



13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Ste 5  
Lansing, MI 48906

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Contact: Dennis Raymo  
Phone: (517) 668-2676

## Farmers Have Opportunities to Participate in Upcoming Educational Events

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan farmers have many opportunities to participate in educational events throughout the month of January. The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) is partnering with other agricultural organizations to participate in educational meetings and events across the state.

As a way to connect with local corn growers, the CMPM will be holding Coffee with Corn meetings in farming communities throughout the state. These discussion-based meetings are meant to bring corn growers who contribute to the state's check-off together with members of the CMPM board of directors and staff to talk about issues of importance to corn farmers. Through these meetings, the CMPM board of directors and staff hope to provide growers with information that will be useful to them on their farming operations and learn how the CMPM can expand their efforts in the future to better serve check-off contributors and improve Michigan's corn industry. Coffee with Corn meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- January 4, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. – Hosted by Matt Cary
  - Roscoe Cary's Farm, 5829 E. Deerfield Rd., Mt. Pleasant
- January 12, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. – Hosted by Pat Feldpausch
  - Pat Feldpausch Farms, 2858 S. Bauer Rd., Fowler
- January 23, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. – Hosted by Southwest Michigan Growers
  - Kies Farm, 5551 Thompson Rd., Allen
- January 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. – Hosted by Ed Breitmeyer
  - Main Street Cafe, 105 S. Industrial Dr., Buckley

To register for one of the Coffee with Corn meetings, call the Michigan Corn office at (517) 668-2676.

Annually, the CMPM partners with the Lenawee County Center for Excellence to conduct farmer-focused research in a real world setting. As a part of this partnership, the CMPM also participates in the Center for Excellence's annual Crop Day results meeting that will be held on January 6, 2012 at the Lenawee Christian Family Centre in Adrian. Topics for the meeting include: tillage plot results, nitrogen and pest management, infrared sensors for side-dressing nitrogen, fungicide use, determining soil organic model and strip tillage systems. To register for the Crop Day results meeting, call the Lenawee Conservation District office at (517) 263-7400, extension 5.

Another annual educational event geared towards those involved in agriculture is the Michigan Agri-Business Association's (MABA) annual Winter Conference and Tradeshow. The event runs from Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, through Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 at the Lansing Center and will shine a

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spotlight on how agricultural technology is maximizing production, promoting sustainability and feeding a more crowded world. The CMPM, along with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA), will have a booth in the tradeshow area and staff will be available to talk with attendees about the check-off, membership in the MCGA and other issues that are affecting corn farmers across the state. For more information or to register for the conference, please visit [www.miagbiz.org](http://www.miagbiz.org).

The first-ever Michigan Ag Commodities Educational Expo is a new endeavor that provides farmers and agricultural professionals with insight into the future of the agricultural industry. The expo will take place on Jan. 26, 2012, at the Lansing Center. Farmers and other professionals will be provided with a venue where Michigan agriculture can come together and evaluate broad perspectives, such as economic, governmental, environmental, nutritional and social strategies for the future. To learn more about the scheduled speakers and to register for the expo, visit <http://bit.ly/MACEE>.

“We are very happy to work with other agricultural groups from across the state to help put on or to be a part of the numerous educational events that are available to Michigan growers,” said Pat Feldpausch, President of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) and a corn farmer from Fowler. “The events allow not only corn farmers, but people from all ag sectors, the chance to come together and get the latest information on a variety of important topics.”

*Headquartered in Lansing, the CMPM is a legislatively established statewide program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold. Investments are made in the areas of research, education, market development, and new uses in an effort to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn farmers. The CMPM works cooperatively with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA), a grassroots-membership organization representing the political interests of the state’s corn growers since the 1970s. Michigan’s corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state’s economy annually, and in 2010, Michigan’s corn farmers harvested a record-setting crop of more than 315 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org).*

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