



JULIAN VAIL, LLC NEWS & NOTES



OCTOBER 30, 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS

**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL
PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS**
- SEIC Fall Conference
Nov. 6-7, Atlanta, GA

**SAGINAW VALLEY AG CLUB
MEETING**
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009
LUMBER BARONS GRILL &
PUB - BAY CITY

**WEST MICHIGAN AG CLUB
MEETING**
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009
SW MICHIGAN RESEARCH
& EXTENSION CENTER

LANSING AG CLUB MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
RADISSON HOTEL,
DOWNTOWN LANSING

**Tough times
don't last,
tough people
do.**

Robert Schuller

2009 MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- TBD- Tuesday, November 3
- TBD - Wednesday, November 4
- TBD - Thursday, November 5

SENATE

- TBD- Tuesday, November 3
- TBD - Wednesday, November 4
- TBD - Thursday, November 5

MICHIGAN SCHOOL BUSES GO THE "EXTRA MILE" ON BIODIESEL

The St. Johns school district's switch to B20 in 2002 came from the persistence of Wayne Hettler, Garage Foreman & Head Mechanic for St. Johns. His foresight has led to a reported track record of bus longevity and reduced service needs, saving the school district money. Last week, "bus #14" rolled over 300,000 miles – a milestone Hettler attributes to B20 and believes no other Michigan school bus used on a daily route has achieved. Because biodiesel adds lubricity to the engines, St. Johns has been able to extend their engine oil changes from roughly 6,000 miles between changes in 1997, to 12,000-18,000 mile intervals, depending on the engine type. That alone cut filter costs by more than half.

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel made from agricultural byproducts, such as soybean oil, recycled oil and fats. Biodiesel reduces most regulated emissions substantially, including greenhouse gases and potential cancer causing compounds. The NBB is the national trade association of the biodiesel industry and is the coordinating body for biodiesel research and development in the United States.

MDA, MSUE and Experiment Station Funding

The Higher Education Budget was signed by the Governor on 10/30/09 with some line item vetoes. MSU and Agricultural interests have been meeting and on a letter writing campaign to keep MSUE and the Experiment stations funded this year.

After signing the Higher Education Funding Bill, Governor Granholm gave limited remarks on the items she vetoed; although, her office is expected to distribute detailed lists of the vetoes later today. The only actual veto she discussed was funding for the Michigan State Fair, which she eliminated, putting the fair's future in doubt.

She did not veto the Michigan Tuition Grant funds or the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.

In other news, the Governor has issued an Executive Order and budget cuts through line item vetoes of Agriculture. If allowed to stand, Executive Order 2009-45 removes accountability, public oversight and transparency from the adoption of policies, procedures, fees and other functions of the Department by eliminating the Commission's oversight authority. This E.O. would effectively weaken Michigan's successful agriculture sector and put jobs at risk.

The Department of Agriculture has a culture of accessibility and problem-solving, deploying practices and policies that have worked well - all in concert with public and business input, regular oversight and the able stewardship of a strong and bipartisan Agriculture Commission. This executive order, we fear, introduces a great deal of risk while eliminating critical accountability, openness and community oversight functions that hurt both the industry in particular as well as Michigan citizens.

There currently is discussion on over riding the EO and asking the Governor to rewrite the order and reconsider its affect on Agriculture.

The Agriculture budget is completed and signed by the Governor with line item vetoes.

Julian Vail, LLC

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NEWS & NOTES

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HORSE RACING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This is the update from Thursday's (10-29-09) legislative activities:

The Senate Agriculture Policy committee passed SB 955, 956, 957 and 958 with immediate effect to the full Senate. SB 955 through 958 will be voted on next week. These bills restore the ORC under the Department of Agriculture.

The full House of Representatives passed HB 4288 with 105 yeas and 1 nay vote cast. The House also supported immediate effect. HB 4288 now moves to the Senate for action next week. This bill restores funding to the ORC.

Next Tuesday or Wednesday, the Senate Appropriation Committee will address over riding the Governors Executive Order 45-09. This EO places Horse Racing in Gaming and removes the staff from the Department of Agriculture.

You can find these bills on line at: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

Please contact your legislators and ask them to support this legislation. It is critical to pass all of these bills by November 5, 2009 or there is NO MORE racing in Michigan.

Please feel free to contact Val or Larry if you have any questions.

MI DEPARTMENT OF AG PRACTICES FULL-SCALE RAPID RESPONSE

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) continues to prepare for emergency response by participating in real-time activities such as the first bi-state exercise, funded by the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, specifically designed to test interstate coordination and the logistics of implementing quarantine measures ordered by state animal health officials. Last week, MDA sent emergency responders to the Kansas/Oklahoma border to participate in a real-time exercise simulating the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the United States. FMD is an extremely contagious foreign animal disease of cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison and cervids. "In a real event, we would have to work with multiple entities at the local, state, and federal level, and this exercise was a tremendous step in understanding the resources that are available to us," said MDA Emergency Manager Brad Deacon. "We have learned how to request help, and how to work with other local, state, and federal agencies toward a common goal."

For more information on agriculture emergency response in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/mda.

BIO eCONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Farmers, entrepreneurs, local officials and others who are interested in bioenergy can learn more about the status and potential of this growing industry by attending the 2009 Bio eConference, "Growing the Bioeconomy: Solutions for Sustainability," Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. in the Hannah Community Center. The conference will run from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The registration cost is \$60 per person for those attending live, which gives participants the added value of networking and access to a special morning presentation about biomass procurement. For those who plan to view it from a personal computer in another location, the cost is \$50. Visit <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bioeconomy/> or call MSU Agriculture and Natural Resources Conference Services at 517-353-3175 to register for the live conference. If participating online from a personal computer, visit www.bioeconomyconference.org and click on registration options.