

# Michigan AgFacts<sup>©</sup>

## Michigan Agri-Business Association

1501 North Shore Dr., Suite A, East Lansing, MI 48823  
 (517) 336-0223 ♦ FAX (517) 336-0227 ♦ www.miagbiz.org  
**James E. Byrum, President**

### Upcoming Events:

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**June 3, 2015**

**GRAIN GRADING  
SCHOOL**

USDA-GIPSA-FGIS  
Toledo/Maumee Field Office

**June 30, 2015**

**SCHOLARSHIP  
GOLF OUTING**

Hawk Hollow Golf Course  
Bath, MI

**August 6, 2015**

**APPLICATOR RODEO**

Mason Learning Center  
Mason, MI

**August 7, 2015**

**CCA EXAM**

Registration period:  
May 4 – June 26, 2015

**September 10, 2015**

**ED BROWN  
MEMORIAL  
GOLF OUTING**

The Fields Golf Course  
Ithaca, MI

**September 11-13, 2015**

**OUTLOOK  
CONFERENCE**

The Grand Hotel  
Mackinac Island, MI

**December 15, 2015**

**2016 DRY BEAN  
OUTLOOK  
CONFERENCE**

Bay City, MI  
*Info coming soon!*

**May 1, 2015**



**AGFACTS<sup>©</sup> FACT OF THE WEEK:** Holy Guacamole! According to the last census, there are 367 tortilla manufactures, employing over 16,000 people in the United States. And Americans consume up to 90 million pounds of avocados each year on [Cinco de Mayo \(May 5<sup>th</sup>\)!](#)

**CORN PLANTING IS LAGGING IN STATES TO THE SOUTH, AT LEAST IT WAS IN THE MONDAY REPORT, AND MINNESOTA AND STATES IN THAT REGION WERE WAY AHEAD!** Wet south and dry, very dry in the upper Midwest is causing this. Following is reported the corn planting progress, by percentage and week indicated, along with a five year average planting progress by this time.

State	Week Ending			2010/2014 Average
	April 26, 2014	April 19, 2014	April 26, 2015	
Illinois	28	15	31	37
Indiana	7	1	3	26
Iowa	13	7	14	24
Kentucky	29	2	7	45
Michigan	1	1	4	12
Minnesota	3	12	38	20
Missouri	44	8	20	44
Ohio	3	1	2	20

**WE ARE HEARING REPORTS OF FERTILIZER SHORTAGES AND WAREHOUSES OUT OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS.** This is going to be a challenge from here forward as the south tries to catch up, and all the rest of the country is in full bore planting mode. With the speed that farmers move today, coupled with the fact that there have been no significant rain delays in Michigan, product is flying out of warehouses. Replenishment is getting tougher and tougher as much of the product used here is brought in by truck because of the unreliability of rail, plus the lack of early season sales to farmers...means it all has to happen at once!

**“WE’RE FEEDING THE WORLD,” IS OFTEN THE MANTRA USED BY AGGIES TO DEFEND TECHNOLOGY OR BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE INDUSTRY.** The problem is that the latest research from The Center for Food Integrity (CFI) shows that most consumers don’t care! “The global population is forecast to reach nine billion by 2050. Feeding the nine billion will require technology

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and innovation that will help farmers raise more animals for food and grow more crops on the land already in production,” said Charlie Arnot, CEO of CFI. “But the ‘feeding the world’ message won’t generate public support for today’s agriculture technology.” In fact the latest research from The Center for Food Integrity, “[Cracking the Code on Food Issues: Insights from Moms, Millennials and Foodies](#),” shows that only 25% of consumers believe, “The U.S. has a responsibility to provide food for the rest of the world.” What consumers care about most, according to the survey, is having access to healthy, affordable food. For the last two years, that’s been a top concern. Building support for agriculture by talking about what farmers and agribusinesses do to help keep food healthy and affordable are better sound bites than feeding the world. For example, share with them how modern farming innovations like genetically modified seed and indoor animal handling systems allow farmers to produce safe food using fewer resources, with the added benefit of holding down costs. “Building trusting relationships with consumers is about making what you’re doing – and talking about – what is relevant to them and helping them understand that you share their values when it comes to important issues like animal care, the environment and providing healthy, affordable food” said Arnot. A summary of the CFI research, “Cracking the Code on Food Issues: Insights from Moms, Millennials and Foodies,” can be downloaded at [www.foodintegrity.org](http://www.foodintegrity.org). Contact CFI at [learnmore@foodintegrity.org](mailto:learnmore@foodintegrity.org).

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WANT MORE CONTROL OVER DECIDING WHICH GOVERNMENT AGENCY CONTROLS THE REGULATION AND LABELS FOR FOOD CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS.** There is a disagreement between the FDA and USDA, and their respective jurisdictional committees in the House about how to proceed, and that leaves the "Safe and Accurate Labeling Act," [H.R. 1599](#), in limbo. The bill was introduced last month with bipartisan support to create a federal standard for labeling and definitions, but nothing has happened beyond that. That frustrates members of the Agriculture Committee, which has some jurisdiction over the bill, but less control than the Energy and Commerce Committee (Chaired by Michigan Congressman Fred Upton), which has oversight of FDA. The bill would pre-empt state initiatives to require labels on foods containing GMOs reaffirm FDA's role in regulating food labels and allow the agency to develop guidelines for a voluntary labeling system. The legislation would also allow USDA to certify non-GMO products, in a manner similar to its certified organic program. Agriculture backers in the House see USDA as bringing a softer touch to labeling than FDA. The issue between committees is not the only thing stalling H.R. 1599. While Senate agriculture supporters say they support a law to pre-empt state GMO labeling initiatives, no one has come forward with a bill. In addition, the difficulty in passing H.R. 1599 is apparent to many, especially those that want GMO labels, and that is a tough issue, and the activist food lobby is fighting the bill. Chairman Upton has announced plans to hold a hearing on the bill, probably in June, and bring it before the full committee in late July or September. This is consistent with what he told the Michigan Agri-Business Leadership Group in February.

**CHIPOTLE SAYS THAT THEY HAVE GONE GMO-FREE. THAT MEANS NONE OF THE INGREDIENTS FOR THEIR MENU ITEMS WILL BE GENETICALLY MODIFIED, INCLUDING TORTILLAS, RICE, CHIPS AND SALSA, AND ALSO THE MARINADES USED TO COOK THEIR MEATS.** Sourcing ingredients that have not been genetically modified is not an easy thing, and the process has been years in the making. All Chipotle restaurants are now using non-GMO corn, which goes into many ingredients. Chipotle has also switched its cooking oil from soybean oil to GMO-free sunflower oil and rice bran oil. Chipotle is the first

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national fast food chain to go this far in removing GMOs from their menus. Some 80% of the food consumed in the U.S. is genetically modified, according to the USDA. Chipotle, once partly owned by McDonalds, has always taken a different approach to the market than fast food competitors, and company management says that they are happy with the way their decision is resonating with the public. While McDonalds and other chains watch their sales and market share erode, Chipotle is a major growth story. It has doubled its number of restaurants in 5 years to 1,831 from 976, and their stock has skyrocketed about 350%, while McDonald's gained 38%.

**CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN FAST AND FURIOUS WITHIN AGRICULTURE AND ELSEWHERE IN SOCIETY REGARDING CHIPOTLE'S DECISION, AND THE CHAIN HAS BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED FOR THE MOVE IN PRINT AND ONLINE.** Many are identifying the action as simply a marketing ploy that will increase the misunderstanding of GMO technology and further promote pseudoscience. Even the Los Angeles Times, and other respected media outlets have bashed the company for their move. As an example, the American Feed Industry Association says that they, "strongly believe in the consumer's right to choose where and what they eat, and supports a company's right to choose its policies and practices. However, while making decisions that are right for us personally and/or our businesses (regardless if it is one person or a multi-billion dollar company) we must not condemn others' choices, particularly when scientifically sound data is lacking to support one's agenda."

**THE BROADER ISSUE HERE IS THAT CHIPOLTE IS LIKELY APPEALING TO THEIR TARGET MARKET, AND THEIR FACEBOOK COMMENTS, THOUGH MIXED ARE LARGELY POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR DECISION.** It is also interesting all those that say they will boycott Chipolte...that have never eaten at one of their restaurants. Pretty hollow threat... Perhaps energy might better be spent helping explain the benefits of more production from fewer acres and safer production because of fewer weed, insect and disease problems...thank you GMOs!

**A VERMONT LAW THAT COULD MAKE THE STATE THE FIRST IN THE COUNTRY TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GMO CONTAINING FOOD HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO STAND.** A U.S. District Court Judge this week ruled against the Grocery Manufacturers' Association (GMA) and other industry groups in their request for a preliminary order to block the law from going into effect on July 1, 2016. The judge partially granted and partially denied the state's motion to dismiss the industry lawsuit, meaning the case is likely to go to trial. Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell, whose office finalized rules to implement the law on April 17, said in an interview, "There's a lot of good news in this decision for us and for the heart and soul of the labeling law." GMA said it was pleased the court "found us likely to succeed on several of our claims" but was disappointed at the denial of its request for a preliminary injunction.

**THE EU HAS APPROVED 17 NEW BIOTECHNOLOGY TRAITS FOR IMPORT.** The traits, which include the Plenish and Vistive Gold high-oleic soybean varieties, as well as dicamba-tolerant and omega-3 soybeans, have been in the EU approval process for many years. The 17 products approved by the European Commission have been pending for 69 months on average, despite EU laws and regulations that claim an 18-month timeline for a decision. Whenever technology partners bring a new trait to market, farmers in the U.S. aren't able to fully recognize the benefits of products with those traits until they are accepted in key export markets. Even with this action, more than 40 additional applications for approval for import, submitted by various companies, remain pending in the EU. Also, action by the EU

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Commission earlier this week would allow each of the EU's 28 member states to "opt-out" of allowing imports of a fully EU approved, safe GMO product.

**AT THE RECENT ANNUAL MEETING OF SYNGENTA AG, BOARD CHAIRMAN MICHEL DEMARÉ REFERENCED RECENT DEBATES AND REGULATORY HURDLES THAT CONTINUE TO MAKE DOING BUSINESS A CHALLENGE FOR COMPANIES SUCH AS SYNGENTA.** "The future of our industry, and of our company, is still highly dependent on our license to operate in a world where we constantly face preconceived ideas and opposition about technology in agriculture," Demaré says. "The polarized debate about pollinators and neonicotinoids in Europe, and the contentious issue of the labeling of food containing genetically modified ingredients in the U.S., were just two issues which gained significant coverage in the past year. Syngenta continued to be active in this debate." Demaré's speech, the presentation of the CEO and other information from the meeting are [available here](#).

**BLOOMBERG BUSINESS REPORTS THAT MONSANTO HAS REPORTEDLY ONCE AGAIN APPROACHED SYNGENTA ABOUT A POSSIBLE TAKEOVER.** Combined with Syngenta, Monsanto would become the largest player in the world for both seeds and crop chemicals and a formidable competitor to Bayer, BASF and Dow. Syngenta, based in Basel, Switzerland, is the world's largest maker of crop chemicals whereas St. Louis-based Monsanto is the largest maker of seeds and dominates the global market for genetically modified crops such as corn and soybeans. Check out the full story on Bloomberg Business by [clicking here](#).

**TYSON IS STRIVING TO ELIMINATE THE USE OF HUMAN ANTIBIOTICS FROM ITS U.S. BROILER CHICKEN FLOCKS BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2017.** The company will report annually on its progress, beginning with its fiscal 2015 Sustainability Report. Tyson Foods has already stopped using all antibiotics in its 35 broiler hatcheries, requires a veterinary prescription for antibiotics used on broiler farms and has reduced human antibiotics used to treat broiler chickens by more than 80 percent since 2011. "Antibiotic resistant infections are a global health concern," said Donnie Smith, president and CEO of Tyson Foods. "We're confident our meat and poultry products are safe, but want to do our part to responsibly reduce human antibiotics on the farm so these medicines can continue working when they're needed to treat illness. Given the progress we've already made reducing antibiotics in our broilers, we believe it's realistic to shoot for zero by the end of our 2017 fiscal year. But we won't jeopardize animal well-being just to get there. We'll use the best available treatments to keep our chickens healthy, under veterinary supervision," Smith said. Tyson Foods is also forming working groups with independent farmers and others in the company's beef, pork and turkey supply chains to discuss ways to reduce the use of human antibiotics on cattle, hog and turkey farms. Those groups will begin meeting this summer. Tyson Foods' international business is committed to taking similar measures on antibiotic use in its global chicken operations but has not set a timeframe. "One of our core values is to serve as responsible stewards of animals – we will not let sick animals suffer," Smith said. "We believe it's our responsibility to help drive action towards sustainable solutions to this challenge by working with our chicken, turkey, beef and pork supply chains."

**A COALITION OF 30 ENVIRONMENTAL, FARM, GRASS-ROOTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FROM MICHIGAN, OHIO AND INDIANA, HAVE ASKED EPA ADMINISTRATOR GINA MCCARTHY TO INITIATE URGENT PROTECTIVE ACTIONS FOR LAKE ERIE, INCLUDING DECLARING THE WESTERN BASIN AN IMPAIRED WATERSHED.** The groups are urging the Administrator to address the harmful impacts of manure pollution by concentrated

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animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the entire watershed. CAFOs are large-scale agricultural facilities that confine hundreds to thousands of animals, or millions of poultry, in industrial environments and they generate massive amounts of nutrient-rich animal waste. “Ohio submitted a Nutrient Reduction Strategy Report to U.S. EPA which established that effective manure management is critical to see water quality improvements and measurable reductions in nutrient loadings.” said Vickie Askins, spokesperson for the Ohio Environmental Stewardship Alliance. “However, recent legislative efforts in Ohio have exempted CAFOs from new restrictions and have also failed to close existing loopholes in State laws for CAFOs.” This coalition believes the drinking water crisis in Toledo should have been a wake-up call to the potential impact massive amounts of nutrient-rich animal waste pose to the safety of Lake Erie. Consequently, the aforementioned groups believe taking a regional approach is imperative because of the cumulative impact CAFO waste in all three states is having on the western Lake Erie basin. The coalition has recommended banning the winter application of manure, requiring valid nutrient management plans for all CAFOs, and establishing numeric nutrient standards for Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. These regional measures should be instituted immediately. Barbara Sha Cox, spokesperson for the grass-roots Indiana CAFO Watch, said “This is a vital step in protecting the water. Clean water should be the goal of all residents and farmers. Our most valuable resource must be preserved for the future generations.”

**THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE’S (TFI) PRESIDENT CHRIS JAHN ANNOUNCED THAT TFI AND MORE THAN 100 PARTNERS WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE EXISTING INVESTMENT IN NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND IMPLEMENTATION.** The announcement was made at Michigan State University during a panel led by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last week. “4R Nutrient Stewardship – or in the words of Secretary Vilsack, the use of the right source, rate, timing and placement of fertilizer, is the framework that helps growers boost the performance of inputs, leading to a reduction in air emissions from fertilizer application and improved water quality,” said Jahn. “By way of this commitment, the Fertilizer industry and key stakeholders are taking concrete action to ensure that farmers have the best information about fertilizer management practices to achieve environmental and economic goals,” he continued. 4R Research Fund-sponsored work is currently being conducted with assistance from partners including USDA, The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund, as well as Iowa State, Ohio State, Duke, Kansas, Heidelberg, Purdue and Southern Illinois Universities and the University of Toledo. For more information on the 4R Research Fund, including project summaries and funding partners, can be found on [nutrientstewardship.org](http://nutrientstewardship.org) and on [IPNI’s website](http://IPNI's website).

**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS MAY AGREE THAT FARMERS NEED TO DO MORE TO CUT BACK NUTRIENT RUNOFF, BUT THE PATH TOWARD ACHIEVING THOSE CUTBACKS CONTINUES TO BE A POINT OF CONTENTION.** The question is whether water quality benefits are more easily achieved with government mandates, or voluntary measures. A group of panelists at the North American Agriculture Journalists annual meeting in Washington agreed there is no easy way to track the progress agriculture is making or not making toward reducing nutrient runoff. If conservation measures are mandated through government regulation, how would that work? The problem with mandatory conservation is basically you're asking the federal government to come in and mandate a land use. Bill Wilber, chief of the National Water Quality Assessment Program for the U.S. Geological Survey, said nitrate loading to the Gulf of Mexico has increased between 1980 and 2010 by about 14% despite efforts in the basin to reduce nutrient runoff.

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**LOGISTICS ISSUES ARE TOP OF MIND FOR PRODUCERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES ACROSS MICHIGAN, AND STATE GOVERNMENT POLICYMAKERS AND STAFF HAD A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISSUES AT A RECENT “LUNCH AND LEARN” EVENT COSPONSORED BY THE MICHIGAN AGRI-BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.** The event featured an opportunity for legislative and executive department staff to hear from Keith Reinholt of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, as well as Greg VanderWal and Gary Brower of Zeeland Farm Services. They highlighted Michigan agriculture’s growth in recent years and the need for reliable road, rail and water transportation infrastructure. Uncertainty and challenges have increased in all of these modes of transportation over recent years. At the briefing, Reinholt focused on the complexity of processing – and moving – soybeans produced in Michigan. “Moving soybeans is slightly more difficult in Michigan because we’re located north of major road and rail lines,” said Reinholt. “This poses additional considerations when it comes to transportation and processing, and we count on reliable truck and rail transportation options to move crops to markets around the world.” Michigan producers ship soybeans out of state (and often out of the United States) to be processed, said Reinholt. That means modern, reliable transportation options are critical to taking advantage of market opportunity. He noted similar logistics issues exist for other Michigan-produced crops. Although Michigan’s location is a factor in logistics, existing state policies allowing heavier trucks in Michigan help ease the logistical burden, according to VanderWal and Brower. “Michigan’s current truck weight policies provide a competitive advantage for our businesses, while also keeping fewer trucks on our roads,” said VanderWal. “By capping weight based on axle numbers, commodity transporters can be far more efficient, decreasing gasoline usage by nearly 50%, reducing strain on drivers and minimizing road congestion.” Michigan regulates truck weights by axle and not by load tons – meaning Michigan trucks can carry up to 164,000 pounds, as opposed to the federal limit of 80,000 pounds in place in other states. Because the heavier load is required to be spread across a greater number of truck axles, wear-and-tear on roads and highways is reduced.

**MOST CORN PRODUCERS HAVE PLANNED THEIR SPRING NITROGEN PROGRAM FOR 2015, AND MANY HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO APPLY IT.** University of Illinois crop scientist Emerson Nafziger says that “In recent years, there has been a trend toward more applications per crop, and it’s not unusual today to have nitrogen applied three or four times on the same field,” Nafziger said. In 2014 Nafziger and his team began a study, funded by the Illinois fertilizer checkoff program and administered by the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) board, with the goal of comparing yields from different nitrogen programs. These included a comparison of 15 ways to apply the same rate of nitrogen (150 lb. per acre) in the spring at three U of I research centers. Across the three sites, the highest-yielding treatment (urea plus Agrotain broadcast at planting) yielded statistically more than the five other treatments, but the second-best treatment (all of the nitrogen as UAN sidedressed at V5) yielded more than only the two lowest-yielding treatments. “Having so few distinct differences was due to the fact that treatments changed rank so much from one site to another,” Nafziger said. “That lowered the predictive ability of the experiment because we have no way to predict how a treatment that did well at one site but not another will perform at either site (or across sites) in 2015 or 2016, or in a field this year or in future years.” This points out the need for more Michigan based research in key production areas for the same purpose, determining best practices for nitrogen applications.

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## MEMBER BENEFITS!

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**THE CHEMICAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (CSAT) ASSISTS THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) IN IDENTIFYING HIGH-RISK CHEMICAL FACILITIES.** According to DHS, “any facility that manufactures, uses, stores or distributes certain chemicals above a specified quantity...has 60 days to complete and submit a CSAT Top-Screen.” DHS has communicated (as a pre-notification) to industry that “it will be sending out emails to a number of companies that have initiated a Top Screen, but NOT completed/submitted it for over 60 days.” According to information from The Fertilizer Institute, “the emails will request that the companies go into the system and submit their Top-Screen, or, if they are experiencing difficulties or have other issues, it will direct them to contact the help desk number, which will be provided.” Apparently there are more than 900 open Top-Screens that have been inactive for more than 60 days. In about one week, DHS will start sending emails in three waves over a period of approximately three weeks. For more information on this requirement, including a list of chemicals of interest and quantities of such chemicals triggering this requirement, please [click here](#).

**SUPPORTERS OF PROPOSAL 1 PLAN TO LAUNCH A THREE-DAY, NINE-CITY BUS TOUR THIS WEEK IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO CONVINC VOTERS TO APPROVE A NEARLY 17% INCREASE IN THE STATE SALES TAX RATE.** With one week until the special statewide election next Tuesday, the Safe Roads Yes ballot campaign is deploying teams of volunteers to call voters and track down unreturned absentee ballots over the proposed constitutional amendment linked to boosting road funding \$1.2 billion annually. Absentee voters have been targeted with mail, phone calls, digital advertising and some knocks on their doors by campaign volunteers and paid operatives. Opponents, who have criticized the measure as a big tax hike filled with non-road spending, have fielded their own get-out-the-vote efforts. MABA is encouraging a “yes” vote on the measure, especially since there is no credible plan “B” if this proposal fails, and the legislature isn’t likely to consider a tax hike only 1 ½ years away from an election...

**THERE IS A CRITICAL ISSUE FACING MANY GROWERS CONCERNING THE “CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE” PROVISION IN THE NEW FARM BILL.** This provision requires farmers to verify that they comply with the conservation requirements of USDA programs in order to participate in the crop insurance program. The deadline to submit this compliance form to the USDA Farm Service Agency is June 1. We have heard that there are many who have not yet filed the form, and about half of those affected in Michigan are specialty crop growers, although significant numbers of wheat, corn and soybean farmers also need to file. Again, any farmer participating in a USDA program (including crop insurance) must verify they are in compliance with conservation practices by June 1. This is a new requirement, and the first time that crop insurance program is affected, so even those who only participate in the crop insurance program will need to file. The form is called the “Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form” and can be obtained and filed at the local USDA service centers or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/AD1026form](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/AD1026form). Again, the deadline is June 1. Given this is a totally new requirement under the new Farm Bill, it’s recommended that growers talk to their FSA office and their crop insurance agent about the issue before the June 1, 2015, deadline if they have any questions. Producers that file that form by the deadline will be eligible for federal crop insurance premium support during the 2016 reinsurance year, which begins July 1, 2015.

**WHETHER FOR NOBLE INTERESTS IN GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY OR JUST AN ANNOYING INABILITY TO PROCESS LACTOSE, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE SHIFTING TOWARD PLANT-BASED DIETS.**

Interestingly enough, that same group has started to turn away from what has long been the go-to alternative to animal-based protein, soy. Enter the pea (the green type in a pod!), the trending plant-based protein source du jour. From a performance standpoint, the pea certainly has its merits. It's high in protein, rich in iron, and has a strong amino-acid profile, making for a sustained release in the body. It's in line with the overarching interests of the modern shopper, hypoallergenic, and easily digestible. It's also more soluble than other plant proteins, which makes it an attractive option for beverage brands looking to supplement their drinks with a vegan protein source.

**BLOOMBERG NEWS SAYS THAT GLENCORE PLC COULD BE INTERESTED IN BUYING THE ANDERSONS.**

Late last month after speculation surfaced, Anderson's shares jumped more than 6%. Glencore is interested in expanding its agricultural assets, and named The Andersons, Scoular and the Lansing Trade Group as possible targets. Swiss-based Glencore, a mining company and commodities trader, expanded its agriculture portfolio in 2012 with its \$6.1 billion purchase of Canadian grain handler Viterra. Glencore has said it is interested in acquisitions in the United States in a market dominated by ADM, Bunge, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus, known as the ABCDs of global grain trading.

**WE REGRET TO RECORD THE PASSING OF JOE MAUST, PRINCIPLE OF ACTIVE FEED AND FARM CREST FOODS IN PIGEON.**

Details are pending, but Michigan agriculture has lost a true gentleman and dedicated agri-business leader. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and associates.

**MABA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN SEED INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR THE AMERICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION'S (ASTA) 132ND ANNUAL CONVENTION AND "STORM THE HILL" EVENT IN JUNE.**

MABA members will receive ASTA's discounted member registration rate. To register, please use the printable registration form in the brochure and write the name of your association at the top. Discounted pricing ends May 13. The U.S. seed industry's premier policy meeting will convene June 17-20 to discuss issues affecting the industry, determine ASTA's priorities for the upcoming year, and meet with Members of Congress. The association will also induct the 2015/16 officers and honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the seed industry. To view the registration brochure, [click here](#).

**THE GVSU MICHIGAN ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER IN MUSKEGON IS HOLDING A FREE WORKSHOP ABOUT SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IN MICHIGAN ON MAY 5TH.**

Communities interested in learning more about solar development in Michigan are invited to this workshop with national and local experts, titled "Solar Powering Your Community – Actionable Steps for Adopting Solar in West Michigan", which will provide information on creating a local-level solar program. For more info, [click here](#).

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE ANNUAL MABA EDUCATIONAL TRUST GOLF OUTING ON JUNE 30TH, AT HAWK HOLLOW, JUST NORTH OF EAST LANSING.**

This is always a great time – and the proceeds fund the educational trust, which provides scholarships for those interested in our industry. For registration details, [click here](#).

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**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2015 ALM SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH, 2015!** [The Agricultural Leaders of Michigan](#) will host their third annual forum on sustainability in Michigan's food industry. This one-day conference will focus on customer sustainability demands and the different ways companies are boosting their sustainability from an economic, environmental and social perspective. For details and to RSVP, [click here](#).

**MABA IS SPONSORING A GRAIN GRADING SCHOOL ON JUNE 3 AT THE USDA-GIPSA-FGIS – TOLEDO/MAUMEE FIELD OFFICE.** Lynn Thomas, Assistant Field Office Manager will cover procedures and the interpretive line for Corn, Wheat and Soybeans, with time spent performing hands-on picking of various samples. If you have a specific sample that you would like graded please feel free to bring it. The session will begin at 7:30 A.M. and adjourn at noon. Registration fees will be \$20 for MABA members and \$30 for non-members. [Information & Registration](#). This class is limited to 20 participants. If you attempt to register and get a message that the meeting is closed please email [maba@miagbiz.org](mailto:maba@miagbiz.org) with the number that would like to attend and we will see if we can set-up a 2nd session on a different day.

**CCA EXAM REGISTRATIONS FOR THE AUGUST 7, 2015** exam will be accepted May 4 - June 26, 2015. To register [Click Here](#). Study guides for the Michigan Exam are available from the MABA office, [click here](#) for information. For those planning to take the Michigan exam, **MABA is holding a full-day Study Session on July 21<sup>st</sup>**. The location will be in East Lansing at the MABA office and the cost will be \$135.00, which includes the Michigan Study Guide. **For more info and to register for the study session, [click here](#).**

**THE 2015 EDUCATIONAL TRUST 30-WEEK RAFFLE DRAWINGS WILL BEGIN ON JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>.** To purchase tickets [Click Here](#). The MABA Educational Trust is also selling raffle tickets for a Pine Portage Lodge Fishing Trip for Two! Donated by Watson's Algoma Vacations Ltd. Pine Portage Lodge, this trip for two features a 3 Day American Plan or 4 Day Housekeeping Plan Fishing Vacation for Two. Depending on the plan selected, package could include meals, accommodations, boat, motor/gas and return charter flights from Wawa, Ontario to PINE PORTAGE LODGE on beautiful Kabinakagami Lake, Ontario, Canada! The raffle drawing will be held on June 30, 2015 at the MABA Educational Trust Golf Outing. Tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$20.00. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets! [Click here](#) for more info.



### CLASSIFIED

**THE MENNEL MILLING COMPANY CURRENTLY HAS 3 POSITIONS OPEN AT THEIR DOWAGIAC LOCATION.** Mennel Milling, a 128 year old industry leader who is searching for their leaders of tomorrow. They are now accepting resumes/applications for Head Miller, Apprentice Miller, Mill Utility, and P & L Operator in Dowagiac, Michigan. Full-time positions. Competitive pay and benefits. See full Job Descriptions at [www.mennel.com](http://www.mennel.com). Submit resumes via online to: HR@Mennel.com or mail to: Mennel Milling Company, 128 W. Crocker Street, Fostoria, OH 44830 ATTN: Human Resources EOE

**MABA MEMBER LOOKING FOR NEW JOB DUE TO RELOCATION:** Former Chief Financial Officer of Walther Farms, recently relocated to the Flint, MI area due to family reasons. Spent 12.5 years with Walthers directing all financial and accounting aspects of the organization. Also had oversight over primary administrative functions including but not limited to; Risk Management, Legal Affairs, Tax Planning, and

[continued on next page](#)

growth of the company's Human Resources. Provided leadership to the organization during significant growth periods. Currently looking for an employment opportunity within 1 hour of the Flint area, available starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Education includes a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a major in Accounting, and the professional certification of Certified Management Accountant (CMA). Contact information as follows: Gary Randall - 810.874.6410.

### **NAME THAT LOCATION!**

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN???** The first person to correctly name the city/location in Michigan, where the picture below was taken, will win a prize! Send your guess by email to [kara@miagbiz.org](mailto:kara@miagbiz.org).



**THE WINNER OF LAST WEEK'S CONTEST WAS CHUCK SQUIRES WITH THE COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR COMPANY!** The photo shown last week was taken at **New Haven Farmers Elevator in New Haven, MI.** Congrats Chuck!