

Winter 2021 Michigan Onion Committee Newsletter



Michigan Onion Newsletter
6835 S Krepps Rd
St Johns, MI 48879

Onion Committee Meeting Calendar

Date	Location	Time
Feb 9, 2021	MOC Research meeting, visit michiganonion.com for online meeting links	12:00pm
June 17, 2021	MOC meeting - Celery Promotion Bldg - 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	12:00pm
August 2021	MOC Twilight Onion Trials and Dinner	evening
Dec 2021	MOC Annual Meeting, Great Lakes Expo in Grand Rapids	TBD



2020 Michigan Onion Committee trial results are available at michiganonion.com or at the Expo onion session.

Michigan Onion Assessments

Please send assessments to:
Michigan Onion Committee
6835 S Krepps Rd
St Johns, MI 48879

For those of you who are packers or growers, please review the included report on 2020 assessments received from your business to make sure all of your assessments have been received. Any questions or concerns please contact Greg Bird at gbird@michiganonion.com or 517-663-6725.

You can find NOA onion storage data and the MOC assessment forms at michiganonion.com

Current Onion Research

Specialty Crop Block Grant - Dr. Mary Hausbeck: "Leaf Blight Decreases Michigan Onion Yields and May Increase Bulb Rot: New Approaches Are Needed." This grant was for \$82,721. Field Work was completed in the summer of 2020, with more to continue in 2021.

USDA NIFA SCRI - "'Stop the Rot' Onion Bacterial Project"

To see this report: "Challenges in integrated pest management: A case study of onion thrips and

bacterial bulb rot in onion" go to

<http://michiganonion.com/onion-thrips-bacterial-bulb-rot-report/>

<https://alliumnet.com/> is a website about everything alliums. The previously mentioned research project will be upgrading this website so that project work can be hosted at this address.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and Food Boxes

<https://www.farmers.gov/cfap> has the latest news on the latest extension to February 26. As this newsletter goes out, the next round of support seems to still be in the planning stages.

The USDA Food Boxes started slow, but have pretty much cleared out the onion storage crop here in Michigan. From the National Onion Association (NOA) January 2021 report, Michigan had 35,000,000lbs in storage at the end of 2019 and 23,750,000lbs at the end of 2020. And this 2020 storage crop number might seem high based on what it sounds like people actually have in storage.

Michigan Farm Bureau launches free, virtual agricultural labor series (Jan 28, Feb 4, Feb 11, Feb 18)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/agricultural-labor-virtual-series-tickets-136006018663>

Michigan Farm Bureau Covid Resources

[MFB's COVID-19 resources](#): has recently updated news on Worker Protection During COVID-19 and Vaccination Advisory documents.

Overview of Trade Laws

January 28 at 9am: Representatives from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission will provide an overview of trade laws that govern trade in agricultural products.

Have you been concerned about imports of agricultural fruits and vegetables that compete with your products? Join us on January 28th at 9:00am to hear about potential avenues to address these concerns. Barb Rawdon can send you the below link to your email:

Barb.Rawdon@trade.gov

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the

meeting<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjNkNTMzMWItMzM2ZC00OGMwLWJkNzQtMjZmMDFhMGZiZGVl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221bf3321d-5343-4d26-a549-d53fae834d88%22%7d>

Or call in (audio only)

+1 253-372-2016,,265666207#<tel:+12533722016,,265666207#> United States, Tacoma

Phone Conference ID: 265 666 207#

*Per US Dept of Commerce - this webinar is not for media attendance

H-2A and Adverse Effect Wage Rates (AEWR)

Not too long ago it was confirmed that the Agricultural Labor Survey was cancelled on September 30, 2020. At that point the AEWR was supposed to be held the same for 2021 and 2022. This has since changed as of December 10, 2020. See the following:

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Notices/2020/12-10-2020.php> as the Survey will now be taking place. On Dec 21, the AEWR was established moving forward, but how long that lasts, who knows, as the Survey is in progress. The Survey affects the AEWR, if you want to understand how please check out the Michigan Farm Bureau agricultural labor series.