

The Michigan Onion Promotion and Development Program was established in February 1977. This PA232 program required a vote of the onion growers in Michigan to be established and requires a vote every 5 years to continue the program.

The purpose of the program is to improve the economic position of Michigan onion growers by creating greater marketing opportunities for their product.



Michigan Onion Committee

Your Quarterly News & Updates

July 2017

In this Newsletter: Onion Assessment, 2017 Onion Twilight Tour, Committee Member Nominations, upcoming Survey

From Your Executive Director

Hello Michigan Onion Growers:



It has been a pleasure meeting with many of you the past few weeks. Meeting with you personally on your farms and place of business truly helps me understand the industry needs and what is important to you and your business. Thank you for your time spent on my visit.

You will be receiving your onion assessment ballot in the next couple days in the mail. The assessment funds are used primarily for onion research and efforts to make the onion industry more profitable and sustainable. All ballots must be completed, signed and postmarked by July 28 and returned to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Next week I will be attending the National Onion Association summer convention. I look forward to meeting with many in the industry and the farm tours in Washington. I think this will be very

educational and also give me the opportunity to share our research with others.

Please mark your calendar for the Onion Twilight on Thursday, August 17 in Byron Center. Below are details for the three trial locations and the Onion Twilight and Steak cook out.

I hope to see you all next month.

Sincerely,



Val Vail-Shirey, Executive Director



Michigan producers of onions to vote on program continuation

For immediate release: July 12, 2017

Media contact: Jennifer Holton, 517-284-5724

Onion industry contact: Val Vail-Shirey, 517-372-1500

Michigan's onion producers have an opportunity to vote on whether to continue the Michigan Onion Promotion and Development Program in a referendum conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development beginning Monday, July 17, 2017 through Friday, July 28, 2017.

Ballots were mailed to onion producers on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Producers are eligible to vote if they produced onions valued at more than \$800 at first-point-of-sale in any of the last three years.

The Michigan Onion Promotion and Development Program was developed to improve the economic position of Michigan onion producers by creating greater marketing opportunities for Michigan onions. The program was established in September

1977. By law, it must be resubmitted for grower approval every five years. Currently, the assessment is \$.06 per hundredweight of onions.

For the program to be renewed, more than 50 percent of the producer votes cast, representing more than 50 percent of the total unit of measure represented on the cast ballots, must approve it.

For the purpose of this referendum, each producer is entitled to one vote representing a single firm, individual proprietorship, corporation, company, association, partnership, or a husband-wife or family ownership. All ballots must be filled out completely, signed and postmarked by July 28, 2017, and should be sent to MDARD, Executive Office, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909.

Eligible producers with questions or those who have not received a ballot should contact MDARD toll-free at 800-292-3939.

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Onion Trial Locations

Darryl Warnke has three locations with this year's onion variety observation trials. You are welcome to view the trials prior to now and the Onion Twilight.

Trial locations:

Bruce Klamer Farm

southwest of Byron Center on 100th street 0.5 mile west of Wilson Avenue, south side of the road.

Phil Plakmyer Farm

east of Grant at the southwest corner of Oak street and 120th Avenue.

Glen Vogel Farm

southeast of Fremont (northwest of Newaygo) on the east side of Wisner Rd 0.5 mile south of 80th street.



2017 Onion Twilight Tour & Steak Cook Out

Sponsored by:

Michigan Onion Committee

MSU Extension

Seed companies and fertilizer and chemical suppliers

Thanks to the Leeps for catering & our host V&W Farms!

Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017

Time: 5:30 p.m. – Onion Field Trials
7:00 p.m. – Steak Cook Out

Place: V & W Farms, Bruce Klammer, Byron Center, MI

Variety trials are on the south side of 100th St., 1/3 mile west of Wilson

Dinner will be at V&W Farms down the 2nd drive east of the trial. Dinner will be in the west greenhouse.

Who: Onion Growers, Packers, Shippers, Researchers, MSU Extension Staff, Seed Dealers, Chemical and Fertilizer Reps.

All Shippers and Packers are encouraged to attend this event. Time will be made available after dinner if shippers and packers would like to provide an industry update and marketing outlook.

Directions to Onion Field Trials and Cookout

FIELD TRIALS

-Take US 131 South from Grand Rapids or North from Kalamazoo to the 100th St. Exit. (Exit #72)

-Go West on 100th St. SW for approximately 5.5 miles, passing its intersection with Wilson Ave.

-Seed trials are on the South side of 100th St. 1/3 mile west of Wilson. Pull off at the first drive west of Wilson along the south edge of 100th to park. You will be on the east edge of an onion field. We will meet at the west end of this field to view the trials.

COOKOUT

First drive off of 100th St. to the south, just west of the intersection of 100th street and Wilson Ave.



Sponsor the Annual Onion Seed Trials!

This event gives you the opportunity to meet with onion growers from Michigan and discuss essential products and/or equipment that would help benefit your business and the growers.

Committee Member Nominations:

The Michigan Onion Committee has two positions opening for the Governor's appointment. This position is a three-year term appointed by the Governor. Committee applicants must apply online at <https://somgovweb.state.mi.us/GovernorsBoard/Instructions.aspx>

Committee members have three to four meetings to attend annually and are paid a per diem and mileage. If you are interested in serving on the Onion Committee - please notify Val at the Onion Committee office. Val 517-372-1500 or val@julianvail.com

Food Safety and Modernization Act

To obtain more information visit the FSMA website at: <https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm>



Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will.

Labor trafficking has been found in diverse labor settings including, domestic work, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

Unfortunately, agriculture is experiencing a large volume of labor trafficking. If you suspect something that may involve Human Trafficking notify the authorities, call the hotline 1-888-373-7888 and visit the website to learn more <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/mission>

Michigan Onion Committee
517-372-1500 | val@julianvail.com | <http://michiganonion.com/>

Michigan Onion Committee, P.O. Box 278, Bath, MI 48808

STAY CONNECTED:



