**June 3, 2015, MSUE/ABR State Council Meeting Notes**

**Ag Expo Update** – *Mike Kovacic*

* Ag Expo taking a new direction under the leadership of MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute.

**Extension Environmental & Water Quality Programming** *Marilyn Thelen – Sr. Extension Educator – Agriculture & Agribusiness Institute*

* What are the needs?
  + Field Crops Advisory Group 2014
    - Statewide priorities
      * Soil Management
      * Profitability
      * Production Risks
    - Next 3 years
      * Regulations (4 of 6)
    - Southeast Michigan
      * Western Lake Erie Basin
      * Resistance Management
      * Soil Health
    - Next 3 years
      * WLEB
      * Regulations/water quality/Environment
  + Farmer Discussion Groups 2013 & 2014
    - **2013**
      * **Educators and researcher from various disciplines (fruit, bioenergy, cover crops, etc.)**
      * Field crop producers and industry representatives suggested **rate and degree of change may be increasing**, yet each year is different and **successful production depends on responsive management of current conditions**
    - **2014**
      * **100% of farmers** said the discussion on **sustainable corn production** …**beneficial** …
      * **75%** indicated the discussion help them to **think differently about climate variability**.
      * **Next 1-2 years…**
      * **75%** were **somewhat likely to adopt new practices**
      * **Next 5-10 years…**
      * **95%** were somewhat likely(63%) or very likely (31%) to adopting new practices.

* Farmer to Farmer discussions 2015
* Message to the general public
* Challenges farms face in WLEB
* Building Capacity
  + MSUE Teams
  + Partners
  + Collaborators
* Climate Variability and Change Action Team Mission
  + Help MSUE personnel and clientele **understand inter-relationships** between climate, agriculture, natural resources and society.
  + Introduce MSUE personnel and clientele to scenarios for climate change and **potential implications for Michigan’s agricultural and natural ecosystems**.
  + **Disseminate science-based information** to a broader public audience on regional climate change and associated societal response options.
  + Design extension programming to work with clientele on **building adaptive capacity and resilience to seasonal climate variability and long-term changes** in climate.
  + **Promote and facilitate linkages** between MSUE personnel and stakeholders who need scientific information on climate risks and who would benefit from development of new technologies and decision support systems.
* MSU E’s N in the Environment Work Group – Ag & Environment cross institute team?
  + Engage Educators across disciplines in N programing:
  + N cycle
  + Field Days
  + Field demonstrations
  + 2014 worked  with four farmers
* Western Lake Erie Basin Programming Efforts
* 2014 awardees for a White House and EPA Challenge: Winning Solutions for Nutrient Pollution.
  + Cooling the Hot Spots
  + Pilot program
  + Interactions with low-adopting farmers,
  + Refinement of hotspot mapping, installation of BMPs.
* Michigan Ag Environmental Assurance Program
  + Risk Assessments
  + On-farm Assistance
  + Programs
  + Farmer to Famer
* Working with Universities across the Mid-West
  + Collaborating on Grants:
  + Sustainable Corn
  + Useful to Usable, U2U project
  + Great Lakes Cover Crop Initiative
  + GLISA
* Rolling it out …
  + Field Research
  + Field Days
  + Educational Program
  + Articles
  + Web Pages
* Farmer Driven Field Trials
  + **Nitrogen**
  + 2014 (4 producers)
  + Sidedress swine manure
  + Apply through pre-tassel
  + Rate based on soil type
  + N rate under irrigation
  + Funded for 2015
* Challenging Growing Season
* Thoughts…
  + It all depends on the weather
  + Timing of late N is very important
  + Look at late N as a rescue
  + This is just one year – more to come!
* Field Days
* How water moves through the soil…
  + Discussion on:
  + Extreme events
  + Runoff
  + Infiltration
  + Nutrient movement
  + Cropping systems
* Talking to educators and industry…
  + Extension In-service Dec. 2013
  + Cool Tools training August 2014
  + Pioneer Soil Health August 2014 Training
  + Regional Drain Commissioners October 2014
* Regulation example
  + Manure Application Risk…
  + Evaluate a field for manure run-off potential
  + On snow covered
  + Or frozen soil
  + MSUE Role
    - Train the trainer
    - Educate Decision Makers
    - Think Tank to evaluate changes
* Western Lake Erie Basin (insert URL)

Questions – contact Marilyn Thelen [thelen22@msu.edu](mailto:thelen22@msu.edu)

**Water Quality & Quantity Research Programs** - *Jon Bartholic, Director, MSU Water Research Institute*

* Growing Demand for Water
  + World’s population is expected to expand from 7 to 9 billion by 2050
  + Agriculture and industry are growing annually and haves implications for future water demand considerations
  + Broad water quantity and quality impacts
* Holistic Water Management Using Information Technology
  + We can work together to provide a system that is fair, equitable and ***assures*** ***sustainable water resources***
  + Sustainable water management is within the best interests of both **water users** and the **public**
  + New approaches using information technologies are within our reach. What would a **statewide spatial decision support system** look like?
* Water Quantity Considerations
* Water Cycle
  + Dynamic system - Ag landscape affects much of this system
  + Trying to manage and protect aspects of that
* Policy Basis of Regulatory Framework
  + Great Lakes Compact à **Water Withdrawal Assessment Process (WWAP ) and Tool (WWAT)**
  + **WWAT** used to determine how much water can be pumped before having an **Adverse Resource Impact** (ARI) on fish populations.
  + Online tool
  + Over **3,500 registrations** since 2009 (90% irrigation)
  + MSUE across the state held trainings across
  + May convene local **Water Users Committee** to determine how resources will be shared among users when watersheds are fully subscribed.
* Michigan’s Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool
  + Southwest, west michigan, some locations in the UP
  + When system was first set up, only 20% of sites required a site specific review, trend has been increasing. In about 5-6 years 90% will require this review.
  + Percentage of registrations requiring a site specific review in the Prairie River Watershed - increasing, also denials increasing - water becoming less available
* Assessment Zones
* Working with Limited Water Resources
* Moving forward in the WWAP
  + Water user committees form to discuss how to use less water
  + New system to offer water offsets  through landscape changes, new technologies, recycling
* Recharge Calculator
  + Working with Coca Cola and Nature Conservancy (water bottling facility wanting to be water neutral)
  + Opportunities to increase the recharge to allow people to continue the water they need
* Expanding Use of Agricultural Tile Drainage
  + Recharge being small, but there has been an expansion of tile drains
  + As we look at the whole system, we want to get control devices on the tile, so as soon as they get their fields dry, we want to incorporate additional practices
* Water Quality Considerations
* Water Quality – Lake Erie
  + Need to be proactive in Michigan, we need to show we're making changes
* Water Quality – Saginaw Bay
* Water Quality Impairments in Michigan
  + Inland waters we have information on
  + Great Lakes Watershed Management System
* On the Fly Modeling
* Watershed Scale Prioritization
  + About 80% of pollutants come from 20% of the land, so it's important to find focus areas
* Field-Scale Prioritization
  + Important Mi Environment Insurance programs
  + Resource Conservation
  + You can zoom in on areas and try out different options that will simulate what will happen with practice changes.
* Field-Scale Analysis
  + We can show that we can make significant change with different practices.
* Water Resource Study
* Water Resource Study – eWatershed
  + Lots of things to watch
* New Possibilities
* CrowdHydrology
  + App for cell phone to monitor water levels after installing stake
  + These are accumulated over time to analyze and make better decisions
* Great Lakes Clean Communities Network
  + [www.iwr.msu.edu/glccn](http://www.iwr.msu.edu/glccn)
  + We can all work together to provide a system in our best interest
* Holistic Water Management Using    
  Information Technology
  + We can work together to provide a system that is fair, equitable and ***assures*** ***sustainable water resources***
  + Sustainable water management is within the best interests of both **water users** and the **public**
  + New approaches using information technologies are within our reach. What would a **statewide spatial decision support system** look like?
* Connections, Guidance and Inputs

  Questions – contact iwr@msu.edu

**AgBioResearch Update** – *Doug Buhler*

* Facilities
  + Just about ready to start Saginaw Valley Research Station (facts and figures will be sent out by me)
  + Great addition to what we have. This made possible by generous donationsfrom local people and industry. Looking into how we'll be able to advance our programming.
  + Re-invented Ag Expo will potentially begin at this facility
* Out- state centers
  + Pushing maintenance - helpful creation of Tree Fruit Commission
  + Increased push for in-kind donations from industry
  + Turf farm as an example of how
  + Currently advertising for support position in ABR - working with local industries to coordinate
  + After budget cut staff downsizing - liaison to investment we have on and off campus
  + Unique staff position created to focus on increase efficiency on what we're doing, and the interest of people to help us out with chemicals, loans, support, etc, this position will engage with those opportunities
  + Hot topics Research:
    - Pollinators - bees - successful with bringing in research and support $$
      * Testimony at House Ag Committee around this issue now
    - Avian Influenza
    - Chronic Wasting Disease
    - Antibiotic resistance
    - Dr. Baker - Dean of Vet Med - partnership with ABR - to help with challenging issues
    - Freeze & Winter damage issues in the fruit industry
      * Wine grapes in the northern region
      * How to respond, funding from project GREEEN to try and address these issues
  + Field days list (attached to e-mail and website)
* Great news: Statistics for USDA released rankings of funding by Congressional District and our CD is #1 in the entire country. We are proud that we received the most funding in the country. <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/news/new_facility_will_increase_hands_on_opportunities_for_agriculture_professio>

**MSU Extension Update** – *Ray Hammerschmidt*

 \* Strategic Plans developed

* Asked CYI, GMI, AABI, HNI to work at the team level to develop programming and staffing strategic plans.
* Working our way out of a structural deficit. We can't continue to hold on for too much longer, not sustainable. 1.5% increase from the state will help us from some extent, but sliding backward
* Strategic Planning Timeline
  + Putting temporary hiring pause on all staff funded on state and federal funds. We're doing this to be able to look at the budget more closely. And because in the process of doing planning.
    - DC positions and prior-approved positions will still continue to be filled
    - Grant and partnership funded positions will still go forward
    - This is a PAUSE - we're not stopping operations, we're continuing to plan, and try to get a handle on this deficit
  + Department chair meeting with Admin team next week - sharing planning, structure, and they can provide input. Building that relationship
  + July - each institutes will have strategic plans finalized
  + August - Admin team will begin to review these plans - this plan will be used over time
  + Sense of where we're at and where we're going
  + September - full state issue identification process
  + Fall MSUE Conference to bring everyone up to date on where we're going.
  + January - new CANR Dean
  + January - beginning MSUE Director Search
  + April 2016 - putting together summaries
* MOA - 2017 revisit and new cycle

**Council Member Reports**

District 1 - *Joe Bonovetz*

* *Positions back filled from MSUE, local hires - continuity to keep relationship intact*
* *Western UP, Central and Eastern UP*
* *Full time 4-H director*
* *Other counties putting MSUE on the ballot and increasing outreach*
* *Tough economic conditions, differing needs and trying to meet those needs by extending programs*
* *Research Farm in Chattam - July 25, open house*

District 3 - *Bernie Ware*

* D3 split - geographically - council has grown by leaps and bounds, 15 people at the last meeting in April, diversity of skill sets, great collaboration taking place, last several meetings leadership
* Grow Benzie - incubator kitchen
* Stawberries, weat

District 5 - *Bill Anderson*

\* Mason County - Breakfast on the farm - July 11, 100 volunteers, raised $15,000, elected and appointed officials - 3rd generation farm, milk 520 cows - very advanced method of manure disposal

\* Newaygo - moving Regional Agri-Science centers to a former school - MSUE, Baker College, and others will all be there, developing research plots

\*Issues ID - Maggie at last district council

\*Mecosta - projected economic impact - 40 mile bike trail to attract international mountain biker - 1.2 mill project

\*MSUE Ben Wirling Veggie educators working with Oceana county, moisture monitoring project

District 7 - *Nora Balgoyen-Williams*

* MSUE - Rebecca Finneran and Rufus Isaacs (Ento) creating a native pollinator section in the Kent MSUE office garden
* Creating native plants and non-natives that attract bees and other pollinators - "bee hotels"
* Dr. Jeannine Schweihofer- Meat quality - presentation held at MSU for information on meat to livestock producers,
* Kent co - expert team of master gardens plant sale - Friday June 5 and Saturday June 6

District 8 – *Lynn Mason*

 \* Don Lehman - meeting on Monday - apple farm in Ionia county, retired teacher, commissioner

District 10 - *Jim Will*

 \* 4-H camp in Lexington Michigan - youth council does the planning activities - outdoor cooking and kayaking, great experience - all 5 counties

* Exploration days
* Sanilac - 190 youth attending a beef cattle grooming seminar
* All offices doing education meetings for the county fairs
* Tuscola - raising livestock seminar - good character and presentation
* 4-H coordinator dual role working with probation office with children at risk, hoping a new 4-H club will start out of this group

District 11 – Wayne - *Suzanne McFadden*

* *Bankruptcy and effects on programs*
* *Eastern market is now open - 6 cooking demonstrations - 2,700 visited MSU camp - including HNI, Master gardeners etc.*
* *Wayne co - master gardener class held in Belleville at the Henry Ford Community College*
* *Project Fresh - 370 participants last year - giving coupons to Wick participants allowing them to go to farmers market to by fresh fruit - 81% enjoyed that program and hoped it would continue*
* *Community gardens - increasing*

District 12 - *Londa Pickles*

* New youth staff in place - great programming
* District council meeting at the end of this month to gear up for the strategic plan going forward
* Poultry - and issues with not able to show poultry - youth leadership are awaiting notifications on what their options are to work through these things,
* Horse shows and equine health issues

*Gary Voogt - livestock*

* *Livestock - best prices for cattle, probably one more good year before cattlemen rebuild their herds.*
* *MSU-- pleased with MSUE and research work out of Lake City - Jason Roundtree grant to study the effects of livestock and grazing on building up good soil. Chattam - research and survey - great responses - great to MSU to help all*
* *Ottawa – needing 4-H support for educational programming*

*Wayne Hecht*

* *Saginaw Valley -great growing season - sugar beet - timely with plantings, cucumbers and soybeans*
* *New facility -*

*Scott Ferry*

* *Update on dairy industry*
  + *Michigan is excelling in milk production, 20,000 cows, total numbers 400,000 - milk production per cow high*
    - *Fresh water,*
  + *Processing capacities have been met - we're producing more than we can process and have met our goals, every year gaining 7%, and processing facilities are overloaded and trying to look at other facilities to out of state and internationally*
  + *Cows are healthy, great weather for dairy*
  + *June is dairy month*
  + *Discard milk in state approved locations because all plants are full*
  + *First cutting alfalfa off and second cutting next week -*

*Ben Kudwa*

* *Nothing new from CARET -*
* *Michigan Veggie Council - number 1 issue is lack of labor - asparagus industry especially - many reports of issue*
* *PAC fund - green and white PAC -*

*Doug Lewis*

* *Met with the state reps from the south and Senator Weaver, well received,*
* *4-H on June 19 - taking kids to the annual trail ride at whiskey creek on the west side*