



JULIAN VAIL, LLC

NEWS & NOTES



NOVEMBER 6, 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

REMINDER

LANSING AG CLUB MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
RADISSON HOTEL, 7:00 A.M.
DOWNTOWN LANSING
SPONSORED BY:
MSU PRODUCT CENTER

**When our perils
are past, shall
our gratitude
sleep?**

-George Canning

2009 MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- TBD - Tuesday, November 10
- No Session, Veteran's Day - Wed., Nov. 11
- TBD - Thursday, November 12

SENATE

- 10:00 a.m. - Tuesday, November 10
- No Session, Veteran's Day - Wed., Nov. 11
- 10:00 a.m. - Thursday, November 12

A DECADE of GROWTH & SUCCESS in the AGRI-FOOD SECTOR LAUDED

"In just 12 short years, thanks in part to the tremendous efforts of MDA's Agriculture Development Division, the state's agri-food sector in Michigan has grown from \$55 billion in 1997 to \$71.3 billion in 2009. That's a 129 percent increase," said James Byrum, Commission chair. "As one of the few economic bright spots in the state, it is essential that the Commission recognize the intrinsic role the food and agriculture industry play in Michigan's economic well-being."

Below are some of the highlights from yesterday's presentation:

- +Employs more than one million Michigan residents, nearly 25 percent of the state's workforce.
- +Exports about one-third of its agricultural commodities each year, generating more than \$1.68 billion and supporting more than 19,691 jobs in 2008, and this has almost doubled when one compares the USDA statistics of \$869.8 million for agricultural exports in 1997.
- +Produces over 200 commodities, the second most agricultural diverse state in the U.S.
- +Michigan leads the nation in the production of 20 commodities.
- +The first year the Select Michigan Program was conducted in the West Michigan, sales of fresh fruits and vegetables on average increased 111 percent. Sales have subsequently increased approximately 10-20 percent per year thereafter.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mda and click on "Food and Agribusiness."

STATE PROGRAM TEACHES AG TO HOMELESS VETERANS

A new program is preparing homeless veterans in Michigan for careers in agriculture.

Veterans to Agriculture is the only program of its kind in the country.

The four-week program's curriculum, which was developed by MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology and is taught by MSU staff and agriculture professionals, includes lessons on soil science and equipment operation. Trainees also learn conversational Spanish so they can communicate with migrant workers.

The program is targeting veterans living in homeless shelters, but may open up to all veterans, said Mike Wofford, operations manager at the veterans' division of the state's Bureau of Workforce Transformation. Graduates also can get jobs with different types of agricultural employers such as golf courses and landscaping companies.

Veterans were considered for the program because they have leadership skills, can follow and give orders, have mechanical skills and are physically fit, Wofford said. And, many farms have temporary housing for their migrant work force where the homeless veterans can stay.

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