



MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE
GROWERS COUNCIL

Michigan Farm Bureau

Ornamentals and Greenhouse Committee

August 6, 2008

Water

- Monitor implementation of 2008 water legislation
- Continued opposition to fees for well drilling and water withdrawal

MAEAP

- Commend the development of Greenhouse-A-Syst curriculum
- Advocate for approval of exemption for greenhouse tank recycling systems from MDA regulation #642, which applies to fertilizer storage tanks

Immigration

- Monitor legislation on immigration and agricultural labor issues to assess their effect on labor resources available to growers
- Member of Michigan 4-F Initiative
- Support an agriculture worker visa that is *workable*
- Encourage agriculture to be proactive by developing a position regarding resident non-citizens working in the U.S.

Energy

- Monitor energy costs which continue to threaten greenhouse profitability
- Pursue energy policies that enable growers to adapt to high energy costs, focusing on energy conservation technologies and/or conversion to bio-energy sources

Farm Bill

- Advocate for specialty crop programs that benefit Michigan greenhouse growers and other non-food sectors of Michigan agriculture

Other Topics

- Support state budgets for MAES (Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station) and MSUE (Michigan State University Extension) that minimally keep pace with inflation
- Explore strategies for managing financial risks associated with new or invasive pests (a study has been launched)
- Monitor and protect funding for MDA (pest management and agriculture statistics) and monitor DEQ to assess grower impact of any environmental regulations and/or fees
- Support the initiative to preserve methyl bromide as a media and soil fumigant, or find effective substitutes

Floriculture Quick Facts

Floriculture is Michigan's 2nd largest agricultural commodity, up from 4th in 2005

Michigan is #2 in the production of young plants for propagation

Michigan is #2 in the production of bedding plants

Michigan is #5 in the production of perennial flowers

The Michigan floriculture industry has increased steadily since the early 1990's, with an estimated 40% gain in value since 2000.

Michigan is the third largest floriculture crop producer in the US, and is first or second for 18 major floriculture crops.

The reported farm-gate value of floriculture is \$379 million and retail value is \$1.9 billion

It is estimated that the floriculture industry provides at least 14,000 jobs in Michigan (2006-7 projection)