

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

October 2017

In this Newsletter: Appointment of Bruce and Mike, Great Lakes Expo, December Board Meeting, US Farm Exports

[Click here to visit our Website!](#)

From Your Executive Director

Hello Michigan Onion Growers:



I want to thank all of you that have welcomed me to your farms or place of business over the past few months. I have absolutely enjoyed getting to know you and learning more about the onion industry. Thanks to the SCBG grant I was able to attend the NOA July meeting and it was so helpful in my learning and sharing Michigan information with those attending from around the country.

As you complete your 2017 harvest and move onions, please be sure to report your sales and what you have in storage. I have the task of reporting Michigan onions in storage to NOA and I have promised to collect better information this year. Please help me out. I thank you in advance.

As always, feel free to contact me at any time. I hope to see you in December at Great Lakes Expo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Val Vail-Shirey".

Val Vail-Shirey, Executive Director

Please be advised of the following appointment to office:

Michigan Onion Committee

Bruce J. Klamer of 6753 of Bent Grass Drive, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508, county of Kent, representing growers-at-large, succeeding himself, is reappointed to a term expiring August 16, 2020.

Michael P Bosch of 4703 of South Street, Hamilton, Michigan 49419, county of Allegan, representing growers-at-large, succeeding himself, is reappointed to a term expiring August 16, 2020.

Congratulations Bruce and Mikel!



Onion Trials 2017 a Success

A big thank you to all who attended and sponsored the 2017 onion trials. This year's attendance was double last years and the presentations were fantastic. Darryl Warncke always presents outstanding trials and his work is appreciated by all.

Michigan Onion Committee was fortunate to receive a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture for onion research. This was a great benefit for the MOC Executive Director to participate in the July National Onion Association summer research presentation and Kim Reddin of NOA to present national research at the Michigan Onion Trials.



Thank you to our drink sponsor at the Onion Seed Trials for over 10 years!



Thank you Green Valley for sponsoring the Onion Seed Trials!



Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trial - 2017

Darryl Warncke, Coordinator - Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trial

Thanks to breeding programs of several seed companies Michigan Onion growers have many good onion varieties available for them to grow. Each year Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trials are sponsored by the Michigan Onion Committee and coordinated by Dr. Darryl Warncke, Professor emeritus at Michigan State University. The purpose of these trials is to give Michigan onion growers the opportunity to see how various onion varieties, available in Michigan, perform at various locations and on various soil conditions. These trials are possible with the cooperation of the seed companies. This year Bejo provided seed of 12 yellow onion varieties and 3 red onion varieties, Seminis provided seed of 3 yellow varieties, Solar provided seed for 4 yellow varieties and Takii provided seed for 4 yellow varieties. Onions were grown at three locations; near Byron Center, Grant and Fremont on three distinctly different soil types; good muck, marly muck and loamy sand. Planting dates for the trials were April 26, 29 and 14, respectively. The twilight meeting on August 17 at the Byron Center location provided growers the opportunity to look over the varieties in the trial this year. This year's trials included several new varieties along with some of the standard varieties.

Among the varieties in the trials maturities ranged from 90 to 120 days with most maturing in 95 to 110 days. All onions grew well in 2017 with minimal disease and insect issues compared to recent years. Most varieties produced good size. Samples of the varieties at each location have been harvested and will be graded to determine size distribution. This information and samples of each variety will be displayed at the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo in Grand Rapids in December. Be sure to look the onions over at the Expo.

Michigan Onion Variety Observation Trial

Onions are grown in various geographical areas in Michigan. Each area has somewhat different growing conditions (rainfall, sunshine, temperatures, day length) each year. Onion variety trials were initiated by the Michigan Onion Committee over ten years ago to observe how different varieties grow in different growing areas. These trials have been done with the cooperation of several onion growers. Each year the onion variety trials have been grown at three locations. Over the years, trials have been located on farms with muck soils near Eaton Rapids, Gregory, Plainwell, Byron Center, and Grant. With increasing interest in growing onions on mineral soil, a trial was located the past two years on sandy soil near Fremont. These trials are available for growers to observe during the growing season. Each August

there is a twilight meeting held at one of the sites, most recently Byron Center. This provides a good opportunity to observe the varieties and hear from seed company representatives and MSU Specialists. Observation information is collected during the summer. When mature a portion of each variety at each location is harvested, graded and weighed. Samples of each variety from two locations are displayed outside the onion educational session at the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo in Grand Rapids. Come to the Expo in December, look at the onions and pick up information about the varieties.

Each year seed companies are asked to submit varieties they feel will grow well in Michigan. The primary focus for Michigan onion growers is on good quality onions with a maturity rating of 95 to 105 days, and that yield and store well. Some growers are also looking for a good early maturing onion, 85 to 90 days, that can be harvested in early August, cured and shipped. There is also some interest in red varieties. The last few years 4 to 5 red onion varieties along with the 20 to 24 yellow onion varieties have been included in the trials. The companies consistently submitting seed of onion varieties are: Bejo (Speedway), Crook ham, Solar, and Takii. Others that have participated include: Hazera, Seminis, Siegers, and Nunhems.

Great Lakes Expo

As in years past, the Michigan Onion Committee will have a booth, shared with the carrot committee, at the Great Lakes Expo December 5 - 7 in Grand Rapids. You are invited to attend the GLE and please spend an hour or so in the booth. Please contact Val with a day and time that you are available.

Please see below the information on the W-3008 Multistate Onion Project. This annual rotates throughout the various states and this year it is in Michigan. Take this opportunity to attend the day before GLE.

All Michigan Onion Committee meetings are open to the public and the next meeting is at GLE in Grand Rapids.

Michigan Onion Committee Meeting

December 6th, 2017 12 pm
Devos Center
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Annual Meeting of the W-3008 Multistate Onion Project

Michigan onion industry invited to attend

The annual meeting of the W-3008 multistate onion project that will take place in the Grand Room of the Amway Hotel on Monday, Dec. 4th. You are welcome to share this in the advertising for the GLE, particularly to onion stakeholders, as this meeting is open to anyone with an interest in onions. Representatives from each of the participating states will give a regional report for their state in the morning session, and then we'll cover specific research topics, funding for grant proposals on onion research and extension needs, etc. Anyone interested can attend the meeting. There is no registration fee, but we will be asking for donations to cover the expenses for room rental, audiovisual equipment rental, lunch, and refreshments/coffee.

2017 W3008 Onion Multistate Project Annual Meeting Agenda
Grandview Room, Amway Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI

Monday, 4 December 2017 (preceding the Great Lakes Expo)

8:30 am Coffee/registration
9:00 am Welcome and Introductions

State Reports Including Michigan

Noon Lunch

Organizational and Planning Items

1:00 pm W3008 status, 2017 annual report, etc. - Steve Loring, Lindsey du Toit
1:10 pm Onion research & extension needs, proposals (USDA SCRI, others)
1:30 pm Future annual meeting locations, dates
1:40 pm Election of new officers

Other onion project reports

2:00 pm Brian Nault - Insect management research update in New York
2:15 pm Bhabesh Dutta - Research updates on *Pantoea* spp. in Georgia
2:30 pm Chris Cramer - Onion breeding update from New Mexico
2:45 pm Lindsey du Toit - Internal dry scale and bacterial disease research in the Columbia Basin of the Pacific Northwest; research update on evaluating mycorrhizal inoculants in onion production in the Columbia Basin
3:00 pm Mark Uchanski - Onion mycorrhizae trial report from Thad Gourd
3:15 pm Beth Gugino - Pennsylvania onion research report

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Contact Lindsey du Toit at dutoit@wsu.edu or 360-848-6140 by November 1st, 2017 if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the W-3008 Multistate Onion Project. There is no registration fee, but attendees will be asked to make a donation to cover expenses for the conference room and equipment rental fee, lunch, and refreshments.

Road Trip Stop: Behind the Scenes Peek at Onions from Michigan
Have you ever picked up an onion in the grocery store and thought of how it got there? Where it came from?

<https://www.realtheKitchenandbeyond.com/onions-from-michigan/>

Great Lakes Leadership Academy

It is time to actively recruit for the next round of Great Lakes Leadership Academy cohorts. They are looking for applicants who:

- Are involved in production agriculture or a career closely tied to agriculture;
- Are open to learning from others very different from themselves, considering different ideas and perspectives, and working effectively with others to set and meet goals;
- Have a sincere interest in developing their leadership dispositions, abilities, and knowledge and are open minded enough to pursue deep self-exploration;

- Have the level of maturity and self-awareness necessary to take full advantage of the learning opportunity and apply the lessons to his/her life;
- Have demonstrated the appropriate level of leadership, interest and participation in service to the agricultural industry for his/her career status and age; and
- Have a significant pattern of commitment to agriculture evidenced by family history, education, and involvement in agricultural related organizations;
- Have the necessary support from their employer or has the capacity within their business to participate fully in the program; and
- Ultimately, you feel the agricultural industry will benefit as a result of the applicant's participation in GLLA.

If you are interested in applying for the 2018 Emerging Leader Program or the 2018-2019 Leadership Advancement Program or if you would like more information please visit www.glla.msu.edu

Application deadline for Leadership Advancement Program 2018-2019 is November 1, 2017.

Application deadline for Emerging Leader Program 2018 is January 1, 2018.

We are happy to come out and talk to individuals or your organization about GLLA. If you are willing to set something up please contact Christy to work out the details at romanch4@anr.msu.edu or 517-353-6472.

Thank you for helping us develop the next generation of leaders for Michigan.

U.S. farm exports will total \$139.8 billion this fiscal year, the third-highest tally ever and ending a slump in sales that begin in 2014 following the collapse of the commodity boom, estimated the USDA in a quarterly report.

In its first forecast for fiscal 2018, the USDA pegged exports at \$139 billion. Ag exports generate roughly one-third of cash receipts to U.S. farmers and ranchers. Farm exports are also a bright spot in the U.S. balance of trade, consistently registering a surplus. The Trump administration is giving priority to elimination of trade deficits in negotiations over NAFTA. Mexico and Canada are the two leading sources of U.S. food and ag imports. Mexico is forecast for a \$4.3 billion agricultural trade surplus and Canada a \$600 million surplus during fiscal 2018, which begins on Oct 1. The surpluses are like 2017's levels. Strong economic growth globally and a 7% decline in the value of the dollar aided this year's sales recovery, said USDA. The dollar is expected to trend lower in value for the rest of 2017. "The weaker dollar primarily reflects improvements in the economic outlook of key U.S. trading partners, particularly Europe and Japan," said USDA. China is the largest customer for U.S. farm goods, followed by Canada, Mexico, the EU and Japan. The top five markets buy 62% of U.S. farm exports; the EU and Japan take 17% of sales.



Michigan Onion Committee
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STAY CONNECTED:



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