July 2019 Volume 19



Improving Awareness & Advocacy of the Michigan Biosolids Program

### Make a Note

#### AgroExpo

Tues. & Wed.: Aug. 13-14, 2019 St. Johns

#### Michigan Biosolids Team Meeting & Kim Hackbardt Retirement Party

Thurs., Sept. 5, 2019 10 a.m. Wyoming CWP

### Michigan Biosolids Team Meeting & Holiday Party

Thurs., Dec. 5, 2019 10 a.m. Frankenmuth

### Annual Conference

March 2020 Location and Date to be determined.

## 2020 Meeting Schedule:

All meetings begin at 10 a.m.

Dates and Locations to be determined.

Visit our website at: www.michigan.gov/biosolids

# AgroExpo replaces MSU Ag Expo

As many of you know, the Michigan Biosolids Team displayed at the Annual Michigan State University (MSU) Ag Expo. Due to poor attendance and other factors, 2014 was the last year MSU held this event. Fortunately, AgroLiquid of St. Johns felt Michigan needed an Agricultural show so with the support of many entities, they launched AgroExpo in August 2016. It was originally scheduled for 3 days but very wet

weather cancelled the show after 11/2 days. AgroLiquid moved the show to a different site and reduced the time to 2 days. The Michigan Biosolids Team planted a **Demonstration Plot the** last two years with success! Corn was planted each of these vears as well as for 2019. The Biosolids are provided by NEFCO, who is contracted by the Great Lakes Water Authority (formerly Detroit Water and Sewer District). The dates for 2019 are

August 13 & 14. The Biosolids Team would like to say a special thank you to AgroLiquid's Tim Duckert for applying the commercial fertilizer, planting the corn, applying herbicide, and irrigating the crop.



## Michigan Farm Bureau joins Michigan Biosolids Team

The Michigan Biosolids Team now has a fifth member, **Michigan Farm Bureau.** Laura Campbell, Manager of Agricultural Ecology for Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) became involved in Biosolids when then State Senator Zorn was proposing legislation to restrict biosolids application in Michigan. Since MFB's member-driven policy supports land applying biosolids under the current Part 24 rules, they proposed to Senator Zorn to meet with stakeholders and develop user

friendly information to distribute to the public and place on the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) biosolids web page: <u>https://mi-wea.org/biosolids -</u> <u>land application.php</u>

This effort prompted Senator Zorn not to pursue legislation. Since that time, Laura has become involved in nearly all Biosolids Team meetings and activities including the recent 2019 Biosolids Conference. We welcome Laura and MFB to the Michigan Biosolids Team!



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# Amendments

### 2019 Biosolids Conference

The Michigan Biosolids Team held its 2019 Biosolids Conference in March with tours of the Detroit Zoo Waste digestion system and the NEFCO pelletizing facility. The well-attended second day featured Dr. John Ikerd presenting on the challenges and opportunities of today's agricultural environment, along with very good presentations on the ongoing PFAS issues. Presentations are available at <u>www.mi-wea.org/biosolids</u>. We are beginning to plan for the 2020 Biosolids Conference. At this point, any ideas, topics, speakers, or papers are welcome. Feel free to contact Steve Mahoney at <u>mahoneys@michigan.gov</u>.

## **Biosolids Display Banners**

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) developed new display banners replacing the old pipes and boards we have been using for more than 15 years.



### Kim Hackbardt is Retiring!

After nearly 25 years as City of Wyoming CWP Biosolids Coordinator, Kim has decided to retire to spend more time with family and be a full-time farmer. Kim has been a very strong advocate for the

Michigan Biosolids Program and was always available to help with education functions, working the conferences, and looking for new ways of doing things. Kim has a larger than life sense of

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humor and probably remembers every joke he heard to pass along to anyone nearby, especially if you were riding in the car with him! We will miss him and wish him the best retirement!

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