

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Protecting Michigan's Food and Agriculture Industry

As Michigan struggles through a long recession - a result of unprecedented change in the manufacturing industry - the state's food and agriculture industry has been one of the few economic bright spots. As the second-leading industry in Michigan, the food and agriculture sector has continued to grow even as the manufacturing base was shrinking, according to recent studies by the Michigan State University Product Center.

MDA is the only department in state government focused on the needs of one industry sector – food and agriculture. This type of focus on safety and economic growth contributes to its strength as Michigan's second largest industry and what makes it unique compared to other business sectors.

MDA offers a full array of food and agriculture industry support services, ranging from ensuring animal feed is wholesome and agrichemicals are used properly; to inspections that allow product to enter channels of trade; to product assurance; to domestic and international marketing assistance; to voluntary consultation and verification of environmental protection; and providing support for Michigan producers under the state's Right to Farm law; to everything in between.

One reason businesses often cite for selecting to locate or expand their business here is the regulatory climate offered by MDA. Numerous programs were developed only after working cooperatively with our stakeholders and the legislature to ensure the final product was good public policy. Whether the issue is food safety, environmental protection, consumer protection, business development, or emergency management, there are a lot of success stories.

MDA offers a full array of food and agriculture industry support services, for example:

- Inspections
- Licenses and permits
- Policy development
- Import/Export certification
- Grant funding (state and federal)
- Compliance assistance
- Issue management/problem solving
- Marketing assistance
- Communication assistance
- Emergency management/rapid response
- Laboratory analysis
- Animal and plant disease management
- Environmental assurance
- Food safety assurance
- Product quality assurance
- Safe handling certification

For decades, MDA has fostered a culture of solutions, partnership and cooperation with all stakeholders. Michigan must continue to have a strong, unified food and agriculture agency in order to maintain its economic position and support those business owners who are generating new jobs and contributing a growing segment of our economy.