Fall 2026 Michigan Onion Committee Newsletter



Onion Committee Meeting Calendar

Date	Location	Time
Nov 11, 2026	MOC Annual Meeting, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing, MI 48910	2:00pm
March 2027	MOC meeting - Celery Promotion Bldg - 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	10:00am
June 2027	MOC meeting - Celery Promotion Bldg - 5009 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426	12:00pm
August 2027	TBD - MOC twilight onion trials and dinner	6:00pm

Michigan Onion and Celery video on Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZhAjsnaKnk

Read full newsletter

Michigan Onion Assessments

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

2026 onions are harvested. The Michigan Onion Committee is ready to receive onion assessments for the year. If you are a grower or packer, regardless of whether you receive this newsletter in the mail or via email, it will include a 2026 assessment form and instructions. Any questions or concerns please contact Greg Bird at gbird@michiganonion.com or 517-663-6725.

Current Onion Research

Some updates have been made to the Michigan Onion Committee website:michiganonion.com. These updates should make it easier to find previous onion trial results and NOA stats, as well as give access to prior newsletters and research projects. Check out the RESEARCH menu where we have added historical research projects.

Grant Type	Details	Grantee
Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)	ONION GROWERS SEEK TO LIMIT LEAF SPOT TO PRESERVE YIELDS	Dr. Mary Hausbeck's lab
GREEEN	Enhancing autonomy and precision for improved mechanical weed management in vegetable crops.	Dr. Dan Brainard's lab
SCBG	Expanding Weed Management Options in Onions Using Directed-Energy Technologies	Dr. Josh Miranda's lab

2026 Great Lakes Expo is Dec 8-10

Thursday Expo has $10 trade show only option this year. Regular early bird registration ends November 15.

To see who is exhibiting in the trade show this year, go to https://glexpo2026.expofp.com/. The Syngenta Crop Protection Stage is at the end of Main Street. Here is the who will be on the Stage this year:

- Small Scale Berries - MSU Extension
- Risk Management and Contingency Planning, Fitting health insurance into your farm plan - MSU Extension
- Produce Safety Technology and Mobile Water Testing Lab
- Great American Media Services - 40 Under 40 Awards
- Water Districts – Building Communities of Good Water Stewards
- Harvest Solar

- FieldWatch
- How Your Farm Can Attend Produce Shows / Meet The Buyers Individual and open meetings
- Updates on Worker Protection Standards

Register for Expo here: https://glexpo.com/attend/register/

Meet The Buyers returns to Expo, December 9 at 4pm in the Main Hall food truck area. For 2026, Meet The Buyers will not only offer open house style meetings, but also one-on-one Matchmaking meetings, which begin at 2pm and require pre-registration.

Expo Social

Did you attend the Expo Social in 2024 and 2025 350+ of you did. The Expo offered you a drink and food from a massive charcuterie board. Everyone who attends Expo is invited to attend the Expo Social. The Social is at 5:30pm on Wednesday, December 9. Specialty crop industry awards are part of the event and those begin at about 6:15pm.

Onion Session at Expo Dec 9 2pm-4pm(*AFTERNOON THIS YEAR)

Stemphylium Update - Mary Hausbeck - Michigan State University and Matthew John - Michigan State University
What Still Works - and What's New - in Onion Thrips Management - Brian Nault - Cornell AgriTech
A NY Perspective on Weed Control in Onions Grown on Muck Soils - Christy Hoepting - Cornell Cooperative Extension
Experiences with Optical Sprayers in Ontario Onions - Cesar Cappa - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture

A luncheon will be provided for Michigan onion growers prior to this session. The luncheon is offsite. Please contact Greg Bird if you are interested as there are limited seats.

Executive Director's Notes

There are recent updates to **PROTECTOURPRODUCE.COM**? If you have not seen it, get out there and share it. The goal is to make sure H-2A Visa workforce program is sustainable for the employers using it. The Interim Final Rule and the most recent AEWR rate was overturned in court and USDOL has until Dec 30 to create a new wage rule for the H-2A VISA workforce. All vegetable growers are anxiously awaiting what will be revealed by USDOL.

New SCALE Michigan Cohort explores AgTech adoption, brings growers and AgTech companies together for mutual benefit

A new cohort based initiative, Specialty Crop AgTech Learning & Evaluation Michigan (SCALE Michigan), launches at the Great Lakes EXPO.

A new AgTech productivity tool must prove itself on a grower's crops, scale, land, and schedule before earning a place on the farm. Meanwhile, AgTech companies often struggle to secure hands-on farm feedback to fully understand grower needs. THis slows adoption and all the benefits that can come with it.

The SCALE Michigan Cohort (Specialty Crop AgTech Learning & Evaluation) is designed to bridge this gap. The Cohort brings specialty crop growers and AgTech companies together in collaboration to examine what it takes for technology to succeed on Michigan farms and test promising ideas in the field. Supported by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Michigan Vegetable Council, the program is developed and executed by Application Insight, LLC.

How the Cohort works

SCALE Michigan kicks off with a full-day session at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over the winter and early spring of 2027, the cohort will meet for two off-site, two-day sessions, supplemented by shorter virtual meetings as needed.

Sessions combine communication skill-building based on the proven Great Lakes Leadership Academy (GLLA) model with case studies focused on AgTech adoption challenges. Participants will enhance skills in active learning, constructive conflict, and comprehensive case study evaluation.

From the meeting room to the field

The cohort will select objectives, locations, and technologies for field trials during the 2027 growing season. Results will be shared with the broader industry, including at the 2027 Great Lakes EXPO.

What's in it for the participants

Participants will gain a better understanding of how agricultural technology moves from concept to trusted farm practice, establishing frameworks to evaluate new tools and new companies early. Growers will acquire stronger tools to communicate with Agtech companies, while companies gain direct insight into grower requirements and a faster path to trust and success. Together, members will build lasting peer networks to support long-term sustainability and growth both on their own farms and for the overall industry.

How to get involved

www.SCALEmichigan.org has all the information. The SCALE Michigan Cohort is open to Michigan specialty crop growers. AgTech companies do not need to be Michigan based. The application period is OPEN NOW, and limited to 24 participants. There is no cost to participate.