



JULIAN VAIL, LLC NEWS & NOTES



MAY 2, 2008

2008 MICHIGAN FARM MARKET DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

The 2008 Michigan Farm Market and Agricultural Tourism directory is now available.

Included in the directory are listings for farm markets, U-pick operations, corn mazes, cider mills and much more.

Copies of the directory are available at all 13 Michigan Welcome Centers and at Farm Bureau insurance agencies across the state.

In addition to the printed directory, listings can be accessed online at www.michiganfarmfun.com.

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

House

Appropriations: State Police and Military and Veterans Affairs
May 6, 2008

10:30 a.m.

428 State Capitol Building

Chair: Rep. Richard LeBlanc

Transportation

May 8, 2008

10:30 a.m.

307 House Office Building

Chair: Rep. Hoon-Yung

Hopgood

Senate

Agriculture Appropriations

May 7, 2008

3:00 p.m.

Room 405, Capitol Bldg.

Chair: Sen. Cameron Brown

For a complete listing of committee meetings visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

2008 MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE SCHEDULE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- May 6 1:30 p.m.
- May 7 1:30 p.m.
- May 8 12:00 p.m.

SENATE

- May 6 1:30 p.m.
- May 7 10:00 a.m.
- May 8 10:00 a.m.

MICHIGAN CONTRACT SECURITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7, 2008

The Michigan Contract Security Association will hold their annual meeting May 7, 2008 at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor starting at 6:00 p.m. with a networking and social hour. The evening will feature speakers Senator Hansen Clarke, F/Lt. Jerry Conners of the MSP Homeland Security Division and Steve Gobbo, Director of the Legal Affairs Division, Bureau of Commercial Services, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. For more information or to RSVP call (800) 710-2371.

CONSUMERS - USE PRECAUTION WHEN BUYING PLANTS OFF THE INTERNET

Internet sales of ornamental plants have become a major business enterprise in the last five years. Now, anyone with a computer and a source of plants can sell online, bringing this convenient service to many homeowners. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) cautions homeowners to make wise decisions when ordering plants online.

In Michigan, all nursery stock grown in the state is inspected at least once a year by highly trained MDA inspectors. Additionally, MDA conducts spot dealer inspections to make sure nursery stock is free of pests and diseases. During these inspections, MDA assures the nursery stock is of the size and grade advertised, is the variety described on the label, and is being cared for in a manner assuring plant's survival. Also, the sale of weakened, dead, or dying plants is considered a violation of Michigan's nursery law.

Consumers should take the following precautions:

- Homeowners should contact the Department of Agriculture in the state where the business is located if there is any doubt on the legitimacy of a firm.
- Avoid firms that do not list a street address - they may be difficult to track down later on if something goes wrong.
- Consumers should make sure the company is properly licensed and the product has been inspected and is certified free of pests and diseases.

MDA advises consumers to purchase nursery stock from a Michigan firm. Selecting Michigan grown stock makes it good for you and good for the economy.

Sales by unlicensed individuals selling off a few surplus backyard plants becomes a perfect mechanism for spreading pests, diseases, and even unwanted weeds across the country. Don't take any chances - purchase from a reputable firm selling certified stock. For more information, visit the MDA Web site at www.michigan.gov/mda.

AGRICULTURALLY SPEAKING - INTERNATIONAL MARKETING PROGRAM - BY DON KOIVISTO

The Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) International Marketing Program does more than just sell Michigan-grown products overseas. The program helps expand Michigan's agriculture economic impact with exports generating \$1.1 billion in 2006. According to USDA's Economic Research Service, there were 13,800 agricultural export-related jobs in Michigan in 2006, that's up 1,000 jobs from just a few years ago. These figures are positive proof that agricultural exports help to grow the state's second largest economic sector.

The state exports almost one-third of its 200 agricultural commodities, with the top five agricultural exports being soybeans, feed grains, vegetables, fruits, and dairy products. To read the complete article by Don Koivisto, visit www.michigan.gov/mda.

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