



## Michigan Agri-Business Association

www.miagbiz.org

1501 North Shore Drive, Suite A  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Telephone (517) 336-0223

Fax (517) 336-0227

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Contact: Chuck Lippstreu  
[clippstreu@byrumfisk.com](mailto:clippstreu@byrumfisk.com)  
517-242-5124

## MABA recognizes Sutherland, Needler, Co-op Elevator Co. for industry leadership

*Byrum says recipients have gone 'above and beyond' to  
strengthen MABA*

LANSING — Two individuals and one company have been honored for their commitment to the **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** and Michigan's agriculture sector during MABA's recent Winter Conference in Lansing.

"The MABA Winter Conference is a fitting venue to recognize those who have stepped up and made special contributions to our association," said **Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**. "We appreciate the commitment the awardees have shown to the industry to go above and beyond the normal call of duty, look ahead to the future and strengthen our work across many areas."

**Co-op Elevator Co.** in Pigeon received the MABA Outstanding Manufacturer/Supplier Award. The award was presented by **Jennifer Vincent**, Editor of *Michigan Farmer Magazine*. Co-op Elevator is a major grain handler, agronomy supplier and dry bean processor and major resource for hundreds of farmers in the Thumb and Saginaw Valley. The Co-op was honored for innovative programs and their work to provide the latest information to customers.

"Always willing to help and support the association with the newest or latest idea, Co-op Elevator never shies from what they feel is their role in helping the industry grow, develop leaders or handle tough issues," **Vincent** said. "They also never shy away from cutting edge technology, the next major development or doing whatever they can do to help their patrons."

The company has led new efforts on sustainability, providing support for water quality programs such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the 4R nutrient stewardship program to help protect and improve our Great Lakes.

**Phil Needler** of **Orion Industrial** was named the 2014 Outstanding MABA Member. Always willing to volunteer and step in where needed at MABA events, Needler was recognized for being instrumental in the success of the MABA Green Agri-Business Program, supporting the educational trust and expanding the association's programming.

The **Michigan Farm Radio Network** sponsored the award that was presented by MABA Board Chairman **Ron Brown** with **Brown Milling**.

"Phil Needler never hesitates to get involved and is responsible for thousands of dollars in support of the Educational Trust. He never sits still," **Brown** said. "Phil has been a fixture in our industry for more than 20 years, and is known to all. He is a wealth of optimism."

MABA's immediate past Chairman, **Michigan Agricultural Commodities** vice president **Bruce Sutherland** was also honored for his leadership to the industry and association by **Brown**.

**Sutherland** served on the MABA Board for several years, and recently completed his term as Chairman.

"On behalf of the Association, and all our members, I want to thank you for your leadership, and all that you and Michigan Agricultural Commodities have done for this organization," said **Brown**. "You have been instrumental as a board member, chairman, and as a solid, supporting member of the association."

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