



## Ag Expo 2010 Draws more than 15,000 Visitors

Agriculture has a \$71.3 billion affect on the state's economy, and this year's Ag Expo at Michigan State University (MSU), the state's largest outdoor farm show, helped many of the state's producers and community members recognize that impact.

According to Ag Expo director Ruth Borger, the total attendance for this year's show, which ran from July 20-22, was 15,500. Although attendance was down about 10 percent from last year, Borger said turnout was still strong.

"We were thrilled by the excellent response we received from visitors and exhibitors alike," she said. "Our focus this year was to increase our educational opportunities for all of our visitors, and we accomplished that goal. Overall, we are pleased that all the hard work and effort paid off for our community."

Visitors enjoyed demonstrations of stock dog training, compact and utility tractors, livestock handling and farm safety presentations including a grain engulfment simulator.

The annual breakfast that kicks off the official start of Ag Expo featured many speakers, including Michigan's Governor Jennifer Granholm, who discussed the state's economy. She noted the positive impact agriculture has on the state saying that the agriculture "sector provided and continues to provide for this state."

MSU Extension Director Tom Coon briefly discussed the transition MSUE has undergone, saying that MSU is trying to "create Extension for the 21st century to make a difference in Michigan's future." For more information on MSUE's transition, see story on page 9 of this issue.

Ag Expo drew about 250 commercial vendors and more than 30 educational exhibitors, many of whom showcased MSU research, teaching and Extension work in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) tent.

Visitors to the CANR tent contributed \$1,500 to support CANR scholarships and enjoyed complimentary ice cream from the MSU Dairy Store. They learned about the potential for wind energy in Michigan, the possibilities for hoopouses and the value of estate planning. Additionally, CANR tent visitors saw daily presentations from MSU Extension Master Gardeners on everything from how to get rid of moles to invasive plant species. Hands-on activities in the CANR tent saw the MSU School of Packaging help visitors construct their own boxes, as well as making their own windmill, biofuels and bean pod necklaces.

Ag Expo 2011 is set for July 19-21 on the show grounds at the corner of Mt. Hope Road and Farm Lane. Visit the website at [www.agexpo.msu.edu](http://www.agexpo.msu.edu). Ag Expo is sponsored by the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



**Photo above left:** MMPA President Ken Nobis, MMPA member Bruce Lewis and MMPA General Manager Clay Galarneau chat in front of the MMPA tent.

*Governor Granholm photo courtesy of MSU.*

**Photos above, clockwise from top left:** Governor Jennifer Granholm was a featured guest at the annual Ag Expo breakfast; Earlene the Milking Queen, created by MMPA member Debbie Kubacki was featured in the CANR tent; Ag Expo is a one stop shopping center for farmers looking for new equipment; a grain engulfment simulator taught visitors how to safely remove someone caught in a grain bin.