



Michigan Agri-Business Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, September 13, 2016

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Consuls General of Canada, Mexico join annual agribusiness outlook conference

*MABA highlights shared work with leading trade partners to
promote economic opportunity*

MACKINAC ISLAND – Trade is front and center across American agriculture, and the **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** this week hosted representatives of two leading Michigan trade partners to its annual outlook conference on Mackinac Island.

Douglas George, Consul General of Canada in Detroit and **Juan Manuel Solana Morales**, Consul General of Mexico in Detroit, joined about 250 MABA members for an update on trade, collaboration and new opportunities for producers across North America.

“Michigan agriculture has strong, longstanding ties with both Canada and Mexico, our top two export destinations for Michigan-grown products, so it makes sense to continue the dialogue and collaboration between agribusiness leaders and representatives from both those nations,” said **Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**. “In recent months and years, our association and many others in Michigan have worked closely with Canada and Mexico on many issues. Cross-border partnership is critical to expand trade, enhance certainty, and push for resolution to tough issues facing our industry.

Michigan exports about one-third of all its agricultural production, with Canada leading the way as an export destination for Michigan-grown grain, livestock and processed food products. About 60 percent of Michigan exports travel across the border to Canada on an annual basis, and Mexico is Michigan’s second-largest export market. Michigan exports more than \$3.1 billion in agricultural products around the world every year, and more than 20,000 Michigan jobs are tied to agricultural exports.

“Our meeting this week provided an excellent opportunity to look at current and future issues regarding trade and strengthen our relationship with these key partners,” said **Byrum**. “We’ve been fortunate to work closely with the Consuls General of both Canada and Mexico on critical issues facing our industry, and look forward to working

together to advance trade between our countries. Without trade, and these two valuable partners, the agricultural industry would suffer.”

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