

Michigan Department of Agriculture Commission of Agriculture Meeting Minutes June 29-30, 1999

The Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT:

Deanna Stamp, Chair, Commission of Agriculture
James Maitland, Vice-Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Jordan Tatter, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture
Shirley Skogman, Commission of Agriculture
Douglas Darling, Commission of Agriculture
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT: *(all or part of the meeting)*

Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff
David Hildenbrand, Governor Engler's Office
Ron Zellar, Attorney General's Office
Susy Avery, Executive Director, Travel Michigan
Jerry Crandall, MIRS Newsletter
Representative Stephen Ehardt
Scott Everett, Michigan Farm Bureau
Robert Fogg, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
Amy Frankmann, Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association
Jim Fuerstenau, Michigan Farmland and Community Alliance
Terry Gotts, Michigan Department of Transportation
Randy and Shirley Hampshire, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
Gary Haynes, Mason, Michigan
Jeff Kourofsky, Michigan Organic Foods Advisory Committee
Jim Miller, Michigan Farm Bureau
Peter Murray, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
Carol Osborne, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
L. Ernest Otter, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
Dean Peterson, *Michigan Farmer*
Michael Potter, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
Gene Purdum, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee
Dan Rossman, Michigan Organic Advisory Committee

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stamp called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., on June 29, 1999. Secretary Tatter called the roll; Director Wyant and all Commissioners were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 29-30, 1999, AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 12-13, 1999, MEETING MINUTES

AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission of Agriculture will be held on August 26-27, 1999, in connection with the Michigan State Fair, Detroit, Michigan.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS' PER DIEM AND/OR TRAVEL

MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN'S PER DIEM AND TRAVEL ON JUNE 19, 1999, TO ATTEND THE "BREAKFAST ON THE FARM," HELD IN DAGGETT, MICHIGAN, AND COMMISSIONER MAITLAND'S TRAVEL ON MAY 3, 1999, TO ATTEND THE FOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE SHOW HELD IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Commissioner Maitland moved to approve COMMISSIONERS' per diem and travel SEPTEMBER 9-13, 1999, to PARTICIPATE IN the "Ultimate Farmland PRESERVATION Tour," TO PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND NEW JERSEY. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL ON JUNE 23-25, 1999, TO ATTEND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION LISTENING SESSION, AND THE INDIANA CATTLE HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Shirley Skogman reported on the "Breakfast on the Farm" meeting held at a four-generation, Centennial farm, in Daggett, Michigan, on June 19, 1999. This was a first-time event held in the Upper Peninsula, with more than 500 people in attendance. Commissioner Skogman said she appreciated the opportunity to represent MDA and Director Wyant at this event.

Commissioner Skogman also reported on a fence project that will involve a 40-acre parcel of land on her property. This experimental electrical fencing will be used to determine its effectiveness in controlling deer damage and deer management.

She said that concern has been expressed about the deer feeding bill recently passed by the Legislature. She added that it is important that the Upper Peninsula be considered in all aspects of solving the bovine tuberculosis problem in Michigan.

Commissioner James Maitland reported that weather conditions have been favorable in Northern Michigan and it should be a very productive year for cherry growers.

Commissioner Douglas Darling reported that there was good attendance at the Monroe County Clean Sweep Dedication. He also said that HB 1592, which is geared toward Congressional implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act, needs agricultural support. Commissioner Darling appreciated today's discussion on farmland preservation. He said there are many areas of concern, such as low commodity prices, ag security areas, international trade and food production. He believes that there are some areas that can be addressed at the state level.

Commissioner Jordan Tatter reported that plentiful heat units, along with adequate sunlight and moisture, made for excellent growing conditions for row crops, forage, fruit and vegetable crops in Southwest Michigan. Windstorm and hail damage has occurred, but the season is at least a week ahead of normal, although slightly behind last year. The Red Tart Cherry harvest began last Sunday.

Commissioner Tatter and a staff member from MDA's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division toured one of his company's warehouses to examine wooden pallets and crating materials for the

Asian Long Horned Beetle coming in from China. The tunnels of a wood borer were easily found, but no life stages were observed.

Commissioner Tatter reported that he:

- **Attended the Michigan Transportation Funding Study Committee meetings held in Lansing, representing agriculture on the committee.**
- **Met with a food irradiation startup group concerning a facility location in Southwest Michigan.**
- **Took part in the Michigan Economic and Environmental Round Table meeting held in Lansing, representing agriculture.**
- **Attended the Berrien/Cass/Van Buren Work Force Development Board Meeting.**
- **Participated in the Van Buren County Extension Council quarterly meeting, representing value-added food processing.**
- **Hosted David Kleweno, Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, on a warehouse tour and group discussion regarding statistical reporting of refrigerated and frozen food inventories. Mr. Kleweno brought with him a staff person in charge of this data collection, along with the head of the section from USDA in Washington, D.C. Also in attendance were processor representatives who utilize the data produced to make production and marketing decisions.**
- **Took part in a meeting with MSU Agricultural Economic staff, cherry industry leadership and a processor to discuss the Federal Tart Cherry Marketing Order design and its ramifications.**
- **Attended the Michigan Food Processors Association annual meeting, where Bob Craig, director of the MDA Office of Agriculture Development, was a speaker and brought the results of the MDA/MSU Michigan Food Processors Survey to the group.**
- **Attended Senator McManus' town hall meetings of the Senate Agriculture Preservation Task Force, held at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center in Benton Harbor. About 20 speakers presented their thoughts.**
- **Performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies for the 44th Annual Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association Crop Guesstimate held in Kalamazoo. About 200 growers, processors, brokers and buyers, along with considerable local, state and national media representatives were in attendance.**
- **Attended the building dedication of the new Berrien County MSU Extension office at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center.**
- **Met with Gale Arendt of MSU Extension and Dr. John Hanieski, a consultant retained by MSU to conduct a Food Processing Industry Retention and Expansion Survey. Commissioner Tatter was the "guinea pig" for the questionnaire before Dr. Hanieski presents the survey to industry, one on one. This is a follow-up to the survey that MDA and MSU conducted last fall.**
- **Attended the Ag Expo VIP breakfast and Senator McManus' Agricultural Task Force Hearing held earlier today.**

Commissioner Deanna Stamp expressed her appreciation for the diligence, patience and interest that the Senate Ag Preservation Task Force has exhibited in taking testimony during the many meetings held around the state.

She reported that the weather in the Thumb area has been favorable and crops look good. She added that the hay crop also looks very good. Commissioner Stamp reported that the alfalfa processing co-op in the Thumb area has met the acreage requirements needed to go forward with the plant.

Director Wyant congratulated Commissioner Darling and his wife, Helen, on the arrival of their son, Simon Douglas. He also congratulated Commissioner Stamp, who will receive the "National Dairy

Woman of the Year Award" at the Dairy Expo Congress held in Wisconsin, in September.

Director Wyant introduced David Hildenbrand, who will be working with MDA and representing Governor Engler on agriculture issues. Mr. Hildenbrand is a former FFA State President.

"TRAVEL MICHIGAN" VIDEO PRESENTATION: Susy Avery, Executive Director of Travel Michigan

Susy Avery, Executive Director of Travel Michigan, discussed Michigan's "Travel Michigan" program. The Travel Michigan program has 13 welcome centers, employs approximately 130 people, and has a \$11 million operating budget. She said that tourism is a \$10 billion industry, employing approximately 150,000 people. Ms. Avery said that Travel Michigan views the customer as Michigan's tourism business and before anyone can answer a telephone at Travel Michigan they must pass the Michigan Product Knowledge Test. The test consists of pronunciations, locations, events and knowledge of Michigan agricultural products and where they are produced around the state.

Ms. Avery showed a video highlighting the five new ads currently being shown in target states. The tag line is *"We'll Leave the Lighthouse On for You!"* She stated that agriculture is very important to tourism in Michigan. Agriculture tourism is not limited to u-pick orchards, vineyards, cider mills, and farm markets, but also includes Christmas tree farms; herb farms; buffalo, sheep, and deer ranches; turkey and dairy farms; greenhouses; petting farms, and zoos. Seventy percent of Michigan's festivals are agriculturally based.

She said that Travel Michigan recently promoted all of Michigan's agricultural festivals at an event held in Chicago's Daly Plaza. This was an opportunity to highlight Michigan's agricultural products at a lunchtime show. She also said that agricultural tourism is a selection on the Travel Michigan web site. They are also promoting county fairs, 4-H fairs, and the Michigan State Fair.

Ms. Avery said there are many efforts in place geared toward promoting Michigan-made products. She is suggesting that agricultural products be given out at all Michigan welcome centers. She believes that significant potential exists to more fully integrate agriculture with tourism. She believes that travel writers and touring market associations should be involved in ag tourism to help design better information to promote and to arrange visits to ag tourism operations. She said that hotels, ag organizations, and economic development organizations need to be included in the process of developing and marketing ag tourism.

Ms. Avery said that Travel Michigan is currently developing a economic impact model, based on a research model that would involve lifestyle components, locations, types of activities, and historical tourism data. Travel Michigan will be the only agency in the nation to utilize these tools. Ms. Avery said that they would like to form a partnership with MSU Extension to tailor a model that would address agricultural concerns. The MSU Extension offices also could help deliver and apply the model to interested local operators. Once this model has been developed, it will be shared with the Commission.

Director Wyant said that MDA is excited to work with Travel Michigan in getting Michigan's agricultural industry organized and connected. He said there is no doubt that Michigan is agriculturally diverse and has a lot to offer.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. The Commission participated in the Michigan Department of Agriculture employee picnic held at Francis Park in Lansing.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 8:34 a.m., on June 30, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Brad Deacon, Legislative Liaison

Brad Deacon, Legislative Liaison, distributed copies of HB 4499 (PA 66 of 1999) and reported that the

bill was signed by the Governor. The law essentially gives the Michigan Department of Natural Resources the authority and power to regulate deer feeding. By September 1, 1999, the Natural Resources Commission, after consultation with the Commission of Agriculture, shall issue an order concerning deer and elk feeding. The order shall take effect October 1, 1999, and shall do the following in the Lower Peninsula:

- Prohibit a person from engaging in deer or elk feeding unless the deer or elk feeding is for recreational viewing purposes.
- Require that the feed be deposited or distributed not more than 100 yards from the residence of the person engaged in deer or elk feeding for recreational viewing purposes on land owned or possessed by that person.
- Establish any other reasonable conditions for deer and elk feeding for recreational viewing purposes.

The order shall establish criteria for deer feeding in the Upper Peninsula.

He also reported that MDA's budget has been presented to the Governor. Additional monies will be available for Project GREEN, FFA, migrant housing construction, and the Michigan apple industry to investigate unfair dumping of Chinese frozen apple concentrate, food safety, the food bank system, and bovine tuberculosis testing and eradication efforts.

UPDATE AND VIDEO PRESENTATION ON THE ULTIMATE FARMLAND TOUR: Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of Michigan

Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director of the Rural Development Council of Michigan, Representative Stephen Ehardt, Scott Everett of the Michigan Farm Bureau, and Gary Haynes of Mason, Michigan, talked with the Commission about the Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tour. On March 25-29, 1999, 112 people went on a four-day bus tour of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to view farmland preservation efforts in those states. A video about the tour, produced by the Michigan Farm Bureau, was shown to the Commission.

Mr. Haynes is a fifth generation farmer. He said that he had the opportunity to participate in both tours. He was very skeptical about the entire farmland preservation issue prior to going on the first tour, but was so impressed about what he learned, he wanted to go again. He said that he learned that farmland did not lose its value under the purchase of development rights program, but additional security was gained to help the farmer to continue farming. He believes that once a person has seen the program and has had the opportunity to talk with all those involved in the program, they will agree that this is a better way.

Representative Ehardt said that he thoroughly enjoyed the tour. He believes that Michigan needs to learn from those who have already dealt with similar situations. Michigan can learn from the pressures those out East have faced and from their solutions. Michigan has an abundance of fertile farmland and needs to develop a system to categorize and protect this valuable land.

Dr. Skjaerlund believes it is more about the economic foundation for agriculture rather than the loss of esthetic farmland. It is clear that farmers out East are looking to establish a long-term future for agriculture in their community.

Mr. Everett added that, as an example, county government in all three states (Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey) is clearly involved in preservation efforts. It is also interested in making county agriculture more profitable and preserving the farmland is one step. It clearly understands that county government has to be involved.

Mr. Everett introduced Jim Fuerstenau, Executive Director of the Michigan Farmland Community Alliance, an affiliate organization of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Mr. Fuerstenau is working on land use educational efforts.

Mr. Everett said that September 9-13, 1999, another Ultimate Farmland Tour is planned to Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey. He invited the Commission to participate.

Representative Ehardt agreed with Mr. Everett that local governments need to be involved, but they must be given what is needed to help in these efforts. Local government leaders need to understand what we are trying to do and by including them in these kinds of tours we can provide them with an excellent educational process.

Director Wyant commented that this video presentation and participation in the tours expand the enthusiasm. He believes that the challenge is to explain how it all actually works to those who are not available to participate in the tour.

PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ORGANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Christine Lietzau, Office of Agriculture Development

Christine Lietzau of the MDA Office of Agriculture Development, introduced members of the Michigan Organic Advisory Committee. Copies of "*Advancing Organic Agriculture in Michigan*," prepared by the Michigan Organic Advisory Committee, were distributed. Michael Potter, Robert Fogg and Peter Murray discussed the role of the committee and its recommendations.

In September 1998, Director Wyant created the committee that was charged with developing a strategic plan that would advance the systems of production and processing of Michigan organic products. The committee has been meeting on a monthly basis working with the industry, commodity groups and MSU to gather information and share preliminary recommendations.

The Michigan Organic Advisory Committee recommended that:

- 1) To protect the integrity of organic products, a regulatory program should be established within MDA designed to ensure the integrity of products of organic agriculture produced and sold in and/or exported from Michigan.
- 2) MDA should join with the Michigan organic industry to promote organic products produced in Michigan at the state, national, and international levels.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED THAT MDA STAFF REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ORGANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PRESENT ITS FINDINGS TO THE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE ON RED TART CHERRY INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Keith Creagh, Deputy Director

Keith Creagh, Deputy Director, updated the Commission on the termination of the Red Tart Cherry Information and Development Program. The termination plan has been completed, with the program closing on June 27, 1999. There were 587 checks sent to growers, ranging from \$1.00 to \$12,000. The average check was \$425.00. The total refunded was approximately \$249,800.

Mr. Creagh expressed MDA's appreciation to the Red Tart Cherry Advisory Board and the Michigan Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) for their cooperation in returning those dollars to the growers. The Auditor General has performed a preliminary audit, with a final audit scheduled for September 1999.

UPDATE ON LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS FUNDING: Kathy Fedder, Director of the Food and Dairy Division

Kathy Fedder, Director of the Food and Dairy Division, introduced Neil Fortin, Manager of the Food Service Sanitation Program. Mr. Fortin distributed the excerpts from the Michigan Public Health Code that provide a framework for the food service sanitation program. This is a state/local cooperative program, where the prime authority is with the state, but automatically the authority is delegated to the

local health departments. The role at the state level is to provide oversight and guidance. In 1978 when the structure was put in place, there was a 50/50 funding mechanism called "cost sharing." When the food service responsibility was transferred to MDA, other parts of the programs were placed in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, while other responsibilities remained in the Michigan Department of Community Health. All of the funding, however, remained in the Department of Community Health. Local health departments desired to have a single comprehensive budget, or contract process, located in one agency.

In the next fiscal year, food service funding will become part of the MDA budget. The contract and the budget process for allocating the money will remain in Community Health.

Mr. Fortin explained that MDA has responsibility both for the food service sanitation standards for the establishments, and for setting the standards for the local health departments.

UPDATE ON FARM LABOR SITUATION IN MICHIGAN: Marv Johansen, Field Operations Section Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division

Marv Johansen, Manager of the Fields Operations Section, Environmental Stewardship Division, updated the Commission on the farm labor situation in Michigan. He said there continues to be concern about the availability of farm labor in some areas of Michigan. Since the June 1998, Commission of Agriculture meeting, a number of things has occurred to help improve the recruitment situation.

A task force was established with representatives from the appropriate organizations involved with Michigan's farm labor situation. The task force made a number of recommendations, but one of the most significant was the availability of information to the growers on how to recruit workers. The following has been done to address this issue:

- A brochure was created and distributed.
- MSU will be hiring an agriculture labor specialist.
- A meeting was held with MSU Extension to familiarize crop specialists with the recruitment tools that are available to growers.

Mr. Johansen and others traveled to Texas to view firsthand labor availability. There are a number of workers who are willing to come to Michigan. However, these workers want a commitment 1) there will be jobs available, and 2) there will be adequate housing. A "Michigan Works" web site has been created and Michigan also has cooperated with Ohio and Indiana in developing a tri-state web site that is specific to agriculture. All of this information was made available to Texas.

APPROVAL FOR JUDGING SHOOTING EVENTS PRIOR TO THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY FAIR: Marilyn Thelen of the Fairs, Expositions and Racing Division

MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED THAT THE JUDGING OF SHOOTING EVENTS PRIOR TO THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY FAIR BE APPROVED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE ON BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS: Dr. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Industry Division

Dr. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Industry Division, introduced Kevin Kirk, who will be developing and implementing some grassroots programs for the farm community and stakeholders.

Dr. Chaddock distributed recent maps and surveillance reports relating to bovine tuberculosis in Michigan. He reported that testing has been completed on 922 premises, representing over 42,000 head of livestock in the northeastern part of the Lower Peninsula. Testing also has begun in the buffer zone on goats and captive cervidae herds. Dr. Chaddock reported that a positive white-tailed deer has been found in Otsego County; therefore, testing has been concentrated in

and around a 10-mile radius of that positive find. He said to date no positive livestock has been found. Carnivores also have been tested in the original five-county area and Dr. Chaddock reported that five coyotes, two raccoons, one black bear, and one bobcat tested positive.

He referred to the document, "Chronology of Bovine TB Infection in Michigan." He reported that depopulation of the last infected beef cattle herd in Alcona County has been completed. The cleaning and disinfecting of the premises is almost completed. A Risk Analysis Team has visited the farm and has completed an in-house risk analysis to assist the producer in resuming his business. The quarantine also has been released on the first infected beef operation found one year ago.

Dr. Chaddock updated the Commission on USDA zoning discussions. He said that discussions have been very positive and an agreement with USDA is very close. Final details are being worked out to ensure that Michigan is in compliance with other USDA requirements as they relate to international zoning. Discussions continue with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources concerning the positive deer found in Otsego County and on how we can assure USDA that there are no other positive animals in that area. It is important that we determine how many deer need to be tested in that area and whether or not it would be necessary to move the boundary further west.

Dr. Chaddock discussed the veal calves and feeder calves situation. He said that veal calves, less than two weeks of age, are exempt from quarantine. Feeder calves are in the slaughter chain. Slaughter is one area where there is surveillance by the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. USDA wants to be sure that if there are veal calves or feeders that move out of the area there is an assurance that wherever they are going, there is oversight in those facilities. Michigan needs to assure USDA that all are going to slaughter and are not getting into other farms. The discussions continue on this issue. There are also discussions with USDA on what kind of testing requirements will be needed to move between the zones and whether it will be entire herd testing or individual tests, depending on the risk of moving from one zone to another.

Commissioner Stamp asked for more information about the feeder calves situation.

Dr. Chaddock responded that veal calf operations and feeder calf operations are in the slaughter channel. MDA will work with these two industries to assure that the veal calves and feeder calves stay in the slaughter channel facilities and are not diverted for any other purpose. The goal is to allow veal and feeder calves to leave the quarantined area without individual animal bovine tuberculosis testing. However, there must be accountability for all animals that leave the area, they must remain segregated from other animals, and all the animals in the approved facility must go to slaughter.

Director Wyant asked Dr. Chaddock to explain the reimbursement of testing costs.

Dr. Chaddock explained that the resources have been allocated for outstate surveillance. This will involve visiting farms to do testing using private practitioners and MDA veterinarians. Surveillance will continue in Northeast Michigan, with random testing continuing in a third of the farms every year. As long as there is infection in the wild white-tailed deer, and the infection is mobile, there has to be assurance to producers, trading partners, and USDA that infection is not on the farms. There will be a package to assist producers, especially in Northeast Michigan, to help with costs incurred because of quarantine or requirements coming out of the zoning agreement.

UPDATE ON PSEUDORABIES: Dr. Chaddock reported that there are no known cases of Pseudorabies in Michigan at this time. Michigan has filed an application for a Stage 4 status. The goal of the national program is to have all states Pseudorabies-free by the year 2000. Dr. Chaddock expressed concern about Indiana. It has fallen behind on its program and there are close to 200 premises that are still quarantined in Indiana.

UPDATE ON EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA (EIA or Coggins Disease): Dr. Chaddock reported that EIA is a viral disease in horses, and there is no vaccine or cure. This year there are 18 cases in Michigan, which is higher than normal. He said that more and more fairs are requiring testing for EIA. MDA is working with the Michigan Horse Council and the Michigan Farm Bureau to look at PA 466 (Animal Industry Act). USDA has issued a protocol or pilot program for uniform methods and rules to control/eradicate the disease. USDA has asked Michigan to look at the program and to incorporate amendments to PA 466.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dan Wyant

Cervidae Food Processing Survey: Jerry Wojtala and John Tilden of the Food and Dairy Division distributed information and discussed efforts made in dealing with the retail grocery stores that process hunter-taken venison. In 1998 MDA conducted a comprehensive review of the industry practices and coordinated the development of venison processing guidelines. Educational materials were provided to Michigan grocers. MDA completed surveys on 246 facilities and areas of concern identified were improper food handling, segregation during deer processing, and indirect cross-contamination in samples. MDA followed existing enforcement guidelines to correct areas of noncompliance.

MDA will continue to allow processing of hunter-taken venison in MDA-licensed facilities that comply with established food safety standards.

Director Wyant distributed a copy of activities he participated in during the last month. He reported on a meeting that was held with the Michigan apple industry. The meeting included processors, growers, PA 232 groups, MACMA, and exporters. The group worked together to develop an apple action plan that addresses the broad economic issues that impact all of agriculture. Director Wyant will share a copy of the plan with the Commission.

World Trade Organization: Director Wyant shared a copy of his testimony given at a hearing held in Indiana. He said that hearings are being held in 11 states throughout the country in preparation for World Trade Organization discussions that will be held this fall in Seattle, Washington. The states of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan were invited to participate in this listening session. There were over 400 people in attendance, with over 80 presenters talking about issues impacting trade in respect to their commodities. Michigan had the second largest contingency in attendance. Michigan is unique in many areas and can speak to many issues.

Midwest Association of State Departments of Agriculture Conference (MASDA): Jeanne Lipe and Debra Merrill, conference coordinators, distributed the conference program and updated the Commission on the MASDA conference to be held July 17-21, 1999, in Traverse City, Michigan. Ms. Lipe explained that a conference of the North American Agriculture Marketing Officials (NAAMO) also would be held at the Park Place Hotel during the same time. The two conferences will occasionally interact by combining various programs and tours. A Farmland Preservation Tour and a Cherry Production Tour are scheduled. Commissioners will receive final itineraries and confirmations next week.

Select Michigan: Jeanne Lipe distributed copies and discussed the Select Michigan Program. The Select Michigan Program was developed to provide a brand identification for Michigan fresh and processed products. There will be a statewide kickoff this fall.

Director's Written Report:

Commissioner Tatter suggested getting the "Safe Kitchen" information distributed to as many people as possible. Director Wyant agreed as food safety information is a top priority for MDA.

Commissioner Tatter referred to the feed sampling enforcement and his concern that 26 percent

failed to meet one or more their labeled nutrient guarantees. Director Wyant agreed that this is of concern.

UPDATE ON THE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING STUDY COMMITTEE: Terry Gotts, Michigan Department of Transportation

Commissioner Tatter introduced Terry Gotts of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Mr. Gotts serves as administrative assistant to the nine-member committee recently appointed by Governor Engler.

Mr. Gotts explained the purpose of the Transportation Funding Study Committee and said the committee is comprised of nine members representing agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, commerce and labor, as well as four members from the Michigan Legislature. The committee will advise the Legislature and the Governor on the proper distribution of Michigan transportation funds among the state, counties and cities after September 30, 2000. Members are charged with not only recommending a distribution system, but also with recommending reforms, improvements, and elimination of barriers. The charge is quite broad, but very specific. The fund consists of \$1.7 billion.

r. Gotts suggested that as the Commission hears public testimony on this issue it encourage people to view this issue in global terms. The all-season road issue and access to processing plants are concerns that may come before the Commission for discussion.

Director Wyant asked how the funds are distributed.

Mr. Gotts replied that 10% of the net goes to public transit, 39.1% to county roads, 39.1% to MDOT (trunklines and interstates), 21.8% to cities and villages. This is the formula that will sunset.

Commissioner Stamp said that two concerns in her county are the condition of the bridges and drainage issues.

Director Wyant and Commissioner Tatter thanked Jeff Friedle of the Environmental Stewardship Division for his assistance to the committee. Mr. Friedle is an engineer and former MDOT employee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Transportation Funding Study Committee: Jim Miller of the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) updated the Commission on its efforts pertaining to the Transportation Funding Study Committee. MFB has sent a letter requesting comments from 85 commodity groups across Michigan. It will then compile those comments and make a presentation to the committee.

Mr. Miller referred to a letter sent to MDOT Director DeSana on the US-31 bypass around Zeeland, Holland and Grand Haven. Mr. Miller said that the Ottawa County Farm Bureau has asked the MFB for assistance in opposing this proposed bypass. Director Wyant stated that he has talked with Director DeSana on the issue and would appreciate an opportunity to discuss the situation with Mr. Miller.

Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices: No public comment received.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Skogman moved that the meeting adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTACHMENTS:

The following documents are on file in the Commission of Agriculture office and can be obtained

upon request:

Attachment A Commission of Agriculture May 12-13, 1999, Meeting Minutes

Attachment B Legislative Report – June 1999

Attachment C Enrolled House Bill No. 4499

Attachment D "The Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tour!," September 9-13, 1999

Attachment E "Community News," A Publication of the MSU Center for Urban Affairs, Community and Economic Development Program," Spring 1999

Attachment F "Advancing Organic Agriculture in Michigan," June 1999

Attachment G Food Service Sanitation, Public Health Code (excerpt) (Act No. 368, Public Acts of 1978, as amended)

Attachment H Food Service Sanitation Section Operational Plan

Attachment I April 14, 1999, Letter from Christine Ruemenapp, Secretary, St. Clair County Agricultural Society regarding "Exception for Shooting Sports"

Attachment J Chronology of Bovine TB Infection in Michigan, June 30, 1999

Attachment K Bovine Tuberculosis Maps, prepared by Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Attachment L MDA Surveillance Report, June 29, 1999

Attachment M Tuberculosis Questions for Retailers Who Process Deer

Attachment N Processing of Hunter-Taken Venison at Retail

Attachment O Retail Grocery Venison Processing

Attachment P Final Summary, MDA Assessment of Compliance with Retail Grocery Venison Processing Guidelines

Attachment Q Director's Report – June

Attachment R Midwest Association of State Departments of Agriculture Conference Program

Attachment S "Select Michigan" Program Overview

I, Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, do hereby certify that I have read the minutes of the June 29-30, 1999, meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and they are a true and accurate description of the proceedings thereof.

Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary

I, Daniel J. Wyant, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that I have read the minutes of the June 29-30, 1999, meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and they are a true and accurate description of the proceedings thereof.

Daniel J. Wyant, Director

**Approved on August 26, 1999
Detroit, Michigan**