

Welcome to the  
**2024 Outlook Conference**

Mackinac Island, MI | September 6-8, 2024



**Friday, September 6**

**6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Opening Reception, Grand Hotel Lawn**  
*Presented by MABA 2024 Sustaining Sponsors*

**Saturday, September 7**

*Moderator: Jon Rush, BASF, MABA 2024 Chairman*

**Breakfast On Your Own – Main Dining Room (opens at 7:30 a.m.)**

**8:00 A.M. Registration – Grand Hotel Theatre**

**8:30 A.M. Welcome**

**8:35 A.M. Opening Keynote Remarks**  
**Courtney White, Head of Human Resources,**  
**BASF North America**

**9:20 A.M. State of Michigan Priorities for Agriculture**  
**Dr. Tim Boring, Director, Michigan Department**  
**of Agriculture & Rural Development**

**9:40 A.M. Global Grain & Oilseed Outlook**  
**Mark Feight, Managing Director, International**  
**Agribusiness Group**

**10:00 A.M. Michigan Economic Outlook**  
**Dr. Paul Isely, Associate Dean of Undergraduate**  
**Programs, Grand Valley State University**

**10:30 A.M. Update from Eastern Market**  
**Dan Carmody, CEO, Eastern Market**  
**Partnership**

**10:50 A.M. Change and Opportunity for Thumb Agriculture**  
**Scott Gordon, CEO, Cooperative Elevator Co.**

**11:10 A.M. 2024 Election Outlook**  
**Stephanie Szymas, Lobbyist, McAlvey Merchant**  
**& Associates**

**11:30 A.M. Break – Guests Invited to Join**

**12:00 P.M. Lunch Session**

**Video Message**

**Keynote Speaker: Col. (Ret.) Mike Fossum**  
**Vice President, Texas A&M University**

**Update from MABA President Chuck Lippstreu**  
*Saturday Afternoon Open for Activities*

**6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Reception – Grand Hotel Porch**  
*Presented by Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*

**Sunday, September 8**

*Moderator: John Tilt, Vita Plus Corporation, MABA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*

**Breakfast On Your Own – Main Dining Room (opens at 7:30 a.m.)**

**7:30 A.M. MABA PAC Coffee**  
*Pontiac Room, The Grand Hotel*

**8:00 A.M. Registration - Grand Pavilion**

**8:15 A.M. Welcome**

**8:30 A.M. Message from the Critter Barn**  
**Tony McCaul, Executive Director, The Critter**  
**Barn**

**8:45 A.M. Farmland Values and Economics**  
**Matt Gunderson, Vice President, Farmers**  
**National Company**

**9:05 A.M. Michigan Supreme Court Ruling on the Earned Sick**  
**Time Act**  
**Anne Steen, Attorney, Warner Norcross + Judd**  
**LLP**

**9:30 A.M. Emerging Industry Trends**  
**Jim Byrum, Executive Director, Riveron**

**9:50 A.M. MSU AgBioResearch and Extension Update**  
**Dr. George Smith, MSU AgBioResearch**  
**Dr. Quentin Tyler, MSU Extension**

**10:20 A.M. Adjourn**



**Dress Code: Prior to 6:30 p.m. resort casual or business attire is appropriate for all functions. After 6:30 p.m. The Grand Hotel Dress Code applies to all guests 13 years and older - dresses, skirts, blouses, dress sweaters and dress slacks for ladies, while gentlemen are required to wear a suit coat, necktie and dress pants. No denim or shorts.**