



# MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

## In This Issue

**Four Star Greenhouse Tour**

**Signing of the Farm Bill**

**Growing MI Ag Conference 2014**

**Address Change Reminder**

**January Board Meeting**

### Calendar of Events

MFGC Board Meeting  
Thursday March 13th, 2014  
8:30am GreenStone FCS  
Please RSVP.

### Legislative Schedule

#### **Senate Session Schedule**

February 11, 2014 10am  
February 12, 2014 10am  
February 13, 2014 10am  
February 18, 2014 10am  
February 19, 2014 10am  
February 20, 2014 10am  
February 25, 2014 10am  
February 26, 2014 10am  
February 27, 2014 10am

#### **House Session Schedule**

February 11, 2014 1:30pm  
February 12, 2014 1:30pm  
February 13, 2014 noon  
February 18, 2014 1:30pm  
February 19, 2014 1:30pm  
February 20, 2014 noon  
February 25, 2014 1:30pm  
February 26, 2014 1:30pm  
February 27, 2014 noon

## Dear Member,

I want to take a moment and thank the members who serve on the MFGC Board of Directors. This service takes time out of their personal lives and a commitment to make the industry better for all of us. Thank you!

I also want to welcome our new members to the board, Dennis Crum of Four Star Greenhouse and Scott Stiles of Arborquest Greenhouse, representing the Western Michigan Greenhouse Association. Congratulations to Dick Derks who was re-elected to his second term.

Your 2014 Board of Directors:

Donny Marvaso - President  
Bill Tuinier - Vice-President  
Dick Derks - Secretary/Treasurer  
Andy Buist  
Paul Karlovich  
Ken Tuinier  
Dennis Crum  
Erik Runkle - Educator Appointee  
Carter Kent - Allied Trade Appointee  
Mike Faber - Allied Trade Appointee  
Mark Watkins - MDFGA Appointee  
Scott Stiles - WMGA Appointee

Policy Chair - Bill Tuinier  
Membership Chair - Ken Tuinier

Please plan on attending the membership & legislative tour and policy committee meeting on Monday, February 24 at Four Star Greenhouse. We want to hear your concerns and ideas to improve policy for the floriculture industry.

Sincerely,

Dominic Marvaso  
President

## You are invited to attend!

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council invites members and legislators for a tour of Four Star Greenhouse and discussion on policy impacting the Michigan Floriculture Industry.



Mark your calendar and plan to attend on  
Monday, February 24 at 9am.

Location: Four Star Greenhouse  
1199 East Sigler  
Carleton, MI 48117

Host: Dennis Crum - Four Star Greenhouse - Director of Growing  
Operations/MFGC Board Member  
Tom Smith - Four Star Greenhouse - Owner

9am Welcome and Tour

10am Legislative Comments - Questions and Answers  
Refreshments

11 am Policy Committee Meeting - MFGC members are invited to attend.  
The policy committee will review various pieces of legislation and policy  
issues as they relate to the floriculture industry. You are encouraged to  
attend and share your thoughts with the committee. Items discussed will be  
evaluated for action items and deemed necessary and appropriate. The  
policy committee will occur in the conference room at Four Star  
Greenhouse.

Four Star Greenhouse - 1015 Indian Trails Road - Carleton, MI 48117

Please RSVP to the MFGC office at 517-367-2033 or email Val at [val@julianvail.com](mailto:val@julianvail.com)

**President Obama signs the Farm Bill on the campus of Michigan  
State University.**



On the grounds of the first land grant university, President Obama signed the long  
awaited Farm Bill, amongst an eager agriculture crowd. Braving brutally cold

temperatures, approximately 400 invited guests attended the bill signing and remarks from the President and US Senator Debbie Stabenow. Senator Stabenow worked in a bi-partisan fashion to craft and move the Farm Bill through a much divided Congress to a final passage this past week.

The Michigan Floriculture Growers Council applauds Chairwoman Stabenow for her bi-partisan leadership on the 2014 Farm Bill. This legislation is a major boost to our state's \$400 million floriculture industry, which supports thousands of jobs across Michigan.

Among many critical agricultural points covered in the Farm Bill, specialty crops will see an increase in funding.

## Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference 2014

### Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center

On March 5, 2014, farmers, agribusiness professionals, agricultural decision makers and farm commodity executives, representing livestock, dairy, poultry, field and specialty crops, are invited to gather in East Lansing for the third annual Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference. In 2014, the Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference is being conducted jointly with Michigan Farm Bureau's Winter Commodity and Marketing Conference.

The Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will gather farm decision makers at a common venue to hear about emerging issues straight from leading experts in the industry. It is our hope that this conference will initiate dialog to successfully position Michigan's agricultural industry for the future. We hope you will join us as a participant or sponsor in achieving this goal.

Visit the Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference 2014 registration page for more information. <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=GMAC2014>

### Reminder

The MFGC office is now located at: 235 N. Pine St., Lansing, MI 48933

When sending your 2014 membership or communication, it is important to use the new address. The PO Box has been closed.

### March Board Meeting

The MFGC Board of Directors and Committees will meet on Thursday, March 13th, 2014 beginning at 8:30am. These meetings will be held at GreenStone Farm Credit Headquarters in Lansing. Please let the MFGC office know if you plan to attend.