

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act**

Negotiation Schedule for 2026 Processing Asparagus

Commodity		Action Required	Date
Processing Asparagus	Marketing Period		April 15, 2026 – July 7, 2026
	60 days prior to the beginning of the marketing period	Negotiations begin around this date. Assn. annual report due, including handlers with whom they'll negotiate	February 13, 2026 (Friday)
	30 days prior to the beginning of the marketing period	Last day to opt out of bargaining	March 16, 2026 (Monday) Opt out letter should be to AMBB no later than close of business on Monday, March 16, 2026
	First day of the marketing period	Arbitration timetable begins	April 15, 2026 (Wednesday) is the deadline for conclusion of negotiations. Contact AMBB at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday April 15, 2026, if no settlement exists
	Thirteenth day of marketing period	Last day to submit name of joint settlement committee person to AMBB administrative staff	April 28, 2026 (Tuesday) – Contact AMBB no later than 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026
	Fifteenth day of marketing period	Date that agreement on joint settlement person must be made	April 30, 2026 (Thursday) – Contact AMBB at 8:00 a.m. Thursday April 30, 2026, to arrange for selection of Joint Settlement Chairperson
	Thirtieth day of marketing period	Arbitration hearing should convene prior to this date.	May 15, 2026 (Friday) – Submit to AMBB no later than close of business on May 15, 2026
	Thirty days following the beginning of the marketing period	Date that negotiated settlements are due to the AMBB administrative staff	May 15, 2026 (Friday) – Submit to AMBB no later than close of business on May 15, 2026
	Twenty days following arbitration hearing completion	Joint Settlement Committee's award should be submitted to AMBB administrative staff.	Date to be determined
	Thirty days following the award of the joint settlement committee	Signed award is due to the AMBB administrative staff	Date to be determined