling of Michigan's processing peaches formerly handled through Peterson Farms.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry

The CA-cold storage space will accommodate new plantings of apples and asparagus coming into production and facilitate additional capacity for peaches. Additionally, it will facilitate outlet for Michigan asparagus growers as the industry shifts to primarily fresh market product from a processing state. It will also increase capacity and give the ability to handle new growers and acreage. The company will handle all Michigan processing peaches for 50 growers and the barreling of 5-10M pounds of cherries for Peterson Farms' Cherry Bundi juice brand. The company will continue to promote Michigan's domestic products value, therefore creating consistent returns for growers in a global marketplace.

Additional Information

The additional capacity will allow the company to also store lower quality products for shipping to secondary market channels. The company offers three levels of advancement from floor level to management. Professional development and training opportunities are provided to help a team member move into team leader, supervisor, and management rolls if the employee is interested in growing in the company.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$75,000 for Coulter Farm Properties LLC.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 12, 2021

TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development

FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers
Director, Agriculture Development Division

SUBJECT: Cultured Ferments Company LLC – Food and Agriculture Investment Program

Background

Cultured Kombucha Company (Cultured) is Michigan's innovative leader in kombucha tea production and has manufactured certified organic kombucha for Michigan since 2015. Cultured is a certified organic, certified vegan, woman-owned business featuring local agricultural ingredients whenever possible. Cultured Kombucha Company launched inside a local food hub in partnership with Cherry Capital Food's incubator space. Cultured rapidly outgrew its initial 1500 square-foot facility as customer demand increased and local demand proved product viability. Kombucha is currently the fastest growing segment of the beverage industry and is set to register at a compound annual growth rate of 27.9 percent by 2027. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic kombucha producers are experiencing demand growth faster than they can brew.

Project Description

With a capital investment of \$110,061, two jobs will be created, and three jobs retained. Cultured Hard Kombucha is a product line extension brewed by Cultured with the goal of producing a low carb, low calorie hard kombucha with minimal residual sugar to foster a healthier drinking culture that can be ingested without the negative side effects of beer and wine. Cultured Hard Kombucha provides a session style alcoholic beverage with a twist of health benefits and an 3-6 percent ABV.

In addition to Cultured Hard Kombucha, a new line of Cultured HopTea's will be launched in 2021. HopTea is an IPA-inspired refreshment that is zero-alcohol, zero-carbohydrate, and zero-calorie, made using everything Cultured knows about tea and hops. As the market shifts from heavy alcoholic beverages to light alcohol and no-alcohol trends, Cultured will release its new product lines to stay current and leverage growth. HopTeas are brewed with Michigan hop pellets and Michigan native botanicas.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry

Cultured will be able to partner with additional farms, including Michigan Hop Alliance, MiHops, Michigan Farm to Freezer, Providence Farms, Lakeview Hill Farms, and more. Partnering with these advanced, certified organic farms allows for crop diversification, season extensions, and rural development in northern Michigan's growing space through forecasted crop contracts and ordering.

Additional Impacts

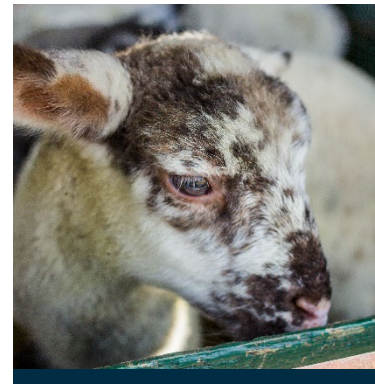
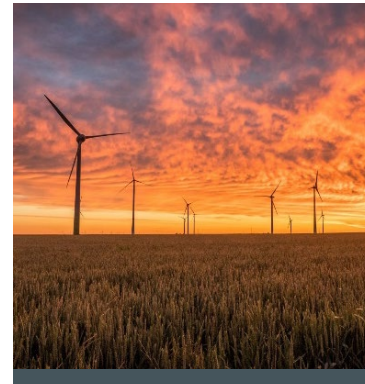
The new equipment upgrades will provide energy efficiency updates and the capacity for additional co-packing agreements for small scale producers. The company provides jobs with low barrier to entry and offers skills training to create opportunities for advancement.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$10,000 for Cultured Ferments Company LLC.



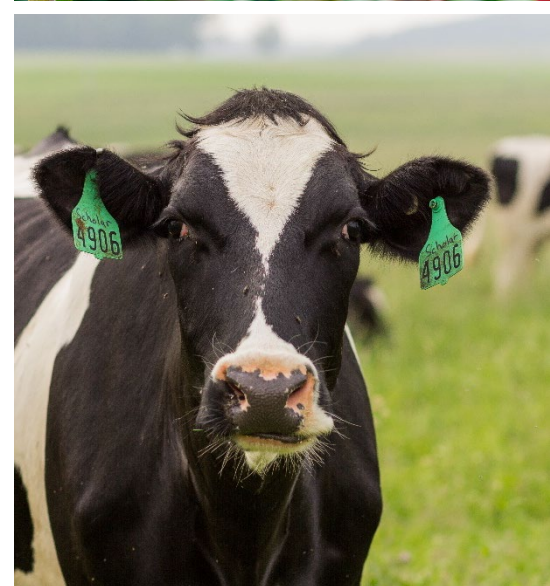
Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Update



Sylvia Renteria
Director of Finance and Budget

FY22 House Appropriations Subcommittee

- Executive Recommendation:
 - \$116.3 million gross
 - \$57.9 million general fund
 - 526 FTEs
- House Subcommittee Recommendation:
 - \$29.2 million gross
 - \$14.7 million general fund
 - 517 FTEs
- Represents one quarter of the annual budget



House Subcommittee Recommendations

Program	FTE	General Fund	Gross
Michigan Animal Agriculture Alliance		\$1,253,000	\$1,253,000
Office of Rural Development	(1.0)	\$ 0	(\$175,000)
Qualified Forest Program	(3.0)	(\$491,500)	(\$491,500)
County Fairs		\$491,500	\$491,500
Unclassified Salaries	(5.0)	(\$444,500)	(\$444,500)
Total	(9.0)	\$808,500	\$633,500



FY22 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee

- Executive Recommendation:
 - \$116.3 million gross
 - \$57.9 million general fund
 - 526 FTEs
- Senate Subcommittee Recommendation:
 - \$122.3 million gross
 - \$64.1 million general fund
 - 446.1 FTEs
- Represents a 15 percent reduction in FTE



Senate Subcommittee Recommendations

Program	FTE	General Fund	Gross
Conservation Districts		\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
County Fairs		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Michigan Animal Agriculture Alliance		\$1,253,000	\$1,253,000
Food and Agriculture Investment Program		\$740,000	\$740,000
Farm Stress		\$225,000	\$225,000
Fair Food Network		(\$900,000)	(\$900,000)
Office of Rural Development	(1.0)	\$ 0	(\$175,000)
Food and Dairy Division	(1.0)	(\$50,000)	(\$100,000)
Unclassified		(\$18,000)	(\$18,000)
Total	(2.0)	\$6,250,000	\$6,025,000



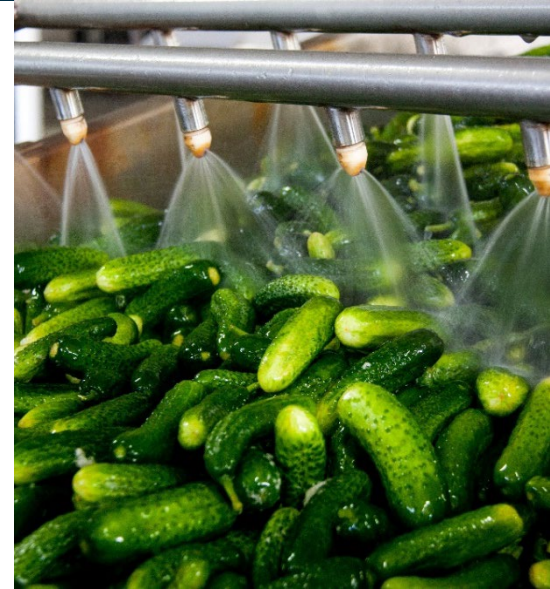
Next Steps

- May revenue estimating conference on Friday, May 21st
- General fund target setting by both chambers
- Conference committee hearing to resolve differences in budget



Pending FY21 Supplementals and Transfers

- Office of Rural Development general fund request for \$1.1 million and 1 FTE
- Migrant labor housing general fund request for \$1.0 million and 3 FTE
- Horse Racing Advisory Commission supplemental for \$125,000 general fund
- Laboratory federal authority increase for \$500,000



Questions?



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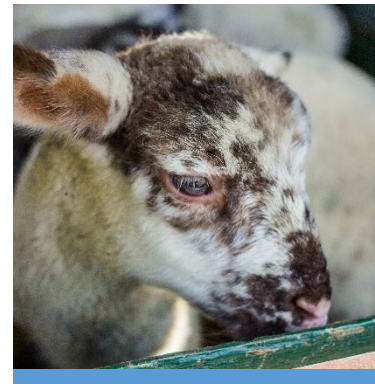


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Michigan Department
of Agriculture & Rural
Development

Spotted Lanternfly



Robert Miller

MDARD PPM

Invasive Species Prevention and Response Specialist

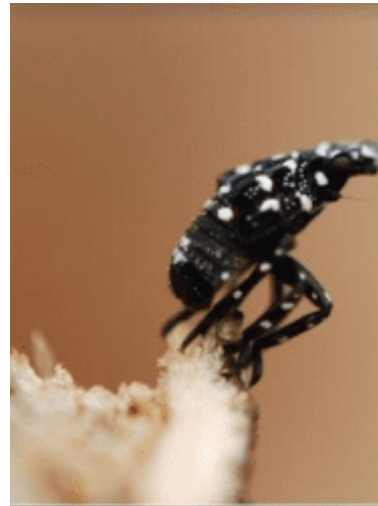
Objectives for Today

- Potential invasive species threat
- Impacts to agriculture
- Impacts to public
- Preparation
- Response



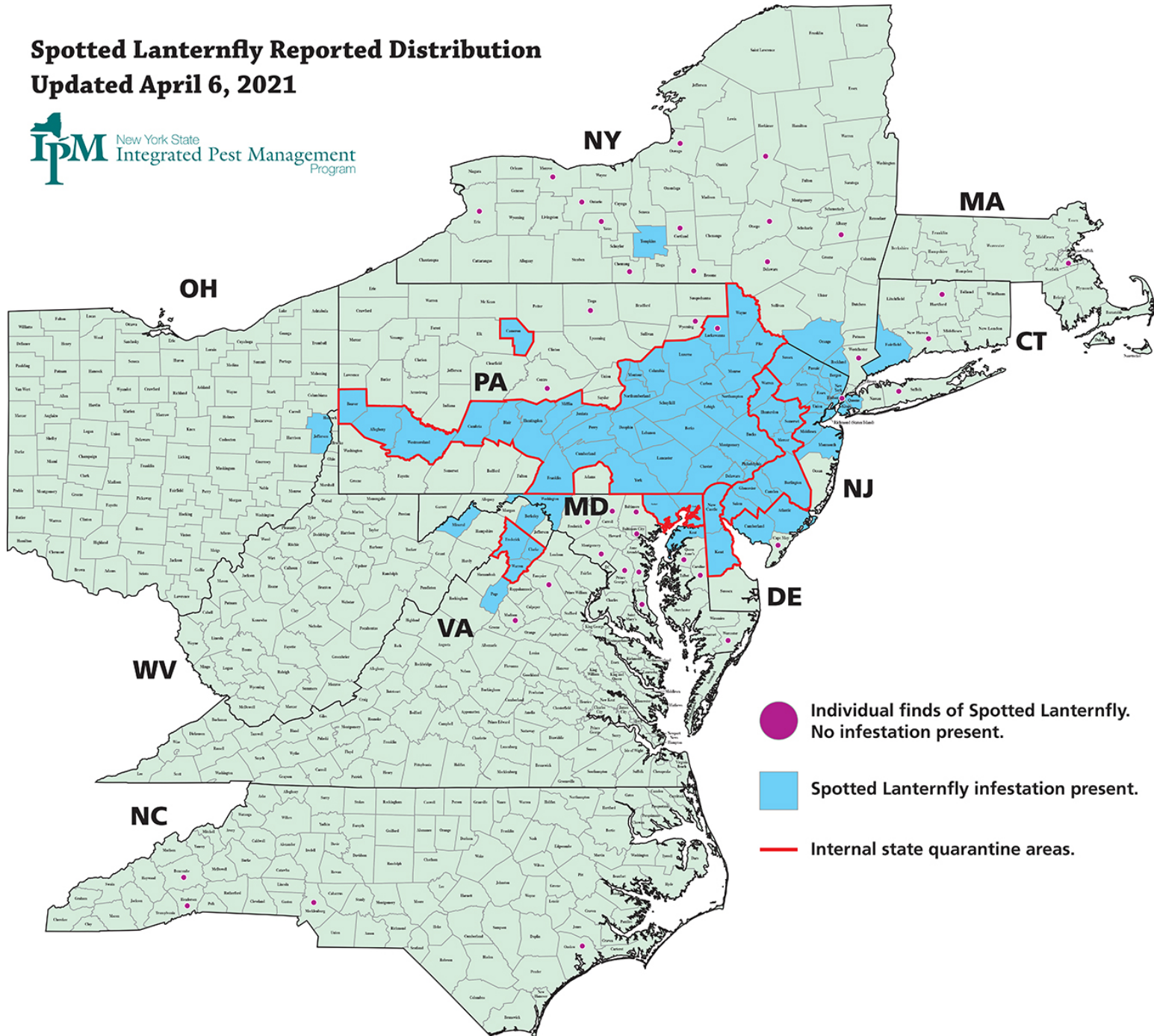
Spotted Lanternfly

- Native to Asia, found in southeastern PA in 2014
- Also recently introduced into Korea (2004) and Japan (2009)
- Now **spread to additional 8 states**



Spotted Lanternfly Reported Distribution

Updated April 6, 2021



- Individual finds of Spotted Lanternfly. No infestation present.
- Spotted Lanternfly infestation present.
- Internal state quarantine areas.

Flight





Honeydew excretion



Sooty Mold



Sooty Mold



Barbara Bowen

Host Range

Preferred hosts:

tree-of-heaven
grape
black walnut
silver/red maple
river birch
willow
sumac
& others

Substantial feeding not recorded
on conifers



Impact

Grapes

- In the Mid-Atlantic SLF has severely impacted grape production
- Recent research in Pennsylvania indicates a 170% increase in insecticide use in infested vineyards
- MI grape industry employs ~47,000 with a \$5.4 billion economic impact

Cucumber

- Michigan is the number one producer of pickling cucumbers in the nation
- Recent research indicates that SLF will feed heavily on cucumber. Potential impact is unknown.

General Public

- This is a highly visible invasive pest which will generate media attention and public feedback. MDARD will have high public contact regarding this pest.

Preparation

Michigan Spotted Lanternfly Readiness Team

Established in December 2019

MDARD, DNR, USFS, MSU, MSUE

Charge: Prepare for introduction of SLF

Subgroups

- Planning
- Communication



Response

- Respond to public reports
- Public outreach. Ask to public to be on the lookout. Let the public know how to respond
- MDARD will seek to eradicate isolated / early introductions
 - Extensive delimitation survey
 - Targeted broadcast application of insecticide
 - Creation of trap trees

STOP. SCRAPE. SQUASH.



LOOK FOR SPOTTED LANTERNFLIES BEFORE LEAVING.



aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/slfbiz

Questions?

Robert Miller, Invasive Species Prevention and Response Specialist

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division**

**517-614-0454 – Cell
800-292-3939 – MDARD Customer Service Center**



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Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

MDARD Summary of 2021-2022 Michigan Legislature (Prepared 4/30/2021)

Type	Bill #	Subject	Date of Last Action	Last Action	Primary Sponsor	Position (if applicable)	Notes
House Bill	4186	Animals: exotic; applicability of certain provisions of the large carnivore act based on residency; modify.	2/9/2021	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Thomas Albert	Undecided	Sent to EOG
House Bill	4246	Trade: business practices; gas tax rates posted at gas pumps; require.	2/16/2021	Referred to the Committee on Transportation	Beau LaFave	Opposed	
Senate Bill	77	Appropriations: zero budget; department of agriculture and rural development; provide for fiscal year 2021-2022. Creates appropriation act.	2/2/2021	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations	Roger Victory	N/A	
Senate Bill	136	Agriculture: pesticides; registry of individuals seeking to be notified in the event of the emergency use or application of pesticides on or adjacent to their property; provide for. Amends	2/16/2021	Referred to the Committee on Environmental Quality	Rick Outman	N/A	The Department worked with Sen. Outman to create an alert system outside of the legislative process.
Senate Bill	186	Agriculture: industrial hemp; regulations for growing industrial hemp; modify.	2/25/2021	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Dan Lauwers	Support	PA 4 of 2021
House Bill	4165	Highways: bridges; tractors and farm equipment to cross the Mackinac Bridge; allow under certain conditions. Amends sec. 12 of 1952 PA 214 (MCL 254.322).	2/9/2021	Referred to the Committee on Transportation	Steven Johnson	N/A	
Senate Bill	229	food: licensing; licensing fees for food establishments; provide waiver for 2021 to 2022 licensing year.	3/11/2021	Referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform	Curtis VanderWall	N/A	Replaced with SB 353&354

House Bill	4516	Marihuana: liability; sale of marihuana to an individual who is younger than 21 years of age or visibly intoxicated; prohibit, and create cause of action for harm that the individual causes.	3/16/2021	Referred to the Committee on Reg Reform	Hauck	N/A	MDARD gave input to LARA. LARA is lead agency. Hearing on 5/4/2021
House Bill	4517	Marihuana: other; definition of industrial hemp; modify	3/16/2021	Referred to the Committee on Reg Reform	Rabhi	N/A	MDARD gave input to LARA. LARA is lead agency. Hearing on 5/4/2021
House Bill	4599	Gaming: horse racing; breeders' awards; increase. Amends secs. 8, 19 & 20 of 1995 PA 279	3/25/2021	Referred to Agriculture	Alexander	Neutral	Passed out of House Ag on 4/28 10 yeas; 1 nay (Carra)
House Bill	4600	Gaming: horse racing; references to horse racing law of 1995 in 1951 PA 90; update. Amends sec. 2 of 1951 PA 90	3/25/2021	Referred to Agriculture	Cherry	Neutral	Passed out of House Ag on 4/28 10 yeas; 1 nay (Carra)
House Bill	4031	Labor: health and safety; violations of reports of injuries and death; modify	1/27/2021	Referred to Agriculture	Kahle	MIOSHA is opposed	Department is following, first hearing on 4/24.
House Bill	4497	Health; other; aerial spraying of pesticides to prevent and control diseases and environmental health hazards; require department of health and human services to provide notice to the public before implementation.	3/11/2021	Referred to Committee on Health Policy	Brad Paquette	N/A	Watching: DHHS is lead agency and is opposed
Senate Bill	353	Food: licensing; waiver for licensing and registration fees for certain food establishments, water bottlers, and water dispensing machine owners for the 2021 to 2022 licensing year; provide for.	4/13/2021	Referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform	Curtis VanderWall	Opposed	Passed out of Senate Reg Reform on 4/27 with 6 yeas; 0 nays; 3 pass

Senate Bill	354	Health: local health departments; waiver for licensing fees for certain food establishments for the 2021 to 2022 licensing year; provide for.	4/13/2021	Referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform	Curtis VanderWall	Opposed	Passed out of Senate Reg Reform on 4/27 with 6 yeas; 0 nays; 3 pass
House Bill	4603	Civil rights: open meetings; circumstances permitting public meetings of certain public bodies to be held electronically by telephonic or video conferencing; modify.	4/13/2021	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Joe Bellino	Pending	Analysis to EOG
HCR	7	A concurrent resolution to approve a designated open space land application for property in Kent County.	4/22/2021	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Thomas Albert	Support	Passed out of House Ag on 4/28 10 yeas; 1 nay (Carra)
House Bill	4611	Animals: birds; issuance of carrier pigeon permits; require compliance with local ordinances and regulations, and prohibit the enactment of local ordinances that prohibit the keeping of carrier pigeons.	4/13/2021	Referred to Committee on Agriculture	Tulio Liberati	N/A	Watching: Probably won't move
Senate Bill	370	Environmental protection: hazardous products; glyphosate herbicide; prohibit certain residential uses of.	4/21/2021	Referred to the Committee on Environmental Quality	Rosemary Bayer	N/A	MDARD is lead agency, won't likely move
House Bill	4550	Courts: juries; postponement of jury service; allow for farmers during certain months.	3/23/2021	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Postumus	SCAO/Legal are lead agencies	First hearing 5/5/21
House Bill	4394	Appropriations: zero budget; department of agriculture and rural development; provide for fiscal year 2021-2022.	3/2/2021	Appropriations	Allor	Opposed	Reported from Ag Subappropriations Committee on 4/20/21
House Bill	4420	Appropriations: zero budget; multi-department supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2021-2022.	3/2/2021	Appropriations	Albert	N/A	Reported from Full Appropriations on 4/29/21