

Michigan Onion Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
MSU Agronomy Farm
4450 Beaumont Rd, Lansing, MI 48910

Attendees: appointees: Mark Nail, Michael Bosch, Mitchell Schreur, Kristin Oomen, unable to attend Bruce Klammer others: Greg Bird, Heather Throne, Ben Werling, Darryl Warnke, Mary Hausbeck, James Young

Business Meeting

1. Call to Order - Michael Bosch

Time: 10:10am

2. Minutes – December 11, 2019 Annual Meeting (see doc) - Michael Bosch

Motion: Kristin Oomen

Supported by: Mark Nail

Motion approved

3. Research Reviews and future research projects (see survey and doc) - MSU research scientists

Dr Mary Hausbeck was in attendance and gave an update on her Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) which was submitted through Michigan Onion Committee (MOC). The project is called: "Leaf Blight Decreases Michigan Onion Yields and May Increase Bulb Rot. New Approaches Are Needed." The leaf blight being referred to is caused by Stemphylium. Mary's lab recently received funds for a new Master's student who will be working on this project and starting in June.

Stemphylium has replaced purple blotch, but it is more aggressive and causes premature death. Mary reviewed the mode of action for chemicals. Stemphylium does not respond to mode 11 "Strobin". Mary's lab looked at yield based on fungicide use. Many people alternate with Bravo. Mary talked about forecasts and not sure if onions and Stemphylium is tied to the forecast as well as with celery.

A grower survey was distributed which goes along with this project for collecting data from onion growers.

Mike Bosch asked how early to use LUNA? Stemphylium used to be secondary and used to feed off something like Downy, but now Stemphylium seems more aggressive on its own. Stemphylium may overwinter for 1 year. Stemphylium does not move in from the SE USA. There is local movement. Stemphylium survives better on surface, versus being tilled under.

4. MDARD Report – Heather Throne

SCBG are due today with MDARD. Value added grants are open thru the first half of April (for processing). These are up to \$125,000 with a 30% match required. Rural Development grants will be due October 1.

5. MSU Extension Report – Ben Werling

Ben gave a demonstration of the online Midwest Vegetable Guide. This can be found at mwveguide.org. Ben also reviewed the 2019 summer grower exchange education program with Ontario. This year growers from Michigan can go to Ontario. The total cost for a grower last year was around \$25. Sushila Chaudhari is the new vegetable weed scientist, taking Bernie Zandstra's position. Sushila has applied for 3 grants so far to date. One grant is for Dicamba drift on vegetables and the other has to do with weed resistance in vegetable herbicides.

6. Financial reports (see docs) – Greg Bird

a. 2019-20 Cash Flow and Budget document

Greg reviewed this document. The payment for Darryl administering the onion trials needs added to this document.

b. Assessments from 2019 crop YTD compared to 2018 YTD

The crop payments for 2019 were compared with the crop payments for 2018. Currently, 2019 is about \$1500 above where 2018 was last year at the end of February.

i. Which growers to contact?

1. VanDenburg prior assessments not received since MDARD review with farm in 2019.

2. Valley Farms (Amount to pay not known), no assessments received.

The group thought it would be good to offer Vandenburg and Brandt the option to have their names added to the list of people applying for Onion Committee appointments for 2020. Greg will draft a letter to once again send to these farms.

c. Statement of activity and statement of financial position.

Greg reviewed these two documents.

Motion: Mark Nail

Supported by: Mitchell Schreur

Motion approved

7. Board appointments - Greg Bird

a. Bruce and Mike are up in Aug 2020.

b. Need to start the process this spring.

c. Governor's office communicates well, but hard to guess who will receive appointments.

The group thought of some people to ask to be on the list and fill out an application. Ben Phillips should be asked for grower names. Scott or Glen Vogel could be asked. Eric or John Woodwyk could be asked. Dave Brink or Phil Plackmeyer could be asked.

8. MOC processes from MDARD review (see docs) - Greg Bird

a. Review and approval

The MOC proposed process documents were sent out with the agenda. These documents were reviewed by committee members prior to meeting attendance. These documents satisfy the MDARD review issues. The review issues were reviewed in the meeting. The process documents were approved for acceptance by the committee. Greg will send these to MDARD.

Motion: Kristin Oomen

Supported by: Mitchell Schreur

Motion approved

b. FOIA coordinator

Greg Bird will be the FOIA coordinator. This will be added to the documentation for the MOC processes.

Motion: Mark Nail

Supported by: Kristin Oomen

Motion approved

c. AG Commission update to MOC charter 7 to 5 committee members.

This was reviewed with the committee.

9. 2018-2019 Financial review completed - Greg Bird

a. Distribute review

The 2018-19 financial review was done for \$1800 by Cooley Sabo out of Monroe. This financial document was distributed to the committee members and MDARD.

Motion: Mitchell Schreur

Supported by: Mark Nail

Motion approved

10. Onion trials - Darryl Warncke

a. Does it make sense to have at V&W, is Bruce OK with this?

It was determined that for 2020, pelleted seed would go to Eding Brothers, which Michael Bosch will handle. The rest of the seed will go to Bruce at V&W Farms. With this being the case, the twilight dinner will most likely be at Bruce's. We are hoping to have it more towards the middle of August this year.

11. MOC Chair's report - 2019 and 2020 onion crops in Michigan - Bruce Klammer

Did not occur.

12. Trade, marketing, labor, and other funding - Greg Bird

- a. Doug Bulgrin from GUMZ and NOA, visit twilight or Expo to talk markets and pricing. Twilight, expenses to bring Doug, Expo could get expenses covered as speaker.
- b. MI Sweet, MI Grown MI Great (MI Ag Council), Demand American Grown.
- c. Update from MVC industry meeting and NCAE meetings.
- d. Any other items to approve funding for?

The group would like to invite some brokers to the twilight dinner. The group would also be willing to spend \$500 to have Doug Bulgrin talk at the twilight dinner. The motion is below. This invite will be made after the date is determined. If Doug cannot make that, he may be invited to Expo. Alex Scahfer and MSU trade lawyer expert may be worth having talk at twilight or Expo.

The group wondered if it is a requirement to list a country of origin on produce imported into the USA.

Sushila may soon ask the MOC for some funds to support her herbicide resistance project. Greg will get her a form for this, which the MOC may need to approve for future uses, since there is not currently a request form. After the twilight dinner the MOC will email researchers with priorities and highlight 2 or 3 priorities of importance.

Motion: Mark Nail

Supported by: Mitchell Schreur

Motion approved

13. Expo giveaways - Greg Bird

The MOC thought MOC pencils are always good. It would also be good to have NOA flyers and NOA cooking guides. A plastic onion storage container might be a good idea.

14. Other business

None

15. Adjournment - Michael Bosch

Time: 1:45pm, next meeting June 18 at celery co-op at noon

Motion: Mitchell Schreur

Supported by: Mark Nail

Motion approved