



# MFGC UPDATE

*For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council*

January 2015

**MFGC Office**  
235 N Pine St  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517-367-2033  
mail@mifgc.org

## Calendar of Events

### **Ag Day at the Capitol**

March 25, 2015  
11am - 2pm  
Capitol Building  
Lansing

### **Member Meeting**

March 27, 2015  
9:00 am  
WoJo's Greenhouse  
Ortonville

### **Board Meeting**

March 27, 2015  
WoJo's Greenhouse  
Ortonville

### **Cultivate'15**

July 11-14, 2015  
Columbus, OH  
MSU

### **MSU Plant Trial Field Day**

August 4, 2015  
MSU

### **Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, Dec 8, 2015  
Devos Place  
Grand Rapids

Dear Member,

I am proud to introduce myself as your new President of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council. Like many of you, the horticulture industry has been a part of my life for about as long as I can remember. I am a 1982 graduate of MSU and an owner of Post Gardens Greenhouses.

As a founding committee member of this organization in 2004, it is rewarding to have returned within the past couple of years to see the progress and impact the MFGC has made in providing a voice specifically for the floriculture industry at the State level. Our industry is the 4th largest agricultural commodity in Michigan, which ranks 3rd nationally in value of wholesale of floriculture products. Previous to 2004, we had representation at a regional level through the Western Michigan Growers Association and the Detroit Metro Flower Growers, but no presence at the State level. Now, the Michigan government recognizes us as a vibrant organization and has sought our opinion and input on legislation such as taxation bills, the Right to Farm Act, Water Withdrawal Act, and the rescinding of the Vegetable Plant Quarantine of the 70's - just to name a few. I feel the input and opinions we have offered have, without a doubt, made a difference - our voices are truly being heard. Allow me to ask for your help in being an ambassador for the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council: please help us strengthen our organization by asking your neighbors to join.

Thank you, and have a great spring!

Bill

Bill Tuinier, MFGC President  
Owner, Post Gardens

## 2015 Board of Directors

**President**  
Bill Tuinier

**Vice-President**  
Dennis Crum

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Donny Marvaso

**Members**  
Dick Derks  
Andy Buist  
Ken Tuinier  
Susie Raker-Zimmerman

**Educator Appointee**  
Erik Runkle

**Allied Trade Appointees**  
Bud Ripberger  
Mike Faber

**MDFGA Appointee**  
Open

**WMGA Appointee**  
Scott Stiles

**Policy Chair**  
Ken Tuinier

**Membership Chair**  
Susie Raker-Zimmerman

## **MAEAP Certified Members**

Great Lakes Greenhouses

*Kalamazoo*

GreenDorr Greenhouse

*Dorr*

Joe Theisen Farm

*St. Clair*

Westrate Greenhouses, Inc

*Kalamazoo*



**- Save the Date -**

**MFGC Membership Meeting**  
March 27, 2015  
9:00 am

**WoJo's Greenhouse**  
2570 Oakwood Rd.  
Ortonville, MI 48462

**Complete your Survey Today**  
**- Deadline January 31, 2015-**

Members - If you have not already done so, please complete your survey today and return to USDA. The information MFGC is requesting is very important to assist us in policy work on employments, energy, taxation, etc. The survey was created and requested by Michigan Floriculture Growers Council and funded by a Specialty Crop Block Grant. Your submitted information is returned to the USDA and confidential. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the MFGC office.

**Action Mold and Machining, Inc.**

ISO 9001:2008

Contact: Mike Fassbender  
3120 Ken-O-Sha Industrial Ct SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49508  
Office: (616)452-1580  
Fax: (616)452-1470  
Email: mfassbender@actionmold.net  
Website: www.actionmold.net

Action Mold & Machining, Inc. provides affordable pricing for our Plastic Pot & Hanging Basket Division.

Looking for something special- please call.

8" - 10" - 12" Rato Pots  
9" - 10" - 12" Hanging Baskets  
9.5" Planter Pot  
8" Square Pot

Business Hours: 24/7 - Please call us for more information at 616/452-1580

## 2015 Board of Directors

A big thank you to the floriculture growers who volunteer to serve on the MFGC Board of Directors. This service takes time out of their personal lives and a commitment to make the industry better for all of us. Thank you!

Welcome to our new member of the board, Susie Raker Zimmerman of C. Raker & Sons, Inc. Greenhouse and to re-elected Donny Marvaso of Marvaso Greenhouses.

During the January 21 MFGC Board of Directors meeting, Bill Tuinier was elected your 2015 President, Dennis Crum elected Vice-President and Donny Marvaso elected Secretary-Treasurer. The following appointments were also made: Mike Faber and Bud Ripberger as Allied Trade members, Scott Stiles for WMGA, Erik Runkle as the Education member, Susie Raker-Zimmerman as Membership Chair and Ken Tuinier as Policy Chair.

### Your 2015 Board of Directors

Bill Tuinier - President  
Dennis Crum - Vice-President  
Donny Marvaso - Secretary/Treasurer  
Dick Derks - Member  
Andy Buist - Member  
Ken Tuinier - Member  
Susie Raker-Zimmerman - Member  
Erik Runkle - Educator Appointee  
Bud Ripberger - Allied Trade Appointee  
Mike Faber - Allied Trade Appointee  
Open - MDFGA Appointee  
Scott Stiles - WMGA Appointee  
Ken Tuinier - Policy Chair  
Susie Raker-Zimmerman - Membership Chair

### Congratulations and Thank you!

## General Property Tax Exemption signed by Governor Snyder

Public Act 511 and 512 of 2014 amends the General Property Tax Act, enacting the "Hydroponics and Aquaculture Production Facilities Specific Tax Act". The tax act exempts hydroponics production facilities and aquaculture production facilities from the tax collected under the General Property Tax Act for taxes levied after December 31, 2013. The new statute imposes on those facilities a specific tax that would be 25% of the property tax plus new millage approved by the local tax collecting unit after the effective date of the proposed Act.

Michigan Floriculture Grower members may qualify for this tax exemption if you have hydroponics or technically described uses in the language of the law. See the legislative language for details.

To read the bills in their entirety, please go to the following websites;

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billenrolled/Senate/htm/2014-SNB-0786.htm>

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billenrolled/Senate/htm/2014-SNB-0787.htm>

# PLACING ORDERS WITH BFG IS SIMPLE & EASY..

SEARCH FOR ITEM IN CATALOG or SALE FLYER.  
SCAN THE BARCODE. PLACE YOUR ORDER.



DOWNLOAD  
THE MOBILE APP  
TODAY

Available at the  
App Store

Scan for  
APPLE  
Devices



Available on  
Google play

Scan for  
ANDROID  
Devices



## BARCODE READING ISSUES?

Having issues reading barcodes?  
Isolate the intended  
barcode with white paper  
before scanning.



14500 Kinsman Rd., Burton, OH 44021  
(800) 883-0234 • [www.bfgsupply.com](http://www.bfgsupply.com)

## Agriculturally speaking...Michigan's food and agriculture system hits the mark in 2014, but there is still much work to do

*by Jamie Clover Adams, director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development*

As 2014 winds down, we must take a moment to reflect on the things we're thankful for and achievements made. As I look back over the past year, there is so much to be proud of in Michigan's food and agriculture system and I'm thankful for all of our partners and farmers who helped us hit significant milestones this year.

One of those milestones is that Michigan's food and agriculture systems surpassed its total economic impact goal. According to an interim estimate released by the Michigan State University Product Center, the annual economic impact is now at \$101.2 billion. The first analysis was conducted in 2006 showing the food and agriculture system was valued at \$60.1 billion. This newest estimate highlights that Michigan's food and agriculture system continues on a consistent growth trend.

This year, MDARD worked hard to increase Michigan's food and agriculture footprint in the international markets and issued more than 4,500 federal phytosanitary certificates - a 19 percent increase - enabling billions of dollars in exports for Michigan companies. Without MDARD issuing these certificates stating the products are free of pests or disease, Michigan companies would not be able to compete in global trade.

Additionally, the department issued 2,635 Certificates of Free Sale - a 36 percent increase over 2012 - to assist companies exporting processed food products. Certificates of Free Sale assure importing countries that products meet its food safety requirements. This program was extensively modified to increase the speed of certificate issuance, reduce errors and help provide industry with a smoother export/import process.

We couldn't have increased economic growth without protecting and preserving the safety of the state's food chain. Routine sanitation inspections and pathogen testing enables us to recall potentially unsafe food from the channels of commerce. Not only does this routine work reduce the possibility of food borne illness, it also protects the reputation of Michigan food businesses and their position in the state, national and global marketplace.

One milestone hits close to home for me as the daughter of a cattle farmer. For 16 years, our beef and dairy farmers have been working to mitigate and eradicate bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in the state. That hard work finally paid off in October, when 95 percent of Michigan's counties were classified as Bovine TB Free by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This ensures cattle can move freely to other parts of the state and the nation, reducing costs and improving the marketability of Michigan cattle. There is still more work to do as we strive to become totally bovine TB-free.

The voluntary, farmer-driven Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) reduces the risk of environmental pollution from Michigan farms thereby improving individual health, wildlife habitat, and natural resource productivity. MDARD, with the assistance of conservation districts and other partners, met a 2,500 verification mark putting it half-way to the 5,000 goal. Annually, this program helps keep 780 million pounds of sediment, 572,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 1.2 million pounds of nitrogen out of state waters reducing the risk of algal blooms and improving water quality.

These are just a snapshot of all the amazing accomplishments by MDARD and throughout the food and agriculture industry. It was through collaboration, partnership, hard work and dedication that we were able to achieve so much. I am thankful for those helped move the industry forward and meet our goals. I'm excited to see what more we can do together in 2015!