

# AGRICULTURE

## UPDATE 2016

### DEAR NEIGHBOR:

Whether it's a local farmers market, a neighborhood grocery store or the global marketplace, Michigan's food products and commodities are in demand.

Here at home, Michigan ranks third in the country in farmers markets. In the global arena, Michigan is a leading export state in processed and fresh fruits and vegetables, processed plant products and dairy products.

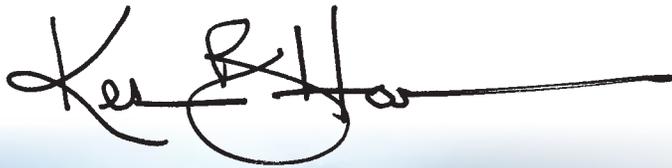
All told, the state agri-food industry is valued at more than \$101.2 billion a year. The sector also employs 22 percent of the state's workforce, providing jobs and opportunity all across our state.

Agriculture is not only vital to our state economy, it's an important part of the quality of life we enjoy in our rural communities.

I remain committed to the continued growth and prosperity of Michigan agriculture and am pleased to send along this legislative report. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you.

Best wishes for a productive season!

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR

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## SENATOR HORN BACKS BILL TO UPDATE GRADE A MILK LAW

Milk production is Michigan's largest agricultural sector. In fact, the state's 1,700 Grade A dairy farms produce more than 9.6 billion pounds of milk per year.

I supported legislation to update current law to reflect the most recent recommendations and nationally accepted Pasteurized Milk Standards. Senate Bill 477 codifies the newer national version in state statute to ensure Michigan families and out-of-state consumers can continue to enjoy wholesome Michigan milk and milk products. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, up to 35 percent of milk production—with a cash value of \$500 million—is sold out-of-state.



## SENATE ADOPTS MEASURE TO SUPPORT SCIENCE-BASED LABELING

American agriculture produces an amazing variety of safe and healthy foods.

I supported Senate Resolution No. 59, a measure that urges Congress to enact legislation that requires uniform and science-based food labeling nationwide. Without a federal GMO labeling standard, states and localities are developing their own food labeling requirements, leading to consumer confusion, misinformation and increased food costs.

GMOs play an important role in maintaining Michigan's agriculture and food processing. More than 95 percent of all sugar beets, 93 percent of all corn, and 91 percent of all soybeans grown in Michigan are genetically modified.

Uniform labeling providing accurate and consistent information allows consumers to make fully informed choices.



## OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

Michigan exports one-third of its agricultural products annually, generating nearly \$3.2 billion. Canada is the leading destination with nearly 60 percent of all agricultural exports. Other top markets include Mexico, Japan, China and South Korea.

For information on trade opportunities, including training resources and consulting and assistance services, visit [www.michigan.gov/agexport](http://www.michigan.gov/agexport).

### MICHIGAN'S TOP FIVE AGRICULTURE EXPORTS (ESTIMATED) 2014:

- Other plant products — **\$636 million**
- Soybeans — **\$579 million**
- Dairy products — **\$332 million**
- Corn — **\$255 million**
- Feeds and other feed grains — **\$225 million**

*USDA, Economic Research Service, October 2015)*



# MAEAP UPDATE

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program is nationally recognized as the leading stewardship program for farmers and producers. MAEAP is a voluntary program that helps farms of all sizes voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks while maintaining economic success.

The program added 995 verifications (new and re-verifications) in 2015, including the first Forest, Wetlands and Habitat System verification. This new system joins the existing Livestock, Cropping and Farmstead systems.

In FY 2015, MAEAP-verified farms produced significant environmental outcomes, including:

- **Sediment reduced: 576,248 tons, enough to fill 51,222 10-yard dump trucks;**
- **Phosphorus reduced: 947,309 pounds, enough to have grown 236,827 tons of algae in surface waters; and**
- **Nitrogen reduced: 2,015,395 pounds, enough to have contaminated more than 24 billion gallons of water above 10 ppm.**

For more information, visit [www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org).



## FOREST PEST ALERT

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect that kills eastern hemlock trees, was detected for the first time in native forest hemlock in Michigan last year.



The tiny pest has been found several times in the past decade although previous infestations were restricted to nurseries and landscaping. Michigan has had a strict quarantine against out-of-state hemlock seedlings, logs and nursery stock since 2002.

The aphid-like insect extracts sap from the tree, killing needles, shoots and branches and eventually the entire tree. According to MSU Extension, Michigan is home to some of the largest stocks of old growth hemlock on the continent. If this pest becomes established, the effect on the state's 100 million mature hemlocks could be devastating.

Find more information at [www.michigan.gov/exoticpests](http://www.michigan.gov/exoticpests) or [www.michigan.gov/foresthealth](http://www.michigan.gov/foresthealth).

## AGRICULTURE IN SAGINAW AND GENESEE COUNTIES



**2,153 Farms**

**Wholesale food processing plants**

**63**



**432,986 Acres of Farmland**



**Market Value of AG Production:  
\$334,979,000**

*USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture data*