

The Michigan FFA Creed

Fall 2015



D Locally Grow, Locally Owned

Read about the Michigan Sugar Company and its important role in the overall economy.

J The Roots Run Deep

Look at what the AgroLiquids IQHub has to offer and schedule your visit now.

F Avian Influenza In Michigan

Make yourself aware with the recent outbreak of avian influenza in Michigan,

N State Officer Stats

Check out what the 2015 - 2016 Officers have in common with you.



L to R: Backrow: Andrea Williams , State Secretary; Kelly Elsass Region II State Vice President; Tyra Jonas, State Reporter, Taylor Williams, Region I State Vice President; Holly Tait, Region III State Vice President; Maria Blough, Region V State Vice President; Front Row- Samantha Ludlam, State Vice President; Connor Ewald, State President; Daniel Flynn, State Treasurer; Lucas Wielfaert, State Sentinel, Morgan Stewart, Region VI State Vice President

State Officer Excursions

By: Samantha Ludlam
State Vice President

One of the quickest lessons a newly elected state officer learns is that Google Calendar and other mobile planning apps become your best friend and are utilized almost daily. Whether it's for planning the multiple conferences and conventions that state officers get to attend throughout the year, or an impromptu lunch meeting with an industry sponsor, these tools are priceless. Although this tool may be the quickest one gained as a state officer, there are many to be learned about and used throughout an officer's year of service.



Learning these tools takes time, patience, and, of course, a group effort. Since they are so important, they are first discovered as the school year comes to an end,

and Blast Off begins. Blast Off is one of the very first conferences that the 2015 - 2016 state officer team got to attend together and focus on the year ahead of them. This year's Blast Off was held from June 15 - 17 in East Lansing, Michigan. Blast-Off workshops focus mostly on personal growth and improving one's strengths and weaknesses. Discovering more about one another and their skills is a very powerful tool that state officers learn at this conference and is essential when establishing team dynamics.

Shortly after Blast Off, this year's state officer team attended their next conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) is rotated between different states each year. This year's state officer teams that attended included Michigan, Indiana, Arkansas,

Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. This was a great time for team bonding and learning many workshop facilitation tools that would be utilized in July at the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (SLCCO).

At SLCCO, State Officers were assigned into groups and facilitated their own workshops to help chapter officers learn the skills and gain the tools they need to be successful in their own chapters. The state officer team this year not only strived to teach chapter officers the essential elements of being an officer, but also about an increase in world hunger and what we can do about it as agriculturalists and FFA members. This was also the first chance that many state officers had to interact with FFA members from all across the state of Michigan.

Besides the large conferences that the state officer team was able to attend and facilitate themselves, they also put their new tools to the test at smaller events throughout the late spring and summer months. Small Animals Day in April at the Michigan State University Pavilion was one of the first of these events. Many of the state officers got to put their people skills to the test and interact with over 5,000 children and adults who participated in activities including everything from "passport" sticker collection to feeding sheep and goats at the petting zoo. Ag Skills Contests and The Michigan FFA Foundation Golf Outing were also popular events at which the state officers volunteered.

Now that school is back into session the state officer team is busy getting back to school and adjusting to an even busier schedule. With the tools they've gained this summer, they are looking forward to a great autumn season serving Michigan FFA.

Locally Grown , Locally Owned

The Michigan Sugar Company is a very well-known company across the State of Michigan. The company has four factories, located in Bay City, Sebawaing, Caro, and Crosswell, with multiple receiving stations across the growing area, and a storage facility in Fremont, Ohio. The state's first beet sugar campaign took place in 1898. There were 32,047 tons of sugarbeets harvested from 3,103 acres. The company and industry began to grow and many factories were built during the 1900s. Michigan Sugar is home to the oldest working factory in the United States, built in 1889 and located in Caro, Michigan. In 2002, the Michigan Sugar Company formed a cooperative and became grower owned. With approximately 900 plus farmers growing sugarbeets on over 160,000 acres of land in the Great Lakes Bay region, including 10,000 acres in Canada, the growers of the Michigan Sugar Company are very proud to call this factory their own and say that their products are "Locally Grown and Locally Owned." This recognizable advertising campaign stirs up pride in many local members of the community.

I know that I can speak for the small town communities that are located around the company and say that the sugar industry is very important to the local and state economy. The company has 1,600 seasonal employees and 700 year-round employees. People, in turn, can work, earn incomes, and spend their money locally and stimulate the local economy. Without our local factories, the people that are employed by Michigan Sugar wouldn't be able to work locally.



Local youth are able to participate in the Michigan Sugarbeet youth project, which allows students to grow an acre of sugar beets each year, complete a record book, and take a test and interview about the crop. At the end of each growing season, a banquet is held, and students are awarded on how well they did during their interview and on their test. This project allows students to become more educated about the industry and much more involved with other young sugarbeet growers. This project was also a main focus of my Supervised Agricultural Experience during my FFA career. Now, as a student at Michigan State University, studying agronomy, I am currently interning with the company in the research department, working with many plots ranging from fertilizer rate plots, weed trials, to Cercospora leafspot trials. The company also offers a Young Farmer Program that encourages young farmers to grow their farm operations and network. The opportunities in Agriculture for young adults are almost endless. Viewing the sugarbeet industry from a country standpoint, people can see the impact that sugarbeet farmers have on the country.

By: Erica Gremel
Michigan Sugar Company Intern
2014 Michigan Sugar Queen 1st Attendant

With the sugar industry being made up of sugarbeets and sugarcane, 54 percent of the sugar is extracted from sugarbeets. People may never see a sugarbeet in their life time, but nearly every day are going to eat the by-products of the crop. On average, an American consumes 44 pounds of sugar every year. A person may not live in a sugar production community like some do, but are still supporting the sugar industry with what they are buying in their hometown grocery stores.



The sugar industry has created 99,000 full time direct and indirect jobs in 22 states. Without our industry, there would be an extra 99,000 people unemployed. There are 11 states where sugarbeets are grown and 25 different factories that all work together to process 1.1 million acres of sugarbeets.

In 2014, the company received 4.72 million tons and set a company record of 29.63 tons per acre as the company average yield. Just 10 years ago, the company took in approximately 3.5 million tons on a year, and the company average yield was 21.13 tons per acre. That's an increase of 1.2 million tons that the company slices annually, and an increase of 8.5 tons per acre that growers are harvesting. With the technology and research that is being conducted yearly, such as new and improved

seed varieties, and disease and weed control, will we continue to see an increase in the crop each year? Sugarbeet growers sure hope so.



Good Luck to all growers in the 2015 harvest season!

The Michigan Sugar Festival

Sebewaing has been the home of the Michigan Sugar Festival for 51 years. The festival is held each year, on the third weekend of June. This brings many people of all ages to the Village of Sebewaing. Many memories have been made and it is an annual highlight for the little town of Sebewaing. Also, Sebewaing is home to the Michigan Sugar Queen and her court. The queen travels to many different towns, promoting our industry and making many people aware of what is happening at Michigan Sugar. I had the opportunity to represent the company this past year at the Michigan Sugar Queen 1st attendant. During my reign I made approximately 25 appearances across the state, including a parade on Mackinaw Island and in Traverse City for the National Cherry Festival. This is a great opportunity for girls that live in a sugarbeet growing county in Michigan, between the ages of 18 and 23. For more information, log on to <https://www.michigansugar.com/community/sugar-queen/>

Avian Influenza In Michigan

Michigan confirms first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in free-ranging geese in Michigan

Three goslings in Macomb County test positive.

The Michigan departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced the state's first confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N2 in the state. The disease was found in free-ranging Canada geese in Macomb County. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect both free-ranging and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail and geese.

Three goslings collected last week in Sterling Heights were delivered to the DNR's Wildlife Disease Laboratory for necropsy. Initial testing was performed at Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health in Lansing. These tests were positive and the samples were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa, for final confirmation. MDARD and the DNR received confirmation Saturday, June 6, that the goslings were infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza, subtype H5N2.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI viruses to be low. To date, no human HPAI infections have been detected in the United States. Avian influenza is not a food safety concern and no birds or bird products infected with HPAI will enter the food chain. Michigan is the 21st state to report a case of HPAI

since December 2014. In the other 20 states, the virus has been found in captive wild birds or free-ranging birds, backyard flocks, and commercial flocks. Michigan also becomes the 6th state to detect in wild or free-ranging birds only. To date, there are 226 detections of HPAI across the country (affecting approximately 50 million birds), with Iowa and Minnesota experiencing the most cases.

"While this is disappointing news that the H5N2 virus has been found in Michigan's free-ranging bird population, it was not unexpected given avian influenza has been found in a number of our neighboring states and Ontario," said MDARD Director Jamie Clover Adams.

Clover Adams stressed that avian influenza has not been identified in Michigan's domestic poultry flocks. "MDARD will continue to work hand-in-hand with our backyard and commercial poultry farmers to conduct surveillance testing and provide education along with Michigan State University's Extension on implementing and stepping up on-farm biosecurity practices to protect the health of Michigan's domestic poultry," she said.

Keith Creagh, DNR director, said the state's chief focus now is preventing the disease's spread in wildlife and its transmission to domestic poultry.

"This confirmed positive finding of highly pathogenic avian influenza prompts several steps that are informed by Michigan's Surveillance and Response Plan for HPAI in free-ranging wildlife," said Creagh. "The DNR and MDARD are working with other experts and taking advantage of every available resource to ensure a swift, appropriate response that limits the spread of HPAI."

The state's wildlife HPAI plan was developed by DNR's Wildlife Division in 2006. The DNR

already practices regular examination of carcasses from mortality events affecting birds and samples live-caught and hunter-harvested wild birds.

Guided by the wildlife HPAI plan, the DNR will:

- Create an avian influenza (AI) Core Area, a 10-mile radius around the confirmed positive cases.
- Create an AI Management Zone, including any counties that touch the AI Core Area. In this case, the AI Management Zone will include Macomb and Oakland counties.
- Change goose relocation activities. The DNR routinely relocates nuisance geese in southeast Michigan to other parts of the state. The AI Management Zone will be under quarantine and roundup/relocation within these counties will be prohibited, except for the purpose of additional testing.
- Continue goose roundup and relocation efforts in the rest of the state.
- Change goose relocation drop-off sites so none are within a 10-mile radius of a commercial poultry facility in Michigan.
- Heighten AI surveillance in the two-county AI Management Zone.
- Increase biosecurity measures for contractors who relocate geese and anybody handling geese, as well as for waterfowl banders.
- Continue statewide AI surveillance, which includes responding to suspicious dead animals, conduct sample testing of geese being relocated, banding ducks and geese, and testing hunter-harvested waterfowl.

With this type of highly pathogenic avian influenza, there may be an absence of many of the routine signs of illness in domestic poultry. Sudden death and high death losses are major indicators of HPAI. However, sick birds may experience neurological signs; difficulty walking; lack of appetite, energy or

vocalization; significant drop in egg production; swollen combs, wattles, legs or head; diarrhea; or nasal discharge, sneezing or coughing.

Wild birds commonly have avian influenza and sometimes spread it to domestic birds through direct or indirect transmission. Ducks and geese are considered carriers; however, geese generally do not pass it on.

MDARD, the DNR, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Veterinary Services (USDA, VS) and Wildlife Services (USDA, WS) and Michigan State University (MSU) are working together to conduct avian influenza surveillance and to monitor health of poultry, livestock, wildlife and residents in Michigan. Residents who notice the death loss of three or more free-ranging birds should report it to DNR at 517-336-5030. If your domestic flock is experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 or for after-hours emergencies call 517-373-0440.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/avianinfluenza or www.michigan.gov/aviandiseases.

Foundation

Foundation

The Roots Run Deep

Using five-gallon buckets to mix fertilizer, Father and Son-In-Law team Douglas Cook and Troy Bancroft began a business in the early 1980s. In 1983, the two men, along with their wives, incorporated Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers. From the beginning, AgroLiquid has attributed its success to being a family-run business and they continue to stand true to that today. With strong family ties and a goal of prospering the farmer while safeguarding the environment, AgroLiquid has experienced exceptional growth through the years.

With this growth came a demand for a new headquarters building, and planning began. When designing the new world headquarters for AgroLiquid, it only seemed right have an area designated to display the Bancrofts' collection of antique tractors. As the planning process continued, a new vision for community outreach and agriculture education began to form for Bancroft. "We wanted to do something to give back," he explained, and by designating 25% of the new building to this vision, the IQhub was born. What began with the idea of an antique tractor display at AgroLiquid's headquarters became an agriculture education learning facility.

The IQhub is filled with educational and interactive exhibits for visitors. When traveling through the IQhub, visitors are engaged and informed about the advancement of agriculture; from the time before

Pilgrims set foot in the Americas to modern day practices and where we need to go in the future to meet the needs of a growing population. The space is complimented by a Kids' Korner where even the youngest guests can learn about where their food comes from. With an emphasis on educating children, the IQhub has something for both the young and young at heart. It is important for the public to understand the importance of meeting food supply challenges in the future. Since opening in September 2014, the IQhub has welcomed over 9,000 visitors and has hosted 76 group tours and events.

Visiting groups have ranged from high school chemistry classes, to Cub Scout troops, to a group from the Department of Environmental Quality and everything in between. IQhub staff is excited and proud to welcome each of these groups and continue to offer an array of programming to meet the needs of each group's diverse background. Programs vary from 'Field to Fork' demonstrations, soil chemistry workshops



and 'Field to Fitness' focusing on how agriculture relates to nutrition. The response has been positive and new lesson plans and curriculums are continually developed.

As a former educator, AgroLiquid Outreach and Education Director, Burt Henry, is aware of the limited resources and funding available for teachers. In an effort to make trips to the IQhub more affordable, a transportation grant has been developed to provide financial relief for schools visiting the IQhub. With astonishing support from many agribusinesses, commodity groups, individual sponsors, and Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers, the grant has enabled more than 2,000 students to visit the IQhub.



In May 2015, the IQhub introduced the 'Tractor Simulator' exhibit. The simulator completes the 27 interactive exhibits in the IQhub. The simulator is part of a full-circle activity that incorporates soil testing information, the 'Tractor Simulator' and general accounting skills. During the activity participants will get a better grasp of how different factors and technologies influence agriculture daily. Participants gain agriculture awareness, leadership, and life skills that will help them into the future.

AGRO-CULTURE LIQUID FERTILIZERS

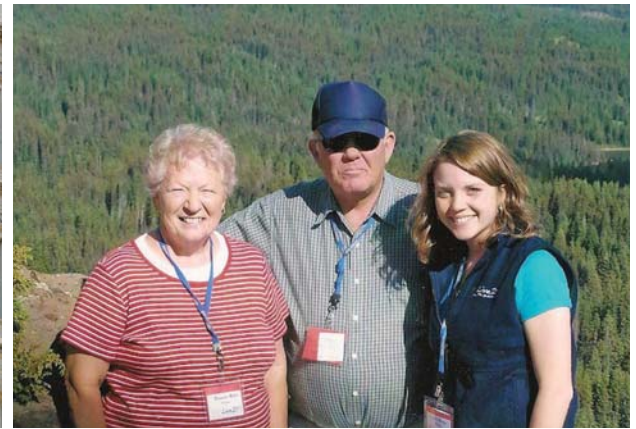
Stop in and enjoy your journey as you learn how cumbersome agriculture was in the past, how scientific it is today and where it is going in the future. Bancroft invites you to the IQhub to "learn how food from the farm gets to your table, and learn how United States farmers will be challenged to feed the over 9 billion people in the year 2050." At the conclusion of their visit, Bancroft challenges visitors, "to share what you learned about how farmers and ranchers feed the world," and invite others to take a journey through agriculture at the IQhub.

Located on M-21 just west of St. Johns, Michigan, the 9,500 square foot agriculture education center is the perfect venue to broaden an agriculture knowledge base. Normal business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free.

Scheduling for the 2015-2016 school year is underway; don't miss the chance to visit the IQhub! Grant application and guidelines, along with reservation information are available online. For more information or to schedule a visit call 989-227-3887, email iqhub@agroliquid.com or visit agroliquid.com/iqhub/.

impact education service development
lead mentor support youth
volunteer agriculture
community success

New Alumni Ad



Michigan
FFA
Alumni

In communities across the state, FFA alumni members are coaching, mentoring, fundraising and preparing the next generation of leaders and agriculturalists.

Join them. No jacket required.

For more information on creating your own alumni affiliate or to join one already established, contact alumni@michiganffa.org.



WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

Fill
dinner plates
by buying
license plates.

Help empower tomorrow's farmers, scientists, communicators and food processors. Purchase a redesigned, Pure Michigan Agricultural Heritage license plate! You are making an investment in our future – Michigan's youth. For just \$35, you can help prepare the next generation of agriculture leaders by supporting FFA and K-12 agricultural education programs.

Get your plate today. Visit your local Secretary of State Office or go to www.michigan.gov/SOS and click on the "Owning a Vehicle" link for order forms. Questions? Call 517-432-2482.



www.michiganffa.org

State Officer Stats



Andrea Williams

State Secretary

Chapter: Ogemaw Heights

College: Lansing Community College

SAE: Beef Production

Theme song: "Life's A Dance"

Favorites:

Sport: Volleyball

Musician: George Strait

T.V. show: *Gilmore Girls*

Movie: *Fast and Furious*

Candy: Reese's Cups



Maria Blough

Region V State Vice President

Chapter: Lowell

College: Lansing Community College

SAE: Beef Production

Theme song: "Can't Hold Us"

Favorites:

Quote: "Don't just exist, live!"

Movie: *Phantom of the Opera*

T.V. show: *Mysteries at the Museum*

Homemade meal: Lasagna

Candy: Hershey's Chocolate



Morgan Stewart

Region VI State Vice President

Chapter: Alcona

College: Central Michigan University

SAE: Small Animal Production

Theme song: "Hold On"

Favorites:

Sport: Competitive Swimming

Movie: *The Breakfast Club*

T.V. show: *Dancing with the Stars*

Meal: Polish Pierogies

Candy: Gobstoppers

ALUMNI



BRILLIANT MAJORS

In the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, students are learning to use principles of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, business and creative design in tackling some of the world's big problems related to food, energy and the environment.

Our students are engaged around the world through one of the nation's largest study abroad programs to improve communities and ensure a sustainable future.

Connections to campus through activities and clubs ensure that our students have opportunities to grow, excel and have fun too.

Four year programs in:

- Agribusiness Management
- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Education
- Animal Science
- Biosystems Engineering
- Construction Management
- Crop and Soil Science
- Dietetics
- Entomology
- Environmental Economics & Policy
- Environmental Studies & Sustainability
- Fisheries and Wildlife
- Food Industry Management
- Food Science
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Interior Design
- Landscape Architecture
- Nutritional Sciences
- Packaging
- Sustainable Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Learn more about the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources by visiting www.canr.msu.edu/majors or call 517-355-0234.



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources