

MDA Director Dan Wyant Resigns

Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Dan Wyant announced June 16 that on July 29, 2005, he will step down from the post which he has held for nine years. Wyant was appointed by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture in October 1996.

Wyant has accepted a position as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Edward Lowe Foundation, a private operating foundation that assists entrepreneurs. The foundation is located in Cassopolis, Michigan.

In February 2002, Wyant was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman to serve on the USDA Fruit & Vegetable Advisory Committee. In early 2003, he was appointed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council.

Under Wyant's leadership, MDA has seen an increase in consumer confidence due to programs that have placed a priority on food safety. Wyant is especially proud of his role in introducing initiatives that promote environmental stewardship on farms. A highlight of his MDA career includes attaining split-state status for bovine tuberculosis, saving the state's livestock industry millions of dollars in testing costs and ensuring markets for Michigan-raised cattle. Wyant has also been a strong advocate of programs that help farmers add value to Michigan-grown commodities.

"It has truly been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and talented staff as the MDA team," said Wyant. "I will miss the day-to-day interactions with staff and the many stakeholders I have come to know in the food and agriculture industry. It has been an honor to serve as department director for the past nine years, and I leave very optimistic about the future economic potential of agriculture in Michigan."

The Director of Agriculture is appointed by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, which will begin accepting applications for the post immediately. Application information may be obtained from Debbie Merrill at (517) 335-3403.



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