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Michigan Agriculture
Michigan State University Extension Service
Mary Zehner, Consumer Marketing Information
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MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE

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From the Upper Peninsula to Monroe, Berrien to Presque Isle county, MICHIGAN produces more than 50 important food crops.

MICHIGAN has played an important role in the American agricultural success story. Increased farm efficiency combined with a progressive system of marketing, processing, and merchandising have stocked the na-

tion's dinner tables with a wider variety of nutritious food, and with the lowest food bill relative to income, of any country at any time in history.

Yes, food prices are higher than 5 or 10 years ago, but the percentage of disposable income spent on food has decreased. We spent on the average only 19 percent of disposable income on food in 1963, a drop from 23 percent in 1952.

No matter how you cut MICHIGAN'S economic pie, agriculture gets the second biggest slice. Agriculture represents a 791 million dollar annual income to producers in our state. Agriculture is surpassed only by the automobile industry as a source of income.

In MICHIGAN you'll find . . .

* a large agri-business industry which is farming plus:

*processing science sales
distribution business service
manufacturing education retailing*

* 108,000 farms and 206,000 farm workers.

* 39.4 percent of land area in agricultural production.

* Assets in farming over 4 billion dollars.

* 139,500 firms and farms in agriculture and its related businesses with a gross investment of 7.9 billion dollars. Together these manufacturers, suppliers, farmers and

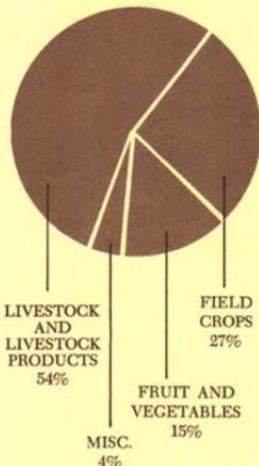
marketing firms employ 749,000 workers with

a total sales volume of 9.6 billion dollars.

* One out of every four residents deriving some, if not all, of their income from agri-business.



**MICHIGAN CASH
RECEIPTS
FROM FARM
MARKETINGS
TOTALLED
\$744,838,000
IN 1962**



In 1962, farmers received \$745 million from marketings of farm products, and \$45 million in direct payments from the government, for a total annual income of \$791 million.

**MICHIGAN
PRODUCES MANY
FOOD PRODUCTS**

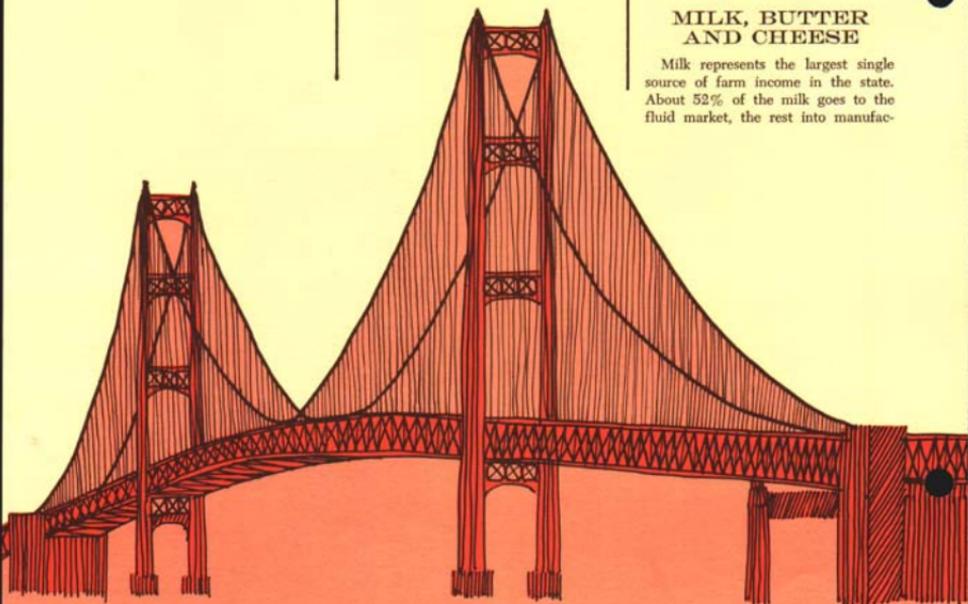
MICHIGAN'S population of 8.2 million people provides a ready market for a large share of the state's production of fruits, vegetables, and dairy, poultry and other farm products.

Most of MICHIGAN'S agricultural production is concentrated in the southern part of the Lower Peninsula below a line from Saginaw Bay to Muskegon. The exceptions would be cherries and potatoes. Cherries come from the heavy fruit belt along Lake Michigan as far north as Grand Traverse Bay, and potatoes are produced in volume in several more northern locations.

The central MICHIGAN area is noted for its quality dairy cattle, beef, hogs, corn and grain and truck farms in central muck areas.

**MILK, BUTTER
AND CHEESE**

Milk represents the largest single source of farm income in the state. About 52% of the milk goes to the fluid market, the rest into manufac-



tured dairy products. Most milk produced in southern MICHIGAN is consumed as fluid milk. Much of the milk from northern MICHIGAN is made into cheese, powdered milk, butter and other dairy products.

MEAT, CHICKENS AND EGGS

Beef cattle, hogs, and sheep are important livestock enterprises in MICHIGAN, ranking second behind dairying in the number of dollars they earn for farmers. Livestock production is located in the Lower Peninsula on farms where corn is plentiful. MICHIGAN is a "deficit" meat producing state. This means that three-fifths of the red meat consumed must be imported from other states.

MICHIGAN'S poultry industry is changing. Fewer farms are selling poultry products, but doing it with larger flocks and more labor-saving equipment.

FLOUR FOR CAKES AND PASTRIES

MICHIGAN produces two-thirds of the nation's supply of soft white winter wheat . . . the kind used for commercial cake mixes, pastries, and crackers. The climate and soil in the southern Lower Peninsula are ideal for producing this specialized type.

APPLES, PEACHES AND OTHER FRUIT

Probably the most famous of MICHIGAN'S farm products are the fruits and specialty crops. Orchards dot most of the western shores of the Lower Peninsula where the area is shielded from sudden temperature change by southwesterly winds coming across Lake Michigan. The rolling

land provides good circulation of air, an aid in preventing frost damage to the fruit trees. Such conditions are ideal for fruit growing.

The southwestern counties near the lake are heavy producers of apples, peaches, cherries, pears, plums, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and muskmelons. Enough peaches are grown in this area to place MICHIGAN among the top states in peach production.

The famous peach varieties with names containing the word "Haven" were developed at the MICHIGAN Agricultural Experiment Station at South Haven. Cultivated blueberry varieties have also been developed at that station.

Farther north, in the Grand Traverse area in the "little finger" of MICHIGAN'S mitten, are the cherry orchards. More red tart cherries are raised here than any other place in the country. In fact, for the past 10 years MICHIGAN'S red tart cherry production has been at least one-half of the nation's total crop.

The Wolverine state ranks third in apple production. It is first in hot-house rhubarb production, second in plums, and among the top four states producing strawberries, pears, grapes, grape juice, wine and fresh grapes.

BEANS, SUGAR BEETS AND POTATOES

MICHIGAN produces 99% of the Nation's annual harvest of dry navy pea beans; 83% of the cranberry beans . . . and ranks first in national acreage of all varieties of field beans. Our state ranks seventh in sugar beet production. Most of the sugar beets and field beans are grown in the dark, fertile soil and favorable climate of the Saginaw Valley and Thumb areas.

Potatoes are another important cash crop. They are grown mainly in the sandy loam areas of the northern

Lower Peninsula, in the Upper Peninsula and in areas of Montcalm and Bay Counties.

VEGETABLES AND OTHER CROPS

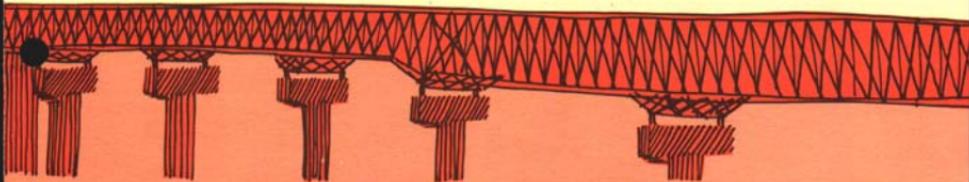
MICHIGAN is among the top five states producing celery, onions, asparagus, cucumbers for pickling, canning beets, and carrots. Annual yields of cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce, cauliflower and sweet corn are also important. Wayne county not only has the largest population, but it also leads the state in sweet corn production.

Also high on the list is MICHIGAN'S production of honey, mint, and ornamental specialties such as annuals, perennials, and bulbs.

FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The food industry also depends upon the forest and forest products in Michigan. Approximately one-fifth of Michigan's pulpwood . . . the raw material of pulp, paper, and paperboard . . . is used in food packaging. Pulpwood accounts for more than one-third of Michigan's estimated annual \$60 million timber harvest. Wooden pallets, bulk fruit handling boxes, and retail size fruit containers are forest products also used by the food industry.

Michigan ranks first in the number of plantation grown Christmas trees produced, and is an important producer of hardwood charcoal and maple syrup.



MICHIGAN WAS AN IMPORTANT PRODUCER IN THESE PRODUCTS IN 1963

<i>Crops</i>	<i>Acres Harvested (1,000's)</i>	<i>Value of Production (\$1,000's)</i>	<i>Michigan's Rank in National Production</i>
FIELD CROPS			
Field corn	1904.	108,740	10
Sugar beets	78.	13,865	7
Winter wheat	1060.	70,490	10
Potatoes	46.	15,300	11
Field beans	573.	54,000	1
Spearmint	2.	280	3
Peppermint	2.	315	5
VEGETABLES			
Asparagus	11.	2,188	3 processing, 5 fresh market
Snap beans	13.	1,937	6 processing, 12 fresh market
Cabbage	5.	1,653	8
Carrots	4.	2,240	5
Cauliflower	1.	681	4
Celery	3.	2,577	3
Sweet corn	14.	2,436	7 fresh market
Cucumbers	25.	7,711	1 pickling, 10 fresh market
Head Lettuce	2.	1,280	10
Onions	8.	7,723	4
Tomatoes	13.	5,800	4 fresh market, 9 processing
Lima beans	2.	200	5
Red beets	1.	98	4
FRUITS			
	<i>Production</i>		
Apples	12.0 mil. bu.	25,000	3
Blueberries, cultivated	17.5 mil. lbs.	3,500	2
Hothouse rhubarb	5.0 mil. lbs.	600	1
Grapes	33.0 thou. ton	3,498	4
Muskmelon	272.0 thou. cwt.	1,442	6
Peaches	2.0 mil. bu.	5,040	4
Pears	1.2 mil. bu.	2,820	4
Plums	8.7 thou. ton	914	2
Strawberries	37.2 mil. lbs.	6,744	4
Sweet cherries	7.0 thou. ton	2,300	4
Red tart cherries	38.5 thou. ton	7,354	1
OTHER			
Maple syrup	52.0 thou. gal.	286	6
Honey	8.8 mil. lbs.	1,523	14

WORTH OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS TO MICHIGAN FARMERS

<i>Product</i>	<i>Cash Receipts for Farm Sales in 1962 (\$1,000's)</i>	<i>Michigan's Rank</i>	
		<i>Production 1963</i>	<i>Numbers Jan. 1, 1964</i>
Milk	209,209	7	
Cattle and calves	93,582		24
Eggs	33,678	24	
Hogs	41,018		17
Chickens	4,373	22	
Turkeys	4,852	19	
Sheep and lambs	4,062		21
Wool	1,351		
Other	8,717		

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By Mary Zehner, Specialist, Consumer
Marketing Information

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