



MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION

Egg Law Update

MIFMA, MIFFS, MDA and other partners have been working together over the last two years to clarify the operating policy and regulatory issues for egg sales at farmers markets, and more broadly direct from producer to consumer. In March, the workgroup met with a representative from the Office of Attorney General (AG) to present this issue of MDA regulation of shell eggs sold by producer to consumer or first receiver. On July 17th, MDA received an AG opinion stating that the 1963 Eggs Law “prevails over the Food Law when in conflict.” The opinion concluded, “As the Eggs Law does not require retailer-producers who sell directly to consumers to comply with its food safety provisions, this shows that the Legislature did not

intend to subject egg producers to such regulation, including under the more general Food Law.”

Based on this opinion, **MDA will not license or regulate eggs being sold directly by a producer to a consumer.** During an August 18 meeting, we learned that all MDA supervisors and inspectors have received notice that until further notice, MDA shall not regulate, license or cite violations when an egg producer sells to a consumer or first receiver. You can view MDA’s policy at http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1568_2387_46671-212367--,00.html. We will also continue to share updates as available.

Please share this message with fellow farmers and market managers as appropriate.

What’s Happening?

- **September 3, 2009:**
RMA at Downtown Bay City Farmers Market
 - **September 5, 2009:**
RMA at South Lansing Community Farmers Market
 - **September 9, 2009:**
Senior Project FRESH Conference Call, Using Data to Tell Your Story
 - **September 10, 2009:**
Michigan Farmers Markets Food Assistance Partnership Conference Call
 - **September 12, 2009:**
RMA at Kalamazoo Farmers Market
 - **September 14, 2009:**
MIFMA Board Meeting
 - **September 16, 2009:**
Farmers Market Coalition EBT Webinar
 - **September 17, 2009:**
Select Michigan Farmers Market at the Capitol
 - **September 17, 2009:**
MIFMA Professional Development Committee Conference Call
 - **September 18, 2009:**
RMA at Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market
 - **September 24, 2009:**
RMA at Northwest Detroit Farmers Market
 - **September 28, 2009:**
MIFMA Marketing Committee Conference Call
- For more information regarding these listings, call 517-432-3381.

Rapid Market Assessment Schedule

Check out this year’s Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) schedule! An RMA provides a one-time, market-day snapshot of a market using three tools: customer counts, dot surveys, and market observations and recommendations. Being an RMA team member not only teaches you how to count customers and survey customers, it also provides you with an opportunity to critically examine a market’s physical characteristics, market atmosphere, vendors and products and food assistance programs. You’ll go home with a mind full of ideas to implement at your farmers market or in your work.

If you’re interested in volunteering for any of the starred markets below, please contact Dru Montri at dnmontri@msu.edu or 517-432-3381.

- Lapeer Farmers Market: Wednesday, August 26th from 9 am - 3 pm
- Flint Farmers Market: Thursday, August 27th from 9 am - 5 pm
- *Downtown Bay City Farmers Market: Thursday, September 3rd from 10 am - 3 pm
- *South Lansing Community Farmers Market: Saturday, September 5th from 10 am - 2 pm
- *Kalamazoo Farmers Market: Saturday, September 12th from 7 am - 2 pm
- *Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market: Friday, September 18th from 10 am - 3 pm
- Northwest Detroit Farmers Market: Thursday, September 24th from 4 - 8 pm
- *Ann Arbor Farmers Market: Wednesday, October 7th from 7 am - 3 pm
- *Lansing City Market: Thursday, October 8th from 9 am - 6 pm
- Downtown Ypsilanti Farmers Market: Tuesday, October 13th from 2 - 6 pm



Flint Farmers Market RMA, August 27

The Michigan Farmers Market Association advances farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products. Our vision is to place farmers markets at the forefront of the local food movement and to ensure all residents have access to healthy, locally grown food and that Michigan farmers markets receive policy support.



MIFMA Member of the Month:

Jan Lawson

An Interview with Jan Lawson, Battle Creek Farmers Market Manager



Please tell us about your farm.

My farm is located between Battle Creek and Marshall, MI. I am primarily a beekeeper and honey is my main crop, but I also have a 2 acre market garden in which I grow everything you can grow in Michigan. I specialize in heirloom tomatoes. I am also a member of Seed Savers Exchange and enjoy saving seeds of heirloom peppers, tomatoes and beans.

What do you love about farmers markets?

I started selling my honey about ten years ago when I had a good year with lots of surplus honey. I quickly learned that in our market, selling just honey wasn't enough, so I expanded an already large garden and started to pay attention to what people wanted. I enjoy taking a quality product to market and I really enjoy getting compliments about my produce and honey, but my favorite part of the market is interacting with people. You can't survive unless you are a people person.

In addition to selling at the farmers market, you also manage the Battle Creek Farmers Market. How do you balance being a market manager and a vendor?

About five years ago, our market went through a change in leadership and as the organizational meeting ended, I somehow became the market manager. Since our market is relatively small, my duties as manager are not overwhelming, especially since we have a good leadership team. I'd be in real trouble if were just up to me to manage the market. It is really a team effort.

You serve on the MIFMA Board of Directors as the Region 6 representative. What have you learned about Michigan farmers markets in this leadership position?

Our secretary encouraged me to run for Region 6 representative primarily to keep our market informed and to garner ideas to promote our market. Farmer's markets are the truest and probably the oldest form of capitalism. The grower, in most cases, is selling to the consumer. There aren't many things more important than the food you eat, and MIFMA is exceedingly aware of those important facts. MIFMA is supporting the leadership teams in all of the markets by providing education and professional development, as well as being aware of laws that affect markets.

Since I have been on the MIFMA board, I have had the privilege of visiting several markets across the state, and one thing I now realize is that there are no two markets that are exactly alike. Sure we all live in the same climate and grow some of the same things, but every vendor is a unique individual, and every market has a unique flavor. Visiting other farmers markets could become addictive if I wasn't working at our own market. I will continue as a farmer vendor as long as I am physically able. You can find me selling my produce and honey every Saturday at the Battle Creek Farmer's Market. If I'm not there, look for me at one of the other great markets around the state.

MIFMA is on Facebook!

The Michigan Farmers Market Association is now on Facebook! Check us out at <http://tinyurl.com/lwe8ma> and become a fan today to show your support for MIFMA, farmers markets and local food. You need to be a Facebook member to become a fan, so start your profile today at www.facebook.com. This is another great way to receive regular updates, share information, and view photos from our recent events.

Welcome New Members!

MIFMA would like to welcome its new members for July and August 2009.

Farmers/Vendors

- Bill Vang of Lansing
- Green Beans of Bath
- Janet's LLC of Dexter
- M. Salomon Jost of East Lansing
- Mark Sienkiewicz of Berkley
- Ma's Produce of Grand Rapids
- Michigan Mushrooms LLC of Alpena

Friends of MIFMA

- Jenifer Buckley of Lansing

To join MIFMA, visit www.farmersmarkets.msu.edu

Thank you, Sponsors!

MIFMA Sponsors

- Lynn Ochberg, Ochberg Sugar Bush in Okemos

To become a MIFMA Sponsor, contact Dru Montri, 517-432-3381 or dnmontri@msu.edu.

