

**Michigan Commission of Agriculture Meeting
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Michigan State University
Hospitality Business Dining Room
Lower Level, South Harrison Road
East Lansing, Michigan**

(Held in conjunction with Michigan State University's Agriculture and Natural Resources Week)

MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2002

PRESENT:

Douglas Darling, Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Nora Viau, Vice-Chair, Commission of Agriculture
Bill Pridgeon, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture
James Maitland, Commission of Agriculture
Jordan Tatter, Commission of Agriculture
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

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

Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff
Ron Zellar, Assistant Attorney General
Rob Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau
Ann Louise Budd, Michigan Horse Council
Keith Charters, Natural Resources Commission
David Conklin, Farm Service Agency
Kristine Fedewa, Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems
John Fisk, Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems
David Kleweno, Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service
Tonia Koppenaal, Michigan Farm Bureau
Dr. John Molesworth, Michigan State University
Ron Nelson, Michigan Farm Bureau
Bridget Patrick, Michigan Department of Community Health
Dr. Steve Schmitt, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
John Urbain, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Virginia Zeeb, Bath, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Chair Darling called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 8:35 a.m., Wednesday, March 6, 2002. Secretary Pridgeon called the roll with Director Wyant and all Commissioners present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 6, 2002 AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2002 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 12, 2002 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

Page 5, paragraph 11, first sentence, to read "...the Agriculture Development DIVISION..."

Page 6, paragraph 7, sixth sentence, to read "...public policy MAKERS..."

Page 8, paragraph 9, third sentence, to read "...disease control permits also has dropped by at least 80 PERCENT."

Page 8, paragraph 13, sixth sentence to read "...to be LOWER."

Chair Darling asked that an amendment be made to page 3, paragraph 6, eleventh sentence, to read "Commissioner Darling also MENTIONED the..."

SECONDED. THE FEBRUARY 12, 2002 MEETING MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS AMENDED.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Commission of Agriculture is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2002 and will be held at the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Constitution Hall, Con Con Conference Room, Atrium Level, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan.

APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL:

MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED TO APPROVE DIRECTOR WYANT'S TRAVEL APRIL 15-17, 2002 TO ATTEND THE USDA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON D.C., AND MAY 5-6, 2002 TO ATTEND THE FOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE (FMI) SHOW IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jordan Tatter reported that fruit and vegetable growers in his area are less interested in production practices and more interested in economic survival than at any time in his recollection. In many cases, growers own their processing outlets through cooperative structured organizations. After several years of marginal economic results at best, little or no financial carrying capacity is available at either the growing or processing levels in western Michigan as we enter the new fruit and vegetable crop year.

Since the last Commission meeting, Commissioner Tatter has taken part in the following agricultural events and food industry related travels:

- Michigan Pork Producers reception and annual awards banquet.
- Meeting of the Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable.
- Monthly meeting of the Michigan Frozen Food Processors Association.
- Winter conference of the Michigan Food Processors Association.
- Two food industry meetings held in California. The Western Frozen Food Convention was well attended by Michigan-based food processors, both independently and

cooperatively owned firms, actively looking for business in a very competitive buyer market for ample supplies.

- Dean's Luncheon and FFA Foundation VIP Reception as part of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at MSU.

Commissioner Tatter said that Mother Nature has been playing tricks with the unusual warm spells and then cold waves. So far, crops that are subject to winter injury or freeze damage due to loss of dormancy seem to be in good shape.

Commissioner Bill Pridgeon had nothing to report this month.

Commissioner James Maitland attended the following activities:

- Michigan Pork Producers reception and annual awards banquet.
- Dean's Luncheon and the FFA Foundation VIP Reception.
- Meeting with hunt clubs in Deer Management Unit 452. Commissioner Maitland, Keith Charters, chair of the Natural Resources Commission, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff, met with the hunt clubs as a follow-up to the meeting Commissioner Tatter and Chair Charters had with the clubs last year.

Commissioner Maitland noted that the weather in the Traverse City area has been similar to other parts of the state, with warm spells and cold waves causing some stress to the fruit.

Commissioner Nora Vizu attended the Upper Peninsula potato growers show where discussions were held about water issues, wildlife damage and wolf damage. Other issues of concern were the lack of deer and turkey management in the Upper Peninsula. The warm weather in the Upper Peninsula has caused some trees to bud, which is of concern since the weather has now turned very cold. Agricultural markets continue to be a discussion of major importance.

Chair Douglas Darling attended the Dean's Luncheon and the FFA banquet and reception. Chair Darling was scheduled to present a Commission of Agriculture resolution to Ryan Sweeney in recognition of being named "2001 American Star in Agribusiness." Unfortunately, Ryan was ill and not able to attend the banquet. Chair Darling suggested that Ryan be invited to a future Commission meeting where the resolution could be presented.

He also participated in the Michigan Pork Producers reception and annual awards banquet. He spoke at a meeting that addressed state and local regulations and how those regulations impact agriculture. He also discussed the proposed bulk fertilizer containment requirements. He noted that there continues to be a lot of discussions about the Farm Bill. Chair Darling was interviewed by a San Francisco newspaper reporter about the Farm Bill. Consumers need to be fully aware of the implications to the agriculture industry and how the Farm Bill affects them.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Brad Deacon, Legislative Liaison

Brad Deacon, Legislative Liaison, distributed and reviewed the March 2002 Legislative Status Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dan Wyant

Dan Wyant introduced Keith Charters, chair of the Natural Resources Commission, Dr. Steve Schmitt and John Urbain of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to discuss the deer harvest numbers in Michigan. Director Wyant said that Chair Charters and Commissioner Maitland had a meeting last weekend with the hunt clubs in Northeast Michigan.

John Urbain of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division provided the power point presentation to the Commission that was given at the meeting held last weekend with hunt clubs in Northeast Michigan. He explained that the information provided in this presentation is based on preliminary figures. Deer harvest figures in the five-county area (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle) during 1995 to 2001 has decreased from approximately 165,000 deer to 105,000 deer annually.

Commissioner Viau asked if there is a goal for harvesting deer per acre in the five-county area.

Mr. Urbain responded that the objective is to decrease the deer population to as low as the hunters are willing to take it. It appears that the hunters in the five-county area are willing to take the deer population down to approximately 30 to 35 deer per square mile.

Commissioner Viau asked if the DNR believed that harvesting 30 to 35 deer per square mile would meet the goal of eradicating bovine tuberculosis in the deer in that five-county area.

Mr. Urbain believes that reducing the population level is just one factor in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in deer. There are many other factors that influence the resolution of the bovine tuberculosis problem. Mr. Urbain noted that Dr. Graham Hickling, a Wildlife Scientist from Lincoln University in the South Island of New Zealand, would be presenting information on this issue to the Natural Resources Commission meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2002.

Dr. Steve Schmitt added that with the current deer population it would be possible to bring the prevalence levels down to approximately .5 percent.

Mr. Urbain referred to *Table 7, "Number of deer harvested in the 5-county area in the northeast Lower Peninsula, 2000-2001."* He said that the number of deer harvested in the five-county area in the Northeast Lower Peninsula during 2000-2001 was 17 percent less than the preceding year. This percentage includes harvest figures in 2000 and 2001 for archery, regular firearm, muzzleloader, youth, early antlerless and late antlerless figures.

He then referred to *Table 1, "Number of hunters, hunting efforts (days), harvest and hunting efficiency in Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452 in 2001,"* summarized by hunting season and hunting method. He said that when they looked at the impact of baiting versus non-baiting in DMU 452, archers did increase their success. For firearm hunters there was no difference.

He referred to *Table 3 "The response of hunters to the baiting restrictions in the five-county area in Northeast Lower Peninsula, summarized by the type of hunting."* Mr. Urbain said that hunters did change their hunting behaviors due to the fact that they could not use bait.

Commissioner Tatter referred to the chart *"Age and Sex for DMU 452 (2001)"* and asked what this information reveals about bovine tuberculosis prevalence in the two sexes.

Mr. Urbain responded that there would be a higher prevalence rate in older males.

Dr. Schmitt added that a 4.5 year old male has a five times higher chance of getting bovine tuberculosis than a female. As an animal gets older it is more likely to contract bovine tuberculosis.

Commissioner Tatter asked what Dr. Schmitt and Mr. Urbain would recommend to the Natural Resources Commission in relation to baiting for bow hunting for the next year.

Mr. Urbain responded that baiting in DMU 452 was a positive to bow hunters, and even though bow hunters take fewer deer, the firearm hunters made up the difference during firearm season.

Commissioner Pridgeon asked if baiting is allowed, would it still be a concern for spreading the disease.

Dr. Schmitt believes the disease is spread with bait; however, the harvesting of the deer would offset the increased risk of transmission.

Commissioner Tatter asked how do we eliminate TB from our wildlife.

Mr. Urbain responded that hunters must be better informed and better educated on how to eliminate the disease.

Director Wyant stated that there clearly are two sides to the issue. One is to eliminate nose to nose contact of deer; and two, is to bring the diseased deer numbers down. Hunt clubs have indicated that no matter what the number or what the strategy is they are not going to take more deer. They believe they are harvesting enough deer. On the other hand, it is apparent that baiting and feeding, and bringing deer numbers down, is where we must start attacking the problem.

Dr. Schmitt distributed and reviewed "Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results," "Bovine Tuberculosis Elk Submitted for TB Testing," "Non-Cervid Wildlife Positive for Bovine TB as of February 19, 2001," "Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results Positive Farms," and "2001 Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance in Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer, January 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001 (Preliminary)."

Commissioner Maitland reported on the meeting he and Chair Charters had with the DMU 452 hunt clubs. He said the general consensus is that the hunt clubs are going to regulate the deer herds at their own pace. It is Commissioner Maitland's impression that baiting is really not the issue. He is concerned that hunters are not turning in visibly infected deer. He is also concerned that there is a lack of enforcement of deer feeding and baiting rules. Commissioner Maitland believes that meeting with the hunt clubs on a regular basis is beneficial. It is important that the agricultural community also meet its obligations. It certainly is not a one-sided issue.

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Director Wyant indicated that he would continue his Director's Report later in today's meeting.

UPDATE ON SPECIALTY CROPS BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM: Dale Sherwin, Director of Agriculture Policy, and Paul Burke of the Agriculture Development Division

Dale Sherwin, Director of Agriculture Policy, and Paul Burke of the Agriculture Development Division, distributed and reviewed a news release announcing the 28 recipients that were selected to receive a share of a one-time \$2.1 million federal block grant program. Award amounts were determined by a commodity's five-year average percentage value of all eligible specialty crops and also on a competitive selection process. The grant criteria stipulated that funds must be used for promotion, marketing, technical assistance and/or research of new products, new methods of introducing products to market, or increasing consumption of specialty crops to enhance proper nutrition.

UPDATE ON MICHIGAN INTEGRATED FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS (MIFFS) ACTIVITIES: John Fisk, President, and Kristine Fedewa, Communications Director of the Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS)

John Fisk, President of the Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems, and Kristine Fedewa, Communications Director of the Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS) distributed and reviewed information regarding MIFFS. MIFFS was created in 1993 to foster collaborative community action around agricultural issues.

Mr. Fisk discussed the MIFFS Marketline program. Information about this program can be viewed on their Web site www.miffsmarketline.org. This searchable Web site was created in 2000 and links farmers, buyers and processors of Michigan agriculture products.

Mr. Fisk also said that the 2002 Partnership Conference, "Maintaining Rural Competitiveness," hosted by Rural Partners of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, would be held March 26-27, 2002 in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

UPDATE ON SEED LABORATORY ACTIVITIES: Steve McGuire of the Laboratory Division

Steve McGuire of the Laboratory Division reviewed the activities of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Seed Laboratory. Mr. McGuire noted that due to the extensive renovation taking place at the MDA Geagley Laboratory the Seed Laboratory has been located at MSU's Field Research Facility. Mr. McGuire recommended Commission recognition of MSU's generous donation of space to meet MDA's laboratory needs.

APPROVAL TO INITIATE THE PROCESS FOR THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMP): Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division

Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division presented a letter to be signed by the Commission chair to the task force chairs of the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals and the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Cranberry Production to initiate the annual review process.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED TO INITIATE THE ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE CARE OF FARM ANIMALS AND THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT

PRACTICES FOR CRANBERRY PRODUCTION. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE ON MICHIGAN HORSE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: Ann Louise Budd of the Michigan Horse Council

Ann Louise Budd of the Michigan Horse Council distributed and reviewed information about the Michigan Horse Council and the Horse Expo 2002 being held March 8-10, 2002 at The Pavilion at MSU. The Council's mission is to preserve, promote and protect Michigan's equine industry. Accomplishments include the International Stallion Exhibition and Trade Show (Horse Expo), the Northern American Horse Spectacular, scholarships, trails, education, promotional events, financial support to various organizations, and equine health issues. More information about the Michigan Horse Council can be viewed by visiting its Web site at www.michiganhorsecouncil.com.

Ms. Budd noted that there is a need for an updated equine census since the last census was done in 1996.

UPDATE ON BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES: Dr. Joan Arnoldi, State Veterinarian, and Director of the Animal Industry Division

Dr. Joan Arnoldi, State Veterinarian, and Director of the Animal Industry Division, provided an update on the following animal health issues:

Bovine Tuberculosis: Progress has been made in testing livestock in the infected zone. Testing will begin in the surveillance zone. No new herds have been identified as being infected with bovine tuberculosis. Dr. Arnoldi met with Wisconsin's State Veterinarian, and he is amenable to working with Michigan to address the issue of movement of cattle from the Upper Peninsula to Wisconsin markets.

Avian Influenza: Dr. Arnoldi reported that there is a turkey premise that is infected with Avian Influenza. The owner has a total of five turkey premises, but only one is infected. The infected premise has been depopulated and MDA is monitoring the situation. The owner is in the process of cleaning and disinfecting, with the assistance of MDA. Testing is occurring in order to lift the quarantines on the other premises. MDA has completed surveillance testing of all commercial producers in a five-mile radius of the infected premise.

Director Wyant said there have been other cases of Avian Influenza reported in the U.S. in the last few years; most recently, in New York, Pennsylvania, Maine and Virginia. Japan banned all processed poultry exports coming out of the U.S.; however, the ban has been lifted. Avian Influenza is not a reportable disease internationally; however, countries like Japan and Asia are concerned about the U.S. outbreaks because of what happened in Hong Kong. There is concern that if additional outbreaks occur in the U.S. it would impact the poultry industry with respect to SE Asia. Russia also has banned all poultry imports from the U.S., but their decision was made for reasons not related to this disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease: Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in deer and elk in the states of Colorado and Wyoming over the past several years. In the past five years, the disease has been found in the captive elk in other western states. It has now been found in Nebraska in mule deer and elk. It is not known how the disease is transmitted. Last September USDA identified this as an emerging disease and developed an indemnity program. Last Friday MDA

received word that Wisconsin had identified three free-ranging, white-tailed deer with the disease. This is the first time Chronic Wasting Disease has been found east of the Mississippi.

Dr. Arnoldi and staff have met with DNR and the state's deer and elk farmers to discuss an approach to the disease. Michigan has banned all imports of cervidae (deer and elk) from Wisconsin to ensure that Michigan remains free of the disease and to protect Michigan's privately-owned cervid industry and wild deer and elk. MDA oversees the licensing, registration and inspection of the state's cervid operations. The ban will remain in effect until more information is gathered. MDA will identify and trace all cervids that have been imported from Wisconsin over the past three years and conduct surveillance on all death losses from those herds.

A copy of the draft MDA news release announcing the Michigan ban of deer and elk imports from Wisconsin was shared with the Commission.

Director Wyant said MDA and DNR are working with the Michigan Deer and Elk Farmers Association, the Michigan Farm Bureau, and other animal interest groups.

APPROVAL TO HOLD AN EVENT OUTSIDE OF BRANCH COUNTY FAIR DATES: Barb Hensinger, Director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division

Barb Hensinger, Director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division, requested Commission approval for the Branch County Fair to hold a premium program event outside of the scheduled fair dates.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY THE BRANCH COUNTY FAIR TO HOLD A PREMIUM PROGRAM EVENT OUTSIDE OF THE SCHEDULED FAIR DATES. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL TO SIGN A CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION FOR REGULATION 852, UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR: Barb Hensinger, Director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division

Barb Hensinger, Director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division, presented and recommended Commission approval of the Certificate of Adoption for Regulation 852, Upper Peninsula State Fair.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED APPROVAL TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION FOR REGULATION 852, UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE ON THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE: David Kleweno, State Statistician, Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service

David Kleweno, State Statistician of the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS), distributed and reviewed the publication "National Agricultural Statistics Service, Fact Finders for Agriculture," and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service's "Confidentiality Pledge" brochure. Mr. Kleweno said he would be appearing before the Commission again in the near future to discuss the 2002 Agriculture Census and how the data would be collected

and reviewed. He indicated that there was an 87 percent response rate in 1997 and the goal for 2002 is at least 90 percent. He would appreciate the Commission's support of this effort.

Mr. Kleweno said that information about the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service can be viewed on their Web site www.nass.usda.gov/mi.

Commissioner Tatter expressed concern that cranberries are not identified in the monthly "USDA Stocks and Cold Storage Report." He firmly believes that this data is critical to the market. This issue needs to be resolved not only for frozen cranberries, but also for frozen cranberry concentrate.

Chair Darling suggested that Director Wyant and Mr. Kleweno discuss the issue and possibly send a letter to the National Agricultural Statistics Service protesting the lack of specific identification of cranberries in the monthly "USDA Stocks and Cold Storage Report."

Director Wyant agreed that he and Mr. Kleweno would discuss the issue and provide feedback to the Commission.

UPDATE ON USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MICHIGAN: David Conklin, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency

David Conklin, State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), distributed and reviewed information about the "Michigan Farm Service Agency Fiscal Year 2001 CCC Direct Payments" and the "FY 2001 Farm Loan Programs."

Mr. Conklin expressed his appreciation for the good working relationship between MDA and FSA on disaster designations. Michigan currently represents about 30 percent of the nation's total emergency loans.

Mr. Conklin noted that he is very proud of the state's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the supportive working relationship between the two agencies. This is an excellent program and a significant contribution to Michigan agriculture.

UPDATE ON SCRAPIE: Dr. Mark Remick, Ruminant Species Program Manager, Animal Industry Division

Dr. Mark Remick, Ruminant Species Program Manager, Animal Industry Division, distributed and reviewed information regarding the "Federal Register, "Scrapie in Sheep and Goats; Interstate Movement Restrictions and Indemnity Program; Final Rule." Dr. Remick also provided an update on the federal sheep identification mandatory program that was implemented during the first quarter of fiscal 2002.

He reported that the first scrapie positive flock was confirmed in fiscal 2002, located in Clinton County. This is a commercial black-faced flock of 39 adult animals. The initial pathology was done at the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory, with confirmation of the diagnosis received by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. Dr. Remick added that a federal indemnity program is available. The depopulation of the adult animals is scheduled for March 11, 2002; the remaining lambs will be raised as market lambs for slaughter only. At this time no additional flocks are implicated.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued):

Director Wyant distributed and reviewed his monthly activity report. He noted that because of the state's early-out retirement program for state employees, departmental reorganization may need to occur.

Dr. Arnoldi has submitted a reorganization plan for the Animal Industry Division. This reorganization is not in response to the early out program, but due to the resources attributable to her division and the priorities that need to be addressed now and in the future.

Director Wyant also distributed copies of information received from Mr. Samuel DeFazio regarding a formal policy complaint to the MDA Commission regarding the MDA Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. It was recommended that the Commission chair send a letter to Mr. DeFazio acknowledging Commission receipt of his complaint and supporting documents. Mr. DeFazio would be advised that the matter had been referred to Director Wyant for review and resolution of the allegations. The Commission would be kept apprised of the issue.

* * *

Commissioner Maitland expressed his concern about migrant labor and immigration laws. He said that any steps the state can take to assist producers with their migrant labor problems would be appreciated.

Commissioner Maitland also suggested that Michigan request federal funds to do a research study or pilot on deer fencing in the bovine tuberculosis infected area.

Dr. Molesworth of MSU Extension replied that the USDA Wildlife Service is doing a study in the area and is considering a fencing study. It is also considering using video cameras on the farms to look at deer and livestock interaction. The problem is having enough resources to do these things.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tonia Koppenzaal of the Michigan Farm Bureau responded to Commissioner Maitland's concern about farm labor by suggesting that he contact Jim Miller of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Mr. Miller has been working with the federal government on the migrant labor problems.

Ron Nelson of the Michigan Farm Bureau responded to Commissioner Maitland's suggestion about deer fencing. He said that a bill would be introduced soon on deer fencing aimed at fruit and tree protection. This may fit into the broader question of livestock.

Mr. Nelson said that the emerging disease issue is very serious. He is concerned that the current budget constraints will hamper efforts to deal with this public issue. He is also concerned that with the early-out retirement the department will lose many employees with specific expertise and training. It will be critical for the department to hire those with the expertise, background and training to deal with the challenge of the emerging diseases.

* * *

Commissioner Maitland expressed his appreciation for the information provided by Kenneth Rauscher, Director of the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, regarding the Barbara and Ken Brundige complaint. Commissioner Maitland noted that he believes the department has responded adequately to the concerns.

Commissioner Tatter suggested that a copy of this information be shared with the Brundiges and that the Commission is satisfied with the department's position on the issue.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

The following documentation is on file in the Commission of Agriculture office and is available upon request. Please contact Vicki Burke, Commission Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Michigan 48909, (517) 373-1085, or e-mail burkev@michigan.gov. Commission meeting minutes also can be viewed on the web www.michigan.gov/mda

Attachment A	Commission of Agriculture February 12, 2002 Meeting Minutes
Attachment B	Legislative Status Report – March 2002
Attachment C	Director's Report – March 2002
Attachment D	Power Point Presentation to Hunt Clubs in Northeast Michigan
Attachment E	Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results
Attachment F	Bovine Tuberculosis Elk Submitted for TB Testing
Attachment G	Non-Cervid Wildlife Positive for Bovine TB as of 2/19/01
Attachment H	Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results Positive Farms
Attachment I	2001 Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance in Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer
Attachment J	News Release "Michigan Agricultural Projects Selected for Federal Specialty Crop Funding"
Attachment K	Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems Information Packet
Attachment L	Letter to Task Force Chair of the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals
Attachment M	Letter to Task Force Chair of the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices for Cranberry Production
Attachment N	Michigan Horse Council Information
Attachment O	Draft News Release "Michigan Bans Imports of Deer, Elk from Wisconsin After Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease"
Attachment P	Certificate of Adoption for Regulation 852, Upper Peninsula State Fair
Attachment Q	National Agricultural Statistics Service, Fact Finders for Agriculture
Attachment R	USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service "Confidentiality Pledge" Brochure
Attachment S	Michigan Farm Service Agency Fiscal Year 2001 CCC Direct Payments
Attachment T	Michigan Farm Service Agency FY 2001 Farm Loan Programs
Attachment U	Federal Register, 'Scrapie in Sheep and Goats; Interstate Movement Restrictions and Indemnity Program; Final Rule'
Attachment V	Correspondence from Samuel DeFazio, Praxis, Allegan, Michigan