

MICHIGAN CORN

BETWEEN THE ROWS

The Joint Magazine of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association



R E G I S T E R N O W F O R T H E 2 0 1 6

Great Lakes Crop Summit!

BETWEEN THE ROWS

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New 2016 S-Series Combines

with Dyna-Flo™ Plus and Active Terrain Adjustment



New Dyna-Flo Plus cleaning shoe is designed to help you put your best foot forward, offering higher-capacity harvest than ever before. Plus, new Active Terrain Adjustment automatically adjusts shoe settings on slopes for greater productivity.

- Dyna-Flo Plus has 12% more surface area for smoother operation and increased capacity (10% in corn, 13% in wheat & canola)
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- On inclines, Active Terrain Adjustment opens both the chaffer and sieve, while reducing fan speed to keep grain from going out the rear
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Real Talk about GMO's

By: Jim Zook, Executive Director, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

Here at the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, our mission is ultimately to help Michigan farmers grow their businesses. A big part of that is educating the public and our policymakers about the realities of modern agriculture and fighting back against myths and misinformation that attack our livelihoods.



Lately, when I'm talking to consumers and policymakers, one of the hottest topics is genetically modified organisms. Food is a very personal thing, and Michigan families care deeply about what they are feeding their children and loved ones. With so much bad information being spread on social media, on television and in the news, it can be difficult to set the record straight.

To help spread the facts about GMO's, we've created a new brochure called

"Real Talk about GMO's." This brochure explains what GMO's are, why farmers might choose to use GMO seeds, and answers some of the most common

questions and concerns about GMO's.

We're distributing these at events across the state, getting them into the hands of our legislators and sharing them online.

I encourage you to use this valuable resource as you talk with your neighbors and legislators. You can obtain copies of the brochure by:

- Flipping to pages 4 and 5 where we've printed a version that you can tear out to use as a reference or pass along to a friend.
- Visiting us online at www.micorn.org to download a digital version.
- Calling us at (517) 668-2676 to request hard copies of the brochure. We will mail these to you at no cost.

We also have information available on a variety of other topics from ethanol to exports. Please do not hesitate to give us a call if you need printed materials or background information on any corn-related topics.

Message from the MCGA President:

Legislative Updates from the MCGA

By: Alvin Ferguson, President
Michigan Corn Growers Association

As we wrap up 2015, we've seen movement on a host of important legislative issues that have a direct effect on Michigan corn growers. Throughout the process, MCGA has been actively involved, standing up for Michigan agriculture and making sure that our legislators hear our voices loudly and clearly. Here are a few issues where we've successfully engaged with our lawmakers:

The Renewable Fuel Standard

Last month, the EPA announced the final levels for the Renewable Fuel Standard, which calls for blending ethanol into our fuel supply. It was because of the hard work of organizations, including the MCGA and our members, that the EPA increased the levels from its previous proposal. While this change represents a positive step, we are disappointed that the

final announcement still falls below the levels originally in the law. Our work so far has paid

off, and we will continue fighting on your behalf to increase markets for corn-based ethanol.

Crop Insurance Funding

In October, the U.S. House of Representatives was considering a budget proposal that would have cut funding for federal crop insurance programs. Not only would these cuts have hit farmers at a time when we are already dealing with low corn prices, but it would have reopened the Farm Bill – something that could have serious negative consequences. Thanks to the actions of farmers across the country, this provision was stripped from the budget bill.

MAEAP Funding

Earlier this year, the Michigan legislature reauthorized funding the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance program. During the



process, there were attempts made to divert some of the funding from this valuable program, but MCGA worked with other state commodity groups to protect the program.

We've also been actively talking to our legislators about genetically modified organisms, water regulations and trade policy. These issues aren't going away anytime soon, and our continued advocacy and engagement will be critical in the months to come.

With the help of our members, we've successfully advocated for state and federal policies that benefit Michigan agriculture and Michigan corn farmers. I'm proud of the work we've done over the past year, and I'm looking forward to working with our members to continue that work into the future.

Message from the CMPM President:

U.S. Grains Council Does Valuable Work for Michigan Growers

By: Richard Dobbins, President
Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) is always looking for ways to increase markets and demand for Michigan corn and corn products. One area where we've seen success is in our work to expand exports through the U.S. Grains Council (USGC).

With 10 international offices and a network of consultants spanning the globe, the USGC team is on duty around the clock, searching for new opportunities and building partnerships based on mutual respect and trust. The CMPM is proud to be a part of this network, providing consistent support for USGC programs around the world. We also have multiple board members, including myself, involved in action teams and helping shape the direction of the organization.

The USGC tailors its programs to meet individual countries' cultures and needs. The organization's technical programs teach livestock and poultry

producers how to use feed grains effectively and manage their operations efficiently. Its trade servicing efforts educate potential and current customers about the U.S. marketing system, including financing, government programs, U.S. feed grains quality and prices. USGC's trade policy initiatives identify foreign barriers to facing U.S. feed grains and work to eliminate them in partnership with U.S. and foreign governments and industry coalitions.

In the 2014/2015 marketing year, the United States exported 1.8 billion bushels of corn valued at \$9 billion. An additional 11.5 million metric tons of DDGS valued at \$1.7 billion were also sold overseas, along with 870 million gallons of U.S. ethanol, valued at almost \$2 billion.



This year, the USGC ramped up its new ethanol export promotion program, seeing its first direct success with an ethanol sale to Peru; China claimed the top spot in DDGS and sorghum purchases despite policy challenges; and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiators finally reached a deal.

The USGC had a successful and fruitful 2015, but this complex work is never done. While the council is exploring new frontiers like ethanol exports and a program to help develop the poultry industry in Tanzania, they're also working to maintain high-quality trade relationships in mature markets like Canada, Japan, Korea and Taiwan and seeking out new and untapped opportunities for Michigan farmers.

When trade works, the world wins.

Real Talk About

GMOs

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS



What are GMOs?

GMO stands for "genetically modified organism." GMOs are created by intentionally making a copy of a gene for a desired trait from one plant or organism and using it in another plant.

Farmers have been using selective breeding to alter crops for taste, yield and disease resistance for hundreds of years. GMOs simply speed up that process.

Which crops are genetically modified?



Corn



Alfalfa



Papaya



Cotton



Sugar Beets



Canola



Soybeans



Squash

The USDA has approved several additional GMO crops that are in the process of being commercialized.



Q Are GMOs safe?

A Yes! Crops from GM seeds are studied extensively to make sure they are safe for people, animals and the environment before they even reach the market. Today's GMOs are the most researched and tested agricultural products in history. Currently available GMO crops are compositionally and nutritionally the same as their conventional counterparts; for example, GM corn is the same as non-GM corn.

Q Will GMOs make me sick, trigger allergies or cause other diseases?

A No! According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, GMOs do not present any health risk. Farmers have been growing GM crops since 1994, and in that time there has not been a single documented instance of harm to human health resulting from genetic modifications, including new allergic reactions, cancers, infertility, ADHD or any other diseases.

Q Do GMOs contain pesticides?

A No! GMOs are bred to resist chemicals and/or insects. They do not contain pesticides or herbicides.

Why grow GMOs?

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- GMO crops allow farmers to apply pesticides in a more targeted way, reducing their overall use.
- Herbicide-tolerant crops allow farmers to plow less often, which means fewer trips across the field and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- GMOs have been bred to resist drought, and new varieties are in development that will use nitrogen and other resources more efficiently.

KEEPING FOOD COSTS DOWN

- Corn and soybeans are ingredients in many food products, and are also used to feed the animals that produce our meat, milk and eggs.
- GMO's boost yields and protect crops from tough conditions like droughts. That means more food is available at lower prices for consumers.

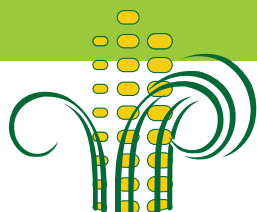
IMPROVING NUTRITION

- In the future, GMOs could help reduce allergies and improve nutrition in common crops. For example:
 - Golden Rice that helps deliver vitamin A to children in developing nations.
 - Pineapple with lycopene, which may help prevent certain types of cancers.
 - Peanuts with very low allergen levels that could eliminate life-threatening allergies.

18 Million farmers in 28 countries plant GM crops

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| • Canada | • Colombia | • South Africa | • Romania | • Philippines |
| • United States | • Brazil | • Burkina Faso | • Pakistan | • Australia |
| • Mexico | • Bolivia | • Sudan | • India | • Argentina |
| • Cuba | • Paraguay | • Spain | • Bangladesh | • Czech Republic |
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Between the Rows 2016: Call for Hosts

BETWEEN THE ROWS TOUR

Last year's inaugural Between the Rows Tour was a great success. CMPM staff conducted yield checks across the state and held meetings at 8 different farms to update farmers on the crop conditions.

Meetings also included a discussion with grain dealers about the market outlook for this year's crop and concluded with a question and answer session about the corn industry and the

work of the CMPM and the Michigan Corn Growers Association.

CMPM is putting together the 2016 tour and we need your help! We need farmers interested in hosting a tour stop at their farm. Farms will be responsible for providing a meeting space that will accommodate 50 guests and arranging catering for dinner. CMPM will reimburse hosts for the cost of catering.

If you are interested in hosting, or if you would like more information, please contact Theresa Sisung at (517) 668-2676.

Responses Needed!

December USDA Surveys

This month, the USDA will be conducting surveys of growers to determine 2015 crop acreage and yields. It's very important that growers respond to these surveys because the outcomes will have a direct impact on ARC payments.

In the past, USDA estimates in some counties have

been incorrect. It is absolutely vital that they receive updated, correct information from growers so they can calculate yields and acreage in a realistic way.

Watch your mailbox for the survey from USDA, and please take a few moments to respond. This could have a real impact on your farming operation.

Staying relevant in today's marketplace means working with a cooperative whose business is being relevant.

Everything we do at CHS, from energy supplies and grain marketing to crop nutrients and risk management, serves a single purpose: to help our owners grow—all 600,000 of them. We do this in three important ways: by investing for growth on your behalf; by staying strong financially and returning profits back to you; and by providing local expertise and global connections.

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2016 Great Lakes Crop Summit



Your Farm. Your Future.
January 27 - 28, 2016

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Mt. Pleasant



A joint effort of the
Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee
Michigan Wheat Program

More information available at
www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com

	<i>Exhibit Hall</i>	<i>Saginaw Room</i>	<i>Swan Creek Room</i>	<i>Black River Room</i>	<i>Three Fires Room</i>
Wednesday, January 27, 2016					
8:00 a.m.	Registration, Exhibits Open and Continental Breakfast				
9:00 a.m.	500 Bushel Corn - National Corn Yield Contest Winner A first generation farmer talks about professional results in daily efforts, a motto that has worked for him. <i>Randy Dowdy, Farmer, Valdosta, Georgia</i> (1 CM)				
10:15 a.m.	Stop the Fighting on the Way to the Funeral Home From conversations to contracts, from assumptions to clarifications, from complaints to celebrations, eyes will be opened and people will be saved from fighting on the way to the funeral home. <i>Jolene Brown, motivational speaker and Iowa farmer</i> (1 PD)				
11:15 a.m.	Lunch, Exhibits Open and Soybean Yield Contest Awards				
1:30 p.m.		Maximizing Soybean Demand Through Exports and New Uses <i>John Campen, USB; Phil Sarnacke, OMNI-Tech, Mark Seamon, MSPC</i> (1 PD)	In-depth Look at 500 Bushel Corn Questions and conversation with Randy Dowdy. What Michigan farmers can take home from a high yield winner. <i>Randy Dowdy</i> (1 CM)	Not All Fields are the Same When and where do N & P leave fields via tile drains or surface runoff. <i>Kevin King, USDA-ARS, Ohio</i> (1 SW)	Farmer Brown on Family Business Tested take-home tools to create a positive transition for labor, management, leadership and ownership. <i>Jolene Brown</i> (1 PD)
2:30 p.m.		Wheat and Soybean Disease Management White mold & SDS in soybeans; management of wheat diseases with fungicides and N. <i>Dr. Marty Chilvers, MSU</i> (1 PM)	Ethanol's Impact on the Future of Corn A perspective from local to national to international <i>Lacey Dixon, American Coalition for Ethanol and Jeff Sandborn, NCGA Corn Board member and past ethanol committee chair</i> (1 CM)	Managing Soil Quality in a Corn Soybean Rotation <i>Dr. George Bird, MSU</i> (1 SW)	Herbicides & New Crop Resistance Technologies Using new skills for success. Enlist & Xtend will be discussed. <i>Dr. David Hillger, Dow AgroSciences and Rod Stevenson, Monsanto</i> (1 PM)
3:30 p.m.			Critical Times in the Life of a Corn Plant Achieving your environmental yield potential. <i>Dr. Dewey Lee, Univ. of Georgia</i> (1 CM)	Soil Fertility Incorporating what you know into what you do for best use of P & K in crop production. <i>Dr. Robert Mullen, PotashCorp</i> (1 NM)	Farmer Brown on Family Business Tested take-home tools to create a positive transition for labor, management, leadership and ownership. <i>Jolene Brown</i> (1 PD)
4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open	Michigan Corn Growers Association and Michigan Soybean Association Annual Meetings			
5:00 p.m.	GreenStone Connect Reception - Exhibit Hall				
6:00 p.m.	Dinner - Exhibit Hall				
8:00 p.m.		Reception Sponsored by BASF - Sagniaw Room			

Available Credits

- Four RUP recertification credits available per day. Eight available for full attendance.
- CCA credits are listed on the agenda above for PM, SW, NM, CP and PD. Ten credits available for full attendance.
- One Phase 1 MAEAP Credit

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Lodging is not included in the registration for the Great Lakes Crop Summit. A block of rooms is available at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort at a reduced rate. Reservations must be made prior to January 4, 2016 using the group code MCMP012516. (Please note that is a zero in the code) To make a reservation, visit www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com or call 877-232-4532 and mention that you are with the Corn Marketing Program.

	Exhibit Hall	Saginaw Room	Swan Creek Room	Black River Room	Three Fires Room
Thursday, January 28, 2016					
7:30 a.m.	Exhibits Open and Continental Breakfast				
8:15 a.m.	Food Consumer Personalities What drives their attitudes, beliefs, intentions and behavior, and what they expect from farmers. <i>Terry Fleck, The Center For Food Integrity, St. Louis, MO (1 PD)</i>				
9:15 a.m.		Maximizing Soybean Demand Through Exports and New Uses <i>John Campen, USB; Phil Sarnacke, OMNI-Tech, Mark Seamon, MSPC (1 PD)</i>	Critical Times in the Life of a Corn Plant Achieving your environmental yield potential. <i>Dr. Dewey Lee, Univ. of Georgia (1 CM)</i>	Not All Fields are the Same When and where do N & P leave fields via tile drains or surface runoff. <i>Kevin King, USDA-ARS, Ohio (1 SW)</i>	Consumer Trends on Farms and Foods What do consumers really think? Ask questions & learn how the end-user perceives modern agriculture. <i>Panel of millennial consumers (1 PD)</i>
10:15 a.m.		Understanding the Yield Components that Drive Soybean Yields <i>Missy Bauer, B&M Consulting (1 NM)</i>	Soil Fertility Incorporating what you know into what you do for best use of P & K in crop production. <i>Dr. Robert Mullen, PotashCorp (1 NM)</i>	Accelerating Michigan's Wheat Yields Key research findings on moving wheat yields higher. <i>Martin Nagelkirk & Dennis Pennington, MSU (1 CM)</i>	Elder Care What to Know as Parents Age and You Become the Caregiver <i>Sharon Burgess, Smith Bovill, P.C. (1 PD)</i>
11:15 a.m.	Exhibits Open and Lunch Sponsored by Crop Production Services				
12:45 p.m.		Eliminate the Weak Links in Wheat Yields <i>Missy Bauer, B&M Consulting (1 NM)</i>	Technology in the Field Putting field by field data to work to make decisions. <i>Jeff Hinen, The Climate Corporation (1 PM)</i>	Herbicides & New Crop Resistance Technologies Using new skills for success. Enlist & Xtend will be discussed. <i>Dr. David Hillger, Dow AgroSciences and Rod Stevenson, Monsanto (1 PM)</i>	Using Technology to Compare Land Use Features Tracking DNA of microbial sources to distinguish human or livestock pollutants in Michigan watersheds. <i>Dr. Joan Rose, MSU (1 SW)</i>
1:45 p.m.		Population Management for High Yielding Soybeans <i>Missy Bauer, B&M Consulting (1 CM)</i>	Technology in the Field Putting field by field data to work to make decisions. <i>Jeff Hinen, The Climate Corporation (1 PM)</i>	Corn Diseases Management and foliar fungicides to reduce stalk and ear diseases. <i>Dr. Marty Chilvers, MSU (1 PM)</i>	Creative Cropping Systems <i>Farmer panel TBD</i>

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	SELECT	Carbon Green BioEnergy Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC Fraleigh Law Firm, PLLC Great Lakes Hybrids	Mycogen Seeds & Dow AgroSciences Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants Zeeland Farm Services

Great Lakes Crop Summit - January 27 - 28, 2016

Register on line (www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com) or via this form. Space is limited so register by Jan. 8, 2016 for best rates and availability.

Walks-ins are not guaranteed a spot. Make motel reservations separately by calling Soaring Eagle at 877-232-4532 or via www.GreatLakesCropSummit.com. Prior to January 4, the group room rate is \$109, with code: MCMP012516.

Please Make Copies If Necessary & Return All Forms Together

Name: _____

Farm/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Please check the options that describe you (You may select more than one)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Agribusiness | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soybean Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Attendee #2

Name: _____

Farm/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Please check the options that describe you (You may select more than one)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Agribusiness | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soybean Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

	Early	Late After Jan. 8	Numer of People	Total
First Attendee (Both Days)	\$150	\$175	1	\$
Additional Attendees (Both Days)	\$125	\$150		\$
Student - Wednesday (ID required at check-in)	\$50	\$50		\$
Student - Thursday (ID required at check-in)	\$50	\$50		\$
Total Number of People & Fees:				\$

Payment Information

Form of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card #: - - -

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ CCV Code: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Return registration form with check, made payable to Great Lakes Crop Summit, or credit card information to:

Great Lakes Crop Summit - 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 5, Lansing, MI 48906

For registration questions, please contact Theresa Sisung at (888) 323-6601, or tsisung@micorn.org.

Changes Coming to MCGA MAEAP Grant

Due to the overwhelming success of MCGA's MAEAP reimbursement grant, we have reached the end of funding for the grant program.

If you have recently become MAEAP verified or will be verified by December 31, 2015 you are still eligible to apply for a \$300 grant from the MCGA. However,

after January 1, 2016 we will no longer be offering this grant. We will instead be providing all newly MAEAP verified corn farmers with a free three-year membership to the MCGA.

If you have questions or would like additional information please call Tera Havard at 517-668-2676.

MSUE 2016 Meetings

Jan. 12 - Shifter's Restaurant

3130 W. Monroe, Alma, MI 48801

Contact: Paul Gross

Phone: 989-317-4079

msue.isabella@county.msu.edu

Jan. 14 - Bavarian Inn Lodge

1 Covered Bridge Lane

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Contact: Phil Kaatz

Phone: 810-667-0341

msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu

Jan. 15 - Sanilac Career Center

175 E. Aiken Road, Peck, MI 48466

Contact: Martin Nagelkirk

Phone: 810-648-2515

msue.sanilac@county.msu.edu

Feb. 2 - Alpena Community College

Newport Center, Room 106

655 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707

Contact: James Dedecker

Phone: 989-734-2168

msue.presqueisle@county.msu.edu

**Agenda differs slightly for this location*

Feb. 3 - The Trestle Stop Restaurant

3366 M-40, Hamilton, MI 49419

Contact: Bruce MacKellar

Phone: 269-657-8213

msue.vanburen@county.msu.edu

Feb. 4 - Dowagiac Conservation Club

54551 M-51 North, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Contact: Bruce MacKellar

Phone: 269-657-8213

msue.vanburen@county.msu.edu



JOHN DEERE
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Tom Warschewsky
Regional Director

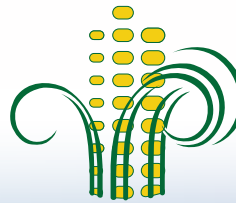
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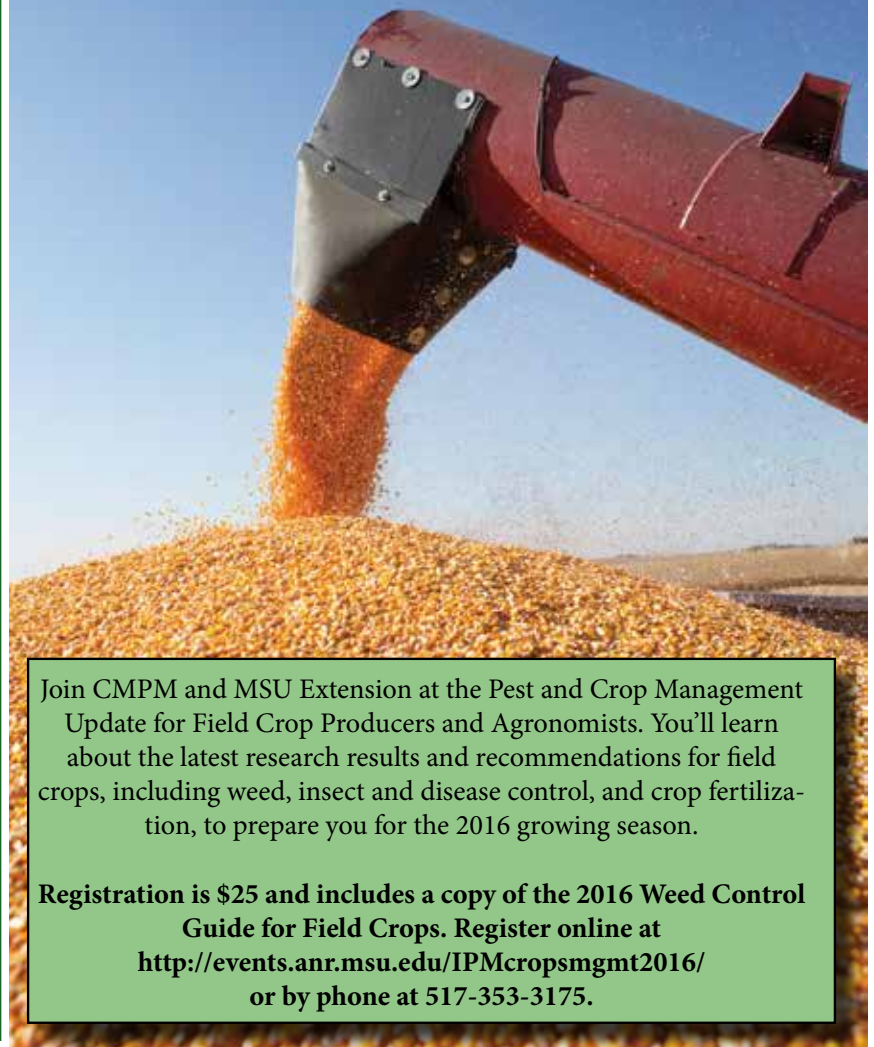
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CORN MARKETING PROGRAM
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Supporting Research to GROW Your Bottom Line



Join CMPM and MSU Extension at the Pest and Crop Management Update for Field Crop Producers and Agronomists. You'll learn about the latest research results and recommendations for field crops, including weed, insect and disease control, and crop fertilization, to prepare you for the 2016 growing season.

Registration is \$25 and includes a copy of the 2016 Weed Control Guide for Field Crops. Register online at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/IPMcropsmgmt2016/> or by phone at 517-353-3175.

2016 Scholarship - Michigan Corn Growers Association



**Giving back to our members
while promoting and
supporting higher education
to young adults**

Eligibility

- ▲ Member of MCGA or their kids (student or associate members included)
- ▲ Ages 17-25
- ▲ Enrolled in post-secondary education for fall 2016

Application Information

- ▲ Completed Application (includes career plans and an essay)
- ▲ Two letters of recommendation
- ▲ Resume
- ▲ Copy of a recent transcript

All applications must be received by the Michigan Corn Growers Association office no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2016

For more information or to get the application, visit our website at www.micorn.org

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MCGA Annual Meeting - You're Invited!

The 2016 MCGA Annual Meeting will be held during the Great Lakes Crop Summit on January 27th at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant at 4:30 p.m. Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from last year's meeting attendees, we will again be holding concurrent annual meetings with the Michigan Soybean Association.



Join us for a short and informative program which will include appetizers and drinks. Don't forget to register for our awesome door prizes. We hope to see you there!

For more information please call Penni Sweeney at (517) 668-2676.

Visit the Michigan Corn Booth at the Great Lakes Crop Summit

If you are planning to attend the Great Lakes Crop Summit be sure to stop by the Michigan Corn booth. Here are just a few of the reasons you should stop by:

- The first 100 members to visit us will receive a special gift. Don't worry if you
- are not a member yet, we will sign you up and you can receive a gift too.
- We are your one stop shop for information regarding issues that are important to Michigan's corn industry such as GMO's, ethanol, exports and current legislative issues.
- We'll have a photo booth where you can take a new profile picture for social media or just to share with your friends and family. We will be handing out t-shirts to those brave souls who are willing to model for us.

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MCGA Executive Director Jim Zook gives an update on the 2015 growing season to state legislative staff during an ALM Lunch and Learn at the Michigan Capitol.

Agricultural Leaders of Michigan Work Together to Educate Public, Policymakers

Michigan agriculture has a positive story to tell – but too often, decision-makers and consumers don't fully understand the work happening across our industry. That's why the Agricultural Leaders of Michigan was founded four years ago. ALM is focused on promoting Michigan agriculture, participating in the ongoing dialogue about issues affecting our state, and harnessing agriculture's potential to grow Michigan's economy.

Member of ALM include the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA); GreenStone Farm Credit Services; the Michigan Agri-Business Association; Michigan Milk Producers Association; Michigan Pork Producers Association; Potato Growers of Michigan Inc.; Michigan Soybean Association and Michigan Bean Commission.

Meetings with federal lawmakers

In February, ALM members met for breakfast with members of Michigan's Congressional delegation, including House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton, Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, House Agriculture Committee member Rep. Dan Benishek, Rep. John Moolenaar, Rep. Debbie Dingell, Rep. Dan Kildee, Rep. Bill Huizenga and Rep. Dave Trott. Following coffee with the members of Congress, ALM members

also received a policy update briefing from staff of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee.

Lunch and Learn events at the Michigan Capitol

ALM's monthly "Lunch and Learn" events provide a chance for lawmakers, their staff and executive branch officials to learn about key issues in our industry. ALM brings expert speakers to the state capitol – including ALM member organizations to discuss key issues in our industry.

A wide range of topics are highlighted throughout the year – from updates on crop progress, to challenges from disease and weather events, to nutrition guidelines and opportunities to increase exports from Michigan. MCGA gave two presentations this year. By including many different commodity group leaders and outside experts, the lunch events emphasize the diversity of Michigan agriculture.

Women in Agriculture Event

In August, ALM welcomed USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden and Sen. Stabenow to Lansing for an event focused on women in Michigan agriculture. Bringing together more than 100 women from across our industry at all levels of leadership, the half-day event served as a springboard for professional development, networking and information sharing.

Radio updates on WJR radio and MLive

ALM members record a weekly agricultural update that airs every Sunday evening on WJR radio and its statewide affiliates. The WJR reports give MCGA and other member organizations a chance to share updates on our industry, reaching an audience that doesn't connect with agriculture often. The WJR report is turned into a short post on MLive, Michigan's statewide online news outlet, and posted to ALM's social media pages.

Working with Policymakers and the Media

In addition to these key events, ALM came together to support many different issues impacting our agriculture sector throughout the year. Members worked together on a media teleconference supporting trade normalization with Cuba; sent letters to Congress urging common-sense policy on GMO labeling, child nutrition and other key issues; and brought large trucks to the Michigan Capitol to highlight the benefits of Michigan's unique truck weight regulations.

You can learn more about the Agricultural Leaders of Michigan by visiting www.agleadersmi.com or visiting ALM on Facebook and Twitter.



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Matt Holysz – District 2

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Paul Wagner – District 9 (Secretary)

Ned Wyse – District 3



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Eric Voisinnet – District 4

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Michigan Corn Office Staff

Kay Barclay – Accountant and Office Administrator

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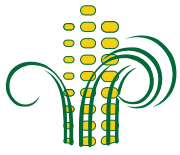
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Penni Sweeney – Membership & Events Coordinator

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