

# Michigan AgFacts<sup>©</sup>

## Michigan Agri-Business Association

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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 15, 2015**

**AGFACTS<sup>©</sup> FACT OF THE WEEK:** On this GREAT day in history: May 15, 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act of Congress establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture - <http://www.nal.usda.gov/lincolns-agricultural-legacy>

**WE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURE AND PLANNING TO WORK IN OUR INDUSTRY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE MABA EDUCATIONAL TRUST.** Please pass this information on, applications for the fall semester will be accepted through June 1st. [More information...](#)

**PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SEVENTH INSTALLATION OF THE MICHIGAN AGRI-BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM HAVE BEEN SELECTED.** This year's group includes: Joey Adams, Cooperative Elevator Co.; Adam Arbuckle, The Anderson, Inc.; Keith Baur, Poet Biorefining; Mike Benkert, Crop Production Services; Adam Farmer, Farmers Co-operative Grain Co.; Adam Geers, Michigan Agricultural Commodities; Bradford Jackson, Caledonia Farmers Elevator Co.; Patrick Nellenbach, Star of the West Milling Co.; Ken Whorley, Carbon Green BioEnergy, LLC; and Ju Yang, GreenStone Farm Credit Services. The first session is in July, followed by a second in October and highlighted with an extended visit to Washington, D.C. in February.

**THE WORLD IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING - AND THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE IN AGRICULTURE!** The food sector is evolving rapidly across the globe, with sustainability, technology, consumer marketing and other considerations becoming more complex by the day. To help understand these and other issues, MABA is offering an opportunity to hear more about changing trends across the Atlantic. We are planning a series of business meetings in the United Kingdom and Germany, scheduled for Oct. 7-13, 2015 and focused on the Anuga Food Show, the world's largest food show, held in Cologne, Germany. Varnum Law Firm is co-hosting this trip. To learn more, go to [TRIP INFORMATION](#).

**CERTIFIED CROP ADVISERS (CCA) ARE PRETTY POPULAR THESE DAYS, WITH DEMAND AND REQUESTS FOR THEIR SERVICES POPPING UP EVERYWHERE.** Many organizations are clamoring for CCA's to help with a variety of programs, from boat trips in Lake Erie to see water quality issues to completing NRCS nutrient management plans. There are even two new certifications being developed by the American Society of Agronomy, the parent of the CCA program. The specialization certifications, for 4R and sustainability, will each require another test (and fee) and continuing education credits dedicated to the specializations, beyond existing requirements for CCAs. The challenge with all this is whether CCAs, and the companies they work for, will find value and return in all the time those professionals are being asked to dedicate to those tasks and opportunities. It is

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interesting how many of those asking CCAs for their help don't understand how the private sector works, and the existing responsibilities and relationships between CCAs and their farmer customers.

**ONE OF THOSE ASKING FOR CCA SUPPORT WILL BE MABA AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) IN THE SAGINAW BAY WATERSHED.** The difference here is that before this proposal was launched, companies and many CCAs were consulted about participating in the program and helping with the effort. Other programs have assumed CCA involvement, without asking for their participation beforehand. The Saginaw Bay RCPP will kick off with training this summer, and first program participation planned this fall.

**MABA IS IN THE FINAL PLANNING STAGES TO INTRODUCE A NEW, VOLUNTARY CERTIFIED FERTILIZER APPLICATOR PROGRAM THIS SUMMER.** The program will not require a test, but involve continuing education credits which will be readily available through a variety of programs offered by many sources. For example, MABA programs will offer credits, and companies sponsoring training and even equipment information sessions for their applicators will be eligible to earn credit approvals. The program will be totally administered by MABA, including the certification, credit recording and applicator database. For more information, contact Tim Boring in the MABA office at [tim@miagbiz.org](mailto:tim@miagbiz.org).

**MICHIGAN HOUSE SPEAKER KEVIN COTTER THIS WEEK RELEASED A "PLAN B" ROADFUNDING PACKAGE THAT SUPPOSEDLY WOULD DEDICATE \$1.05 BILLION MORE TO ROADS.** The plan would grab some \$350 million from the General Fund next year by eliminating the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to gain \$117 million, bring fuel tax "fairness" among electric and diesel vehicles for another \$45 million, shift funds from economic development to transportation, tap \$75 million in tobacco settlement revenue (that currently goes to the 21st Century Jobs Fund) and \$60 million from tribal gaming compacts. The Cotter plan would also dedicate about 50% percent of anticipated growth in state revenue to roads. The plan would actually phase-in the road funding increase over four years, with \$522 million in new revenue for roads in 2016 and up to \$1.05 billion by 2019. Opponents slammed the plan, and its reliance on future growth, calling it "less of a plan than a prayer."

**MABA HAS LAUNCHED DISCUSSIONS AMONG THOSE INTERESTED IN RAIL ISSUES IN OUR INDUSTRY.** With no class one railroads in the state operating north of Flint, short line railroads are critical to the success and profitability of agriculture at all levels: industry; grain and fertilizer handlers, and farmers. If you are interested in these discussions, contact Kara in the MABA office at [kara@miagbiz.org](mailto:kara@miagbiz.org).

**THE COLDWATER PLANNING COMMISSION HAS APPROVED THE FINAL SITE PLAN FOR THE 550,000-SQUARE-FOOT CLEMENS FRESH PORK PROCESSING PLANT IN COLDWATER.** The main building covers just under 13 acres, and will take 18-24 months to construct, but is only half the size of Clemens' home plant in Pennsylvania. The company also emphasized their effort to be a good citizen at their current location by recycling 100 million gallons of water and 600 tons of paper annually, as part of its efforts to be environmentally sustainable. They plan to do the same in Coldwater. To see the whole story, [click here](#).

**WE ARE HEARING OF PROBLEMS GETTING CDL'S FOR NEW DRIVERS BECAUSE OF THE TESTING PROCESS.** Some contend that because virtually all testing is now provided by "driving schools," that if the applicant hasn't paid for a

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course through the school where the testing is being conducted it is very difficult if not impossible to “pass the test,” even after taking it multiple times. We want to hear from you if you are having these problems with new drivers...

**THE USDA HAS DEVELOPED A NEW GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION AND LABELING FOR FOODS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) INGREDIENTS.** Companies would have to pay for the certification, which is voluntary. If a product is approved, it could carry a “USDA Process Verified” label, as well as a claim that it is free of GMOs. Currently, no government labels certify a food as GMO-free, and some companies that want the certification have been using a private label developed by a non-profit called the Non-GMO Project. USDA Secretary Vilsack said, “Recently, a leading global company asked the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) to help verify that the corn and soybeans it uses in its products are not genetically engineered so that the company could label the products as such. AMS worked with the company to develop testing and verification processes to verify the non-GE claim.” It is not clear if the new program will apply to bulk commodities produced for export, or even domestic raw material supply.

**THIS MOVE COMES AT AN INTERESTING TIME AS SOME CONSUMER GROUPS ARE PUSHING FOR MANDATORY LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GMOS, AND CONGRESS IS POISED TO CONSIDER A BILL TO PREEMPT STATE CONTROL ON THE ISSUE.** The food industry is strongly opposed to individual state efforts to require labeling, and is generally supportive of a bill, introduced earlier this year by Representative Mike Pompeo. His bill would provide for voluntary USDA certification, and would override any state laws requiring labeling. Vermont was the first state to require labeling, and its law will go into effect next year if it survives challenges from the food industry. This bill is currently in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Michigan Congressman Fred Upton. There has been ongoing controversy on the legislative process for the bill however, as ag proponents wanted the measure to be handled by the ag committees. There are even some rumblings that a new, competing bill may be introduced that would head for the ag committee. To add to the confusion, there is also a bit of an undertone in Congress that legal challenges to Vermont’s labeling statute pose difficulties for the federal government because of state’s rights issues and constitutional authority. Needless to say, this issue will not be resolved quickly, even though Chairman Upton plans to hold hearings on the Pompeo bill later this spring or early summer.

**REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS IN THE SENATE HAVE PASSED AN AGREEMENT ON FAST-TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY.** With significant Democratic backing, the Senate passed legislation to fast-track new trade agreements that the administration is negotiating with the Pacific Rim and the European Union. In a victory for the White House and Republicans, the Senate voted 65-33 only a couple days after several Democrats blocked debate on the bill. Even with this success, House action will be contentious and passage in that body is far from certain.

**A RECENT STUDY OF ALGAL BLOOMS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SHOWS A MARKED INCREASE IN THESE ECOSYSTEM-DISRUPTING EVENTS IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.** The report also claims that the events are being fed by nitrogen runoff from the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This study is the first to document the increased frequency of blooms in the Bay and is a warning that more work is needed to reduce nutrient pollution entering the Bay’s waters. The

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Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries have long been suffering from harmful algae blooms caused by a variety of factors, including nutrient runoff of the land, and continually growing population in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. "The increasing frequency and intensity of these harmful algae blooms will impact our ability to achieve the ultimate goal of restoring a healthy ecosystem in the Bay and put a premium on effective methods to reduce nutrient pollution," said Don Boesch, President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "This study points to the need for continued efforts to reduce the amount of nitrogen running off the land and into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries."

**FORECASTERS WITH NOAA'S CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER HAVE ISSUED AN EL NINO ADVISORY, MARKED BY ABOVE AVERAGE PACIFIC TEMPERATURES.** The current El Nino conditions are relatively weak and are expected to last through the summer. El Nino conditions impact global weather and in the U.S. are generally expected to increase rainfall in southern states while leading to cooler, wetter conditions in the central U.S. Meteorology organizations in the US, Japan, and Australia all agree the current conditions put in place El Nino conditions, but uncertainty exists between them over just how long the conditions will last.

**CORN PLANTING PROGRESS STANDS WELL AHEAD OF AVERAGE PACE, BOTH IN MICHIGAN AND NATIONWIDE.** As of May 10, Michigan was 61% completed with corn planting, compared to a five year average of 38%. More than 30% of the state's corn was planted during the previous week. Nationally, corn progress stands at 75%, well ahead of the average of 57% at this date. 20% of the nation's crop was planted during the previous week. Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin all are significantly ahead of average pace. In Minnesota, an amazing 95% of corn is planted, compared to an average of 50%. The rapid pace across these northern states underscores the dry conditions across the region.

**THE SOYBEAN PLANTING STORY HAS BEEN MORE TEMPERED, WITH BOTH MICHIGAN AND NATIONAL PLANTING PACE AHEAD OF AVERAGE, BUT BY LESS DRASTIC MARGINS.** Soybean planting in Michigan stands at 32%, compared to an average pace of 17%. Nationally, we're around 9% ahead of average at 31%. The real story is Minnesota's planting pace, with 70% planted. This compares to an average of 17%. Minnesota currently has more of their soybean crop planted than any other state, including Louisiana and Missouri.

**MICHIGAN'S WHEAT CONDITION SCORES PRIMARILY IN THE FAIR TO GOOD CATEGORY, A FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR POTENTIAL YIELDS.** 12% of the crop is rates poor or very poor, 25% fair, 50% good, and 13% excellent. Nationally, the average quality of the winter wheat crop is better than last year, driven mainly by better conditions in western states than a year ago.

**BASF AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTTINGEN HAVE ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW INSECTICIDE MODE OF ACTION.** Researchers have found the insecticides pymetrozine and pyrifluquinanzon can interfere with the transient receptor potential vanilloid (TRPV), a type of stretch receptor. These stretch receptors are present in insect antennae and legs, and by sensing mechanical stimuli, provide insects with their senses of balance, hearing and coordination. When these receptors are blocked, the insect becomes overstimulated, distributing locomotion and feeding, which leads to death. This mode of action has shown particular promise in plant-sucking pests such as whiteflies and aphids.

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## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Do you have an industry related event you would like to put on the calendar? Please contact our office at [maba@miagbiz.org](mailto:maba@miagbiz.org)

**MONSANTO HAS ANNOUNCED GRANT RECIPIENTS IN ITS INSECT MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM (IMKP), INCLUDING A GRANT TO DR. FELICIA WU OF MICHIGAN STATE.** Dr. Wu's research will determine risk factors in the development of insect resistance to Bt corn, allowing for the early identification of actions most likely to preserve the efficacy of current and future traits. Other projects include work on corn earworm ecology, soybean aphid host plant resistance, refuge management approaches, RNA interference in corn rootworm, and parasitic nematodes that target corn rootworm. Dr. Steve Pueppke, associate vice president of research and graduate studies for Michigan State University, is a co-chair of the IMKP advisory committee.

**SYNGENTA HAS REJECTED A \$45 BILLION TAKEOVER OFFER FROM MONSANTO, SAYING THE OFFER UNDERVALUED THE SWISS FIRM AND DID NOT FULLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT REGULATORY RISKS.**

Reuters does report that the two companies have each engaged investment banks to evaluate and discuss the proposed deal. If an agreement were reached, the combined company would have sales of more than \$31 billion. That assumes all pieces of each company would stay in place, and that would seem unlikely, assuming again that a deal moves forward. Syngenta's board unanimously rejected Monsanto's 45% cash offer that would value Syngenta at 449 Swiss francs (\$486.35) per share. Syngenta shares closed at about 390 Swiss francs on exchanges last Friday, after the company confirmed that they are working with Goldman Sachs to assess the merits of a sale. Monsanto is being advised by Morgan Stanley.

**LOSSES OF MANAGED HONEY BEE COLONIES WERE 23.1% FOR THE 2014-2015 WINTER, BUT SUMMER LOSSES EXCEEDED WINTER NUMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME, MAKING ANNUAL LOSSES FOR THE YEAR 42.1%.** The preliminary results of the annual survey of hive health conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership, the USDA and the Apiary Inspectors of America was released this past week. The winter loss improvement was about 0.6% less than the losses reported for the 2013-2014 winter. This is the second year in a row that winter losses have been noticeably lower than the nine year average winter loss of 28.7%. "The winter loss numbers are more hopeful especially combined with the fact that we have not seen much sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) for several years, but such high colony losses in the summer and year-round remain very troubling," says Jeff Pettis, a survey co-author and a senior entomologist at USDA's Agricultural Research Service Bee Research Laboratory. "If beekeepers are going to meet the growing demand for pollination services, researchers need to find better answers to the host of stresses that lead to both winter and summer colony losses."

More information is [available here](#).

**THE LATEST BEE HEALTH REPORT FROM THE USDA IS GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF HONEY BEE COLONIES, BAYER CROPSCIENCE ENTOMOLOGIST DICK ROGERS SAID IN A STATEMENT.** The report notes that for the second year in a row, winter losses of U.S. honey bee colonies were well below the historic average seen since these annual surveys began. "More importantly, the long-term trend of overwintering losses continues to show improvement. The reasons for success are greater awareness of factors affecting honey bee health, particularly Varroa mite, and better management, including extensive use of the highly effective Varroacide, Apivar," Rogers says. The report did note that summer bee colony losses remain "very troubling." Rogers says "Summer losses are expected and common, however, because of Varroa, other

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disorders, queen issues, and pesticide residues in hives, especially extremely high residues of bee protecting Varroacides, beekeepers do face a challenge to keep these losses to a minimum.” The full statement from Bayer is [available here](#).

**THE USDA HAS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT REGARDING THE EPA’S ANALYSIS ON NEONICOTINOID SEED TREATMENTS FOR SOYBEANS, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT FROM THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION (ASA).** The EPA’s October report claimed that there are no clear or consistent economic benefits of neonicotinoid seed treatments in soybeans. The USDA says that is not only false, but has put growers in a position to defend their pest management decisions. “As a whole, USDA disagrees with that assessment,” USDA states in a letter sent to EPA in April. “We believe that pest management strategies are made in consideration of pest pressures, climate, landscape and numerous other factors.” The ASA’s news release is available by [clicking here](#).

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS RESEARCH GENETICIST RAM SINGH HAS CROSSED A SOYBEAN VARIETY WITH A WILD PERENNIAL PLANT, PRODUCING THE FIRST SOYBEAN PLANTS THAT ARE RESISTANT TO SOYBEAN RUST, SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE AND OTHER PATHOGENS.** His effort to introduce the desirable attributes of wild, perennial Glycine species into soybean plants began at the university in 1983 and followed a path that involved thousands of experiments, the development of a hormone treatment that “rescued” immature hybrid seeds from sterility, and multiple backcrosses of hybrid plants with their “recurrent parent.” Some of the new plants produce more soybeans per plant and have higher protein than Dwight, the host soybean variety. For more details, [click here](#).

**MONSANTO HAS COMMITTED TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ITS CROP PROTECTION OPERATIONS BY 22% PER POUND OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT BY 2020.** That segment emitted about 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions last year. This represents a cumulative greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 45% when compared to 2002. The company is targeting their crop protection sector because it is the largest contributor to their company's carbon footprint. The company also announced its first partnership as part of a previous commitment to cut pollution from the process of growing crops. Monsanto has created a partnership with Growmark to work together on improving nutrient management, seed genetics and data science to streamline fertilizer use.

**NEARLY 1,500 WORKERS WERE LAID OFF IN MID-APRIL AT THE IOWA FERTILIZER PLANT CONSTRUCTION SITE IN SOUTHEAST IOWA.** The president of the Southeast Iowa Building Trades Council, said many of those workers thought they'd be re-hired by the new contractor tapped to finish the job, but that isn't happening. Orascom is building the plant, and received nearly half billion dollars in local, state and federal incentives for the project. Leaders of the unions who represent laid off workers say they've been unable to get answers as to why the layoffs happened and how many construction workers might be rehired. Legislators involved in the fracas suggested that it was implied that Iowans would be hired to build the plant when the project was "sold" as worthy of state support. The state's top economic development official, said the incentives are tied to overall capital investment and eventual full-time employment levels at the plant once it opens, and the deal does not hinge on the contractors the company hires to build the facility. The Iowa Fertilizer Plant will employ about 240 people full-time once the plant starts producing fertilizer and diesel exhaust fluid.

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## MEMBER BENEFITS!

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**BUSH HAS INTRODUCED A NEW LINE OF PRODUCTS BASED ON THEIR SPECIALTY...BEANS!** To see more details on their new line up of hummus, salads and salsa, [click here](#).

**MOSAIC ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT THEIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS ELECTED JAMES "JOC" C. O'ROURKE TO SUCCEED JAMES T. PROKOPANKO AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5, 2015.** Prokopanko will serve as Senior Advisor until his planned retirement on January 4, 2016. "Jim's leadership over the past eight and a half years helped build a strong, innovative company with a culture of integrity and an emphasis on execution. My fellow directors and I wish him only the best, and we respect his decision to retire," said Robert L. Lumpkins, Chairman of Mosaic's Board of Directors. O'Rourke has served as Mosaic's Executive Vice President, Operations and Chief Operating Officer since 2012 and joined the company in 2009. Prior to joining Mosaic, O'Rourke was President, Australia Pacific for Barrick Gold Corporation, the largest gold producer in Australia, where he was responsible for the Australia Pacific Business Unit consisting of ten gold and copper mines in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He holds a bachelor's degree in mining and mineral engineering from the University of British Columbia, and a master's degree in business administration from INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France.

**WAYNE SMITH IS THE NEW CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BASF CORPORATION.** Smith began his career at BASF in 2004 as group vice president for the regional intermediates business unit in the United States. In 2006, he was named president of the catalysts division and executive vice president, BASF Corporation. He became president of the company's polyurethanes division in Brussels, Belgium, in 2010 and was appointed to the board of executive directors of BASF SE in 2012.

**LAND O'LAKES HAS REPORTED FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS, INCLUDING NET SALES OF \$3.8 BILLION AND NET EARNINGS OF \$99.4 MILLION.** While results were down compared to 2014's record first quarter, this year's performance stands as one of the strongest first quarters for the company. The crop inputs segment, which includes WinField Solutions, reported strong performance for the quarter, with strong volumes in alfalfa and favorable seed margins. These effects were partially offset due to strong shipments in the fourth quarter of 2014. "Overall profits saw a dip in comparison to 2014 first quarter results, primarily due to the cyclical nature of milk prices. This market volatility has had a substantial, negative impact on the first quarter inventory values and financial results," said Chris Policinski, Land O'Lakes Inc. president and CEO. A full news release is [available here](#).

**DUPONT PUSHED BACK A BOARD CHALLENGE FROM ACTIVIST INVESTOR NELSON PELTZ THIS WEEK, DEALING HIM A SURPRISING BLOW AFTER SHAREHOLDERS BACKED ALL 12 DIRECTORS NOMINATED BY THE COMPANY.** Peltz's Trian Fund Management had sought four seats on the board, including one for himself, and had pushed the 213-year-old company to split its businesses to supposedly unlock more value for shareholders. The vote ends a high-stakes drama that revved up when Trian announced its dissident slate. The hedge fund holds a 2.7% stake in DuPont, making it the company's fifth-largest shareholder. DuPont Chief Executive Officer Ellen Kullman said the company spent several months explaining to investors how it is retooling its business. A key focus has been the planned spinoff of its performance chemicals business. Peltz acknowledged that DuPont had already made important changes, including cost cuts and a share buyback, at his prompting. "We don't believe these things would have occurred without our involvement," he said.

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**MARRONE BIO INNOVATIONS HAS ASKED FOR A HEARING BY THE NASDAQ TO STAVE OFF A DECISION ON THEIR LISTING STATUS.**

The company also announced that it does not expect to file its next quarterly report on time. The company's stock will continue to trade on the NASDAQ pending the completion of the hearing process. Marrone produces bio-based pest management and plant health products for the agriculture, turf and ornamental and water treatment markets. They also operate a new facility in Bangor, the former Michigan biofuels (biodiesel) plant.

**DELTA COLLEGE AND MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HAVE JOINED EFFORTS TO SIMPLIFY HOW STUDENTS CAN GAIN THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION NEEDED TO WORK IN THE EXCITING FIELD OF AGRICULTURE.** To learn more about the one day event on June 17<sup>th</sup>, [click here!](#)**THE MSU INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY IS STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2015.**

Founded in 1894, the Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) delivers innovative, educational programs that develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in agricultural, environmental, and applied technologies. Certificate programs vary from 10-24 months in length, are highly respected statewide and nationally, and several have international reputations. Faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources teach classes, so students gain from the research and extension programs at Michigan State University. IAT offers nine programs on-campus in East Lansing and six programs in partnership with five different Michigan community colleges to provide local and Associate Degree options. To find more information out about each program and how to apply, [click here](#). For specific questions, please contact the IAT Director, Randy Showerman at [showerma@msu.edu](mailto:showerma@msu.edu) or 517-353-3562.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE MABA OUTLOOK CONFERENCE ON MACKINAC ISLAND SEPTEMBER 11-13.**

Please plan to join us, at the historic Grand Hotel, for Business, Golf, Food and Fun. [Click Here](#) for all details and registration information. Register now and save! Discounted conference registration rates will only be available through August 6, 2015. Also, we cannot stress enough **THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY – DO IT NOW!** *Our block of rooms always fills quickly and there will be no additional rooms available for us to acquire outside the block.*

**THE 3RD ANNUAL MICHIGAN RAIL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN GRAND RAPIDS AT THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY EBERHARD CENTER ON AUGUST 19-20, 2015.**

The program includes plenary sessions in the morning filled with presentations related to freight and passenger rail activities in Michigan. The afternoon will feature breakout sessions that could include rail project development in the past year; equipment and rolling stock development; education/labor needs/workforce development; government regulation; and shipper's needs. National, regional, and local rail experts will be on hand to offer their insight and comments. For additional information or to register [click here](#).

**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. The U.S. seed industry's premier policy meeting will

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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](#).

**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.

**REGISTER NOW 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](#).

**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](#).

**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.



**THIS MONTH ASMARK IS FEATURING THEIR SAFE & SOUND ONLINE TRAINING MANAGEMENT TOOL.** This comprehensive web-based tool allows a company to manage their training program from an online console. [Click here](#) for more information about the featured service/product.

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**SPROUT LAB: GROWING YOUR AGRIBUSINESS IDEA** is offering a free workshop in Marlette Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, for agribusiness entrepreneurs who want to explore a new business idea or product. [Click here](#) for more info.

### CLASSIFIED

**COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR COMPANY, LOCATED IN PIGEON, MI, IS LOOKING TO EXPAND ITS DRY BEAN MARKETING DEPARTMENT.** They have an opening for a Dry Bean Marketing Specialist, who will be responsible for developing and maintaining dry bean markets and pricing strategies. This is a full-time position with competitive pay and benefits. See job description at [www.coopelev.com](http://www.coopelev.com). Submit resumes on-line to [coop.careers@coopelev.com](mailto:coop.careers@coopelev.com) or mail to Cooperative Elevator Co. 7211 E. Michigan Avenue, Pigeon, MI 48755 ATTN: Human Resources.

**GREAT LAKES HYBRIDS HAS A POSITION OPEN FOR A REGIONAL TEAM LEADER.** This position directs the sales efforts of assigned region so as to achieve maximum sales, increased market penetration, and efficient distribution of product; responsible for recruiting, training and coaching of District Sales Managers. For detailed info, [click here](#). If you are interested in applying, please apply online at <https://careers-agreliantgenetics.icims.com/jobs/1968/regional-team-leader/job> by May 20, 2015.

**THE MENNEL MILLING COMPANY CURRENTLY HAS 6 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, P & L Operator, Maintenance Supervisor and Maintenance Technician 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](mailto: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 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).

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**THE WINNER OF LAST WEEK'S CONTEST WAS MARK VARNER WITH BAYER CROPSCIENCE!** The photo shown last week was taken at **Morningstar Grain in Lennon, MI.** Congrats Mark!