



## 2025 Winter Conference Program

Updated January 6, 2025. For real-time agenda updates, [maba.swoogo.com/2025winterconference](http://maba.swoogo.com/2025winterconference).

### Tuesday, January 7, 2025 - Morning

#### **7:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

Registration – Lansing Center Concourse  
“Grab and Go” Breakfast Served – Lansing Center

#### **2025 State and Federal Issues Opening Panel**

##### **9:00 - 10:30 AM**

Moderator: Greg Thon, Harvey’s  
Room: Lansing Center Governor’s Room  
CCA: 1.5 PD

- **The 2025 Legislature and Look Ahead**  
Rusty Merchant, McAlvey Merchant & Associates
- **Business Community Topics**  
Michael Alaimo, Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- **Farm Bill Program Outlook**  
Dr. Alan Ker, Michigan State University

#### **Applicator Training Session I**

##### **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Moderator: Anne Webster, UPL NA, Inc.  
Room: DoubleTree Hotel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
RUP: 3.0 Category - 1A, 1B, 1C, 6, Comm. CORE, Priv. CORE  
CCA: 1.0 NM; 2.0 PM

- **Opening Comments**  
Chuck Lippstreu, Michigan Agri-Business Association
- **Compliance with State Law, Legal Obligations and Reminders**  
Aaron Phelps, Varnum Law
- **Pesticide Updates from the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development**  
Brian Verhougstraete, MDARD
- **Operating Safely Around Railways**  
Chris Bagwell, Adrian & Blissfield Railway

## **Fertilizer Update (Morning Session)**

**9:00 – 12:00 PM**

*Moderator: Rex Thayer, Nutrien Ag Solutions*

*Room: Lansing Center 201-202*

*CCA: 0.5 SW; 0.5 SSp; 2.0 NM*

- **Potash Markets and Logistics**  
Darryl Perry, Mosaic
- **Nitrogen Markets**  
Scott Krout, CF Industries
- **Low Carbon & Green Ammonia**  
Robert O’Leary, CF Industries
- **Fertilizer Policy Updates and Changes**  
Jarrod Fletcher, MDARD
- **Crop Input Contracts**  
Eli Earich, Barrett, Easterday, Cunningham & Eselgroth, LLP

## **Feed Industry and Livestock Production Updates**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

*Moderator: Joseph Bolle, Quality Roasting*

*Room: Lansing Center 101-102*

*CCA: 0.5 CM; 1.0 SW; 1.5 NM*

- **Briefing on Livestock Industry Economics**  
Dr. Bill Knudson, Michigan State University
- **HPAI Response**  
***State of Michigan HPAI Response***  
MDARD Staff  
***Layer Industry Biosecurity***  
Dr. Joe Sullivan, Herbruck’s Poultry Ranch  
Dr. Nancy Barr, Michigan Allied Poultry Industries
- **Discussion on Digester Technology and Its Deployment in Michigan**  
***Opening Comments***  
Jon Allan, West Michigan Food Processors Association & University of Michigan School for Environment & Sustainability  
***Digester Applications and Opportunities***  
Dr. Wei Liao, Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center (ADREC), Michigan State University

## **Dry Bean and Sugar Beet Update**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

*Moderator: Caleb Sundblad, Cooperative Elevator Co.*

*Room: Lansing Center Banquet 7*

*RUP: 2.0 Category - 1A, Priv. CORE*

*CCA: 3.0 CM*

- **Dry Bean Research Plot Findings**  
Scott Bales, MSU
- **Market Development and Trade Promotion Leadership**  
Matt Stawowy, Steele & Company
- **Rail Service Updates**  
Sarah Pawlanta, Genesee & Wyoming Inc.
- **Michigan Sugar Agronomy Update**  
Dr. Corey Guza, Michigan Sugar Company

### **Lunch and MABA Annual Meeting**

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

*Moderator: Jon Rush, BASF*

*Room: Banquets 1-6*

*CCA: 0.5 SW; 1.0 PD*

- **Presentation of Colors**  
FFA State Officers
- **Keynote Presenter**  
Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz, President, Michigan State University
- **Government Leader Remarks**  
Dr. Tim Boring, Director, MDARD  
Rep. Jerry Neyer, State Representative, 92<sup>nd</sup> District
- **CCA Recognition and Updates**  
Michigan Certified Crop Adviser Chairman Tim Schaub
- **Presentation of Nature Conservancy Agribusiness Award**  
Ben Wickerham, The Nature Conservancy
- **Updates from MABA**  
Chuck Lippstreu, President, Michigan Agri-Business Association

*Annual Meeting Immediately Follows Adjournment*

### **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 - Afternoon**

#### **Applicator Training Session II**

**1:30 – 4:30 PM**

*Moderator: Adam Constine, Valent*

*Room: DoubleTree Hotel 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

*RUP: 3.0 Category - 1A, 1B, 1C, Comm. CORE, Priv. CORE*

*CCA: 0.5 PD; 0.5 CM; 1.0 NM; 1.0 PM*

- **Safeguarding Security in Your Work As An Applicator**  
Jody Stanley, FBI Detroit Field Office
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) Changes and What They Mean for You!**  
Laura Campbell, Michigan Farm Bureau

- **Road Safety and Enforcement Updates from the State Police**  
Lt. Marcus Studer, Michigan State Police
- **Weed Control Updates for Applicators**  
Dr. Christy Sprague, MSU

### **Grain Industry Outlook**

**1:30 – 4:30 PM**

*Moderator: Nate Greeley, ZFS, Inc.*

*Room: Lansing Center 101-102*

*CCA: 3.0 CM*

- **Global Commodity Outlook 2025**  
Mark Talaski, Advance Trading, Inc.
- **FGIS Rules and Handling Grain: Best Practices For Your Teams**  
Kia Mikesh, North Dakota Grain Inspection Inc.
- **Rail and Logistics Service Updates**  
Shasta Duffey, Lake State Railway Company
- **Grain Indemnity Program Updates and Processes**  
Denise Studders, MDARD
- **Outlook on Land Valuation and Pricing Trends**  
Jay Van Gorden, Farmers National Company
- **The Next Farm Bill and Impacts on the Grain Sector**  
Dr. Alan Ker, MSU

### **Fertilizer (PM Session)**

**1:30 – 4:30 PM**

*Room: Lansing Center 201-202*

*CCA: 1.0 SW; 2.0 NM*

- **Potash Markets and Logistics**  
Darryl Perry, Mosaic
- **Nitrogen Markets**  
Scott Krout, CF Industries
- **Low Carbon & Green Ammonia**  
Robert O'Leary, CF Industries
- **Fertilizer Policy Updates and Changes**  
Jarrod Fletcher, MDARD
- **Crop Input Contracts**  
Eli Earich, Barrett, Easterday, Cunningham & Eselgroth, LLP

## **Climate and Agriculture – Discussion with Michigan State Climatologist**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

*Moderator: Ben Wickerham, The Nature Conservancy*

*Room: Lansing Center 103-104*

*RUP: 1.0 Category - 1A, 1B, 1C, Priv. CORE*

*CCA: 0.5 SW; 0.5 CM*

- **Recent and Forecast Climate Observations Update**  
Dr. Jeff Andresen, Michigan State Climatologist

## **Updates on Control of Field Crop Disease**

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**

*Moderator: Matt Naeyaert, GreenStone Farm Credit Services*

*Room: Lansing Center 203-204*

*RUP: 1.0 Cat. 1A, Priv. Core*

*CCA: 1.0 CM*

- **Updates on Control of Field Crop Disease**  
Presentation from Dr. Marty Chilvers, MSU

## **Knowing the Rules and Properly Operating Drones in Agriculture**

**1:30 – 3:30 PM**

*Moderator: Phil Needler, GarrCo Products*

*Room: Lansing Center Banquet 7*

*RUP: 2.0 Category - 1A, 1B, 1C, Priv. Core, Comm. Core*

*CCA: 1.0 CM; 1.0 PM*

- **Knowing the Rules and Properly Operating Drones in Agriculture**  
Mike Rienke, MSU Extension  
Bryan Hammis, Flying Acres LLC

## **Evolution of On-Farm Stewardship and Agronomists' Role**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM**

*Room: Lansing Center 203-204*

*CCA: 0.5 SSp; 0.5 SW*

- **Evolution of On-Farm Stewardship and Agronomists' Role**  
Presentation from Christie Apple, Timac Agro USA

## **The Intersection of Ag Tech and Security in the New Era of Automation**

**3:30 – 4:30 PM**

*Moderator: Gary Fritz, Cooperative Elevator Co.*

*Room: Lansing Center, Governor's Room*

*RUP: 1.0 Category - 1A, 1B, 1C, Priv. CORE, Comm. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 PD*

- **The Intersection of Ag Tech and Security in the New Era of Automation**  
Jody Stanley, FBI  
Glenn Gentry, FBI

## **Opening Reception for the 2025 Trade Show**

**4:30 - 6:00 PM**

**Lansing Center Trade Show Floor**

***Ribbon Cutting at 5:00!***

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## **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

### **Networking Breakfast in the Trade Show**

Buffet Breakfast Open 8:00-9:30 AM

### **Update on MDARD Strategic Priorities**

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**

*Room: Lansing Center, Governor's Room*

*CCA: 1.0 PD*

- **Update from MDARD**  
MDARD Leadership Team Members and Staff

### **Wheat: The Latest on Quality, Breeding, Production and Industry Policy Issues**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

*Moderator: Patrick, Doyle, King Milling Co.*

*Room: Lansing Center, Banquet 7*

*RUP: 2.0 Category 1A, Priv. CORE*

*CCA: 0.5 PD; 0.5 PM; 1.0 NM; 1.0 CM*

- **Wheat Markets Outlook**  
Mark Talaski, Advance Trading Inc. (ATI)
- **Update on the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network: Collaboration Across MSU, Michigan Wheat and the Private Sector**  
Dr. Dennis Pennington, MSU
- **Michigan Wheat Program Update**  
Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Wheat Program
- **Wheat Breeding Update**  
Dr. Eric Olson, MSU
- **Policy and Political Topics in the Wheat Industry**  
Chandler Goule, National Association of Wheat Growers
- **Wheat Quality Update**  
Dr. Perry Ng, Michigan State University

## **Soybean Agronomy**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

*Moderator: Mark Seamon, Michigan Soybean Committee*

*Room: Lansing Center 201-202*

*RUP: 3.0 Category 1A, Priv. CORE, Comm. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 PM; 2.0 CM*

- **Soybean Production Research Update**  
Mark Seamon, Michigan Soybean Committee  
Dr. Manni Singh, MSU
- **Soybean Educational Programs**  
Eric Anderson, MSU
- **Soybean Sector Innovation**  
Trevor Kraus, BASF

## **Specialty Crops: Labor Concerns and Agronomy Topics**

**9:00 AM– 12:00 PM**

*Moderator: Jamie Clover Adams, Michigan Asparagus*

*Room: Lansing Center 103-104*

*RUP: 1.0 Category 1B, 1C, Priv. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 CM; 2.0 PD*

- **Skyrocketing Labor Costs and the Future of Michigan Specialty Crop Production**  
Jamie Clover Adams, Michigan Asparagus  
Mary Sheppard, Golden Stock Farms, Mears  
Gerrit Herrygers, Herrygers Farms, Hart  
Adam VanDyk, VanDyk Farms, Imlay City
- **The Economics of Ag Labor**  
Dr. Zach Rutledge, Michigan State University
- **Navigating Current Visa and Immigration Policy**  
Sarah Bileti, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP  
Dan Persinger, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP
- **Developments in Fruit Production Crop Protection**  
Pete Nelson, HortSystems LLC
- **Michigan Blueberry Economic Analysis**  
Dr. Jeta Rudi Polloshka, Michigan State University

## **Seed Treatment Educational Seminar**

*Moderator: Reid Stoller, Syngenta*

*Room: Lansing Center 101-102*

*RUP: 2.0 Cat. 4, Priv. CORE, Comm. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 CM; 1.0 PM*

- **Seed Treatment Topics and Best Practices**  
Syngenta Seedcare Institute Team

## **Networking Lunch in the Trade Show**

**11:30-1:00 PM**

## **Insect Pest Control Updates**

**1:00-2:00 PM**

*Moderator: Rodney Stevens, Keystone Cooperative*

*Room: LC 101-102*

*RUP: 1.0 Category - 1A, 1C, Priv. CORE, Comm. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 PM*

- **Maggots and Mollusks in Soybeans: A Primer**  
Dr. Chris DiFonzo, Michigan State University
- **SWD Control Advancements and Briefing on Fruit Industry Insect Control**  
Dr. Rufus Issacs, Michigan State University

## **Fumigation Seminar**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

*Room: Lansing Center 103-104*

*RUP: 1.0 FUM, Comm. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 PM*

- **Safety and Best Practices in Fumigation**  
Lance Grey, Fumigation Service and Supply (FSS)

## **Environmental and Economic Updates from Non-Government Partners**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

*Moderator: Julie Doll, Michigan Agriculture Advancement (MiAA)*

*Room: Lansing Center 203-204*

*CCA: 1.0 SW; 1.0 PD*

- **Michigan Agriculture Advancement**  
Julie Doll, MIAA
- **Michigan Association of Conservation Districts**  
Rivka Hodgkinson, MACD
- **National Wildlife Federation**  
Adam Reimer, NWF
- **The Nature Conservancy**  
Ben Wickerham, TNC  
Joel Leland, TNC
- **Alliance for the Great Lakes**  
Tom Zimnicki, AGL

## **Listening Session and Forum: The Gordie Howe Bridge and U.S.-Canada Border**

### **Topics**

**1:00-2:30 PM**

*Moderator: Chuck Lippstreu, MABA*



*Room: Lansing Center Banquet 7*  
*CCA: 1.5 PD*

- **Opening Remarks from the Consul General of Canada**  
Colin Bird, Consul General of Canada
- **Presentation on the Gordie Howe Bridge and Cross-Border Transportation Issues**  
Heather Grondin, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

**MDARD Seminar on RUP Dealer Certification**

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

*Moderator: Tom Lawrence, MDARD*

*Room: Lansing Center 201-202*

*RUP: 1.0 Cat. - 1A, 1B, 1C, Priv. CORE, Comm. CORE*

*CCA: 1.0 PD*

- **Best Practices for Managers and Recordkeepers at RUP Locations**  
Tom Lawrence, MDARD

**Working Session: In-Depth Briefing on Michigan Part 641 Regulation Proposed Changes**

**3:00 – 5:00 PM**

*Room: Lansing Center, Governor's Room*

*CCA: 2.0 PD*

Open to Ag Retail and Value Chain Businesses. Please RSVP to Chuck Lippstreu or any MABA staff member.