



# Agricultural Preserve Boards of Michigan

318 W. Ottawa • Lansing, Michigan 48933 • 517-484-4928

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## AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE BOARD REPORT AUGUST 14, 2009

**LAND USE LEADERSHIP TOUR:** We are still taking pre-registrations for the trip slated for October 14-18. The informational flyer is again attached to this e-mail in case you missed the first one.

The challenge for us on this trip is the flight to Baltimore. We can't risk reserving tickets and not have the trip happen. Plus, the longer we wait, the more expensive the flight tickets.

We want it to be as cheap as possible so the earlier people register-- the better. As of today, we are still not confident that we have enough people willing to go, and will make a decision next week to move forward with formal registrations or not.

**TOUR DONATIONS:** Several unexpected phone calls came in this week asking if we are seeking donations for the trip. The answer is absolutely. Having such generous past participants is a real testament to the impact of the trip. Several individuals, a couple of farmers, some business, and even a local government called to note that the trip had more of a positive impact on them and their outlook on agriculture than anything they had ever experienced before and would like to donate to help others have the opportunity.

So, if anyone else would like to do this, we'd really appreciate it---checks for any amount can be made payable to **Ag Preserve Boards of Michigan** and sent to the above address. Donations are tax deductible. If you would like the funds to be used for a specific purpose like a scholarship for someone, just stick a note inside stating what you want done with it and we'll report back about who you helped or what exactly the money was used for. Thanks very much to those who have donated so far!

**KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN:** In both April and June, Ag Preserve Boards of MI, conducted two small trips to both Lancaster PA and Carroll County MD. These were pretty slick deals, 3 days two nights-- 10 people, all either County Commissioners or Township Officials. And, different than the larger motor-coach trips, we had the ability to get into very detailed discussions.

A lot happening in Kent County, Article at: [http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/07/despite\\_budget\\_crunch\\_kent\\_cou.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/07/despite_budget_crunch_kent_cou.html)

**THE ETHANOL INDUSTRY:** Wants more ethanol blended with gas from 10% to 15%, but the automakers are resisting. More at: <http://www.freep.com/article/20090813/BUSINESS01/908130469/1322/Ethanol-producers-push-E85--automakers-resist>

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**THE BIG ISSUE BREWING THESE DAYS IN THE LEGISLATURE:** Specific to Michigan agriculture are two tie-bared bills that amend the Animal Industries Act addressing the issue of livestock health and welfare.

Right now, animal care is one of the many issues governed through the Right to Farm Act and GAAMPS. (*Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices*) established by the Commission on Agriculture.

This legislation creates a new council to make recommendations to the Ag Commission on what the standards will be for animal care in Michigan. Further, it also sets up a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit system, paid for by individual livestock producers to certify farms that comply with the standards along with penalties if they don't. Article about this issue at: [http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/07/michigan\\_farmers\\_prepared\\_to\\_f.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/07/michigan_farmers_prepared_to_f.html)

**Or, read the legislation for yourself at:**

HB 5127: [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(maskrx55g5rtohap2fdyt355\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2009-HB-5127](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(maskrx55g5rtohap2fdyt355))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2009-HB-5127)

HB 5128: [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(maskrx55g5rtohap2fdyt355\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2009-HB-5128](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(maskrx55g5rtohap2fdyt355))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2009-HB-5128)

**THE GOVERNOR HAS REQUESTED:** Federal disaster assistance for 27 Michigan Counties hit hard by spring frost. More at: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20090803/BIZ/908030381/1001/BIZ>

**MEIJER STORES INC:** Is considering building a store in Detroit, right next to the State Fairgrounds. Article at: <http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20090813/FREE/908139995>

E-mail: questions, comments, news, events, funny stories to:  
C/O Scott Everett  
[agpresbrdofmi@earthlink.net](mailto:agpresbrdofmi@earthlink.net)