

# Comment for Workteams

*Great Lakes Expo Eval*

March 11, 2019 12:33 PM MDT

Q5 - Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years,

below:

Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

Zingerman's workshop on the same day as the bus tour, so I am not going to miss any sessions on Thursday. A couple of the best sessions this year were on Thursday, and I would have been upset to miss them. It also makes more sense because then people can choose between attending the bus tour and the zingerman's workshop.

would like to see more on garlic

Would like seminars with practical information that you can implement at your farm. More geared to the small farmer without agritainment. Just selling at the farm and at local farmers markets. The jam and jelly seminars were very good and more like that would be great. Many of the seminars are more like family history and not enough practical information. There is often too much 'do this' and not enough 'how to do this.' This pertains to farm market, cider, fruit growing etc. people really want to just what to learn how to do better on their farm and not listen to technical over our understanding seminars. I did find helpful information in both the seminars and trade show with the jam sessions probably the best

Would like more in-depth information on topics such as how to actually create an effective barrier for pesticide drift. Many of the sessions were at too high of a level and didn't provide the how to information

Would have like more food safety sessions

Wonderful, as the many prior years Expo's I have attended. I just wish there was a way I could attend more than one at the same time (too many great topics at the same time). It really helps when the speakers stay on time and the times allow for moving between breakout sessions (e.g., 9 to 9:30 and 9:30 to 10, etc. for all classes and not 9 to 9:15 to 9:40, etc.).

Wonderful to have a morning session on large organic farming. Another "hands on" session on becoming certified would be helpful.

Wonderful experience as always

What are some activities done to prevent weed reproduction? Does a lot of weeds with linuron/herbicides become resistant or susceptible due to the herbicide?

Well, maybe a couple things. We would like you do a contest for out of the state of Michigan cider. We wish there was more time for the Farm Market Roundtable discussions. the 1.5 hour isn't long enough. We would be ok with it going till 7pm. Lots of good farm market sessions. Wish some were longer, some shorter. We also wish a couple things with the bus tour. We would like to see some tart cherry production. Maybe come commercial processing like drying, etc. All in all, another great year!

We were overwhelmed with the amazing amount of learning we did at this year's expo. We are a newer farm and have so very much to learn. We are looking forward to next year.

We were disappointed that some of the classes were canceled

We really didn't find Grand Rapids to be a user friendly city. We would love to see this program in Lansing or East Lansing.

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

We had a good time, we were able to see old friends and meet with the vendors in the trade show. The educational sessions were a good mix of topics and we felt they were very worth while. The facility is very nice for both purposes and the shuttle parking works like a charm. I think a good way to promote the expo is to have merchandise with the Expo name on it that attendees take home with them. Months later other people may see that pen or coffee cup, tee shirt and ask " oh did you go to expo and why?"

Was somewhat disappointed with instructors simple and basic common sense lectures

Was really nice for us to attend a larger show in a different part of the country to see how things are done in Michigan

Vine crops, tomato, pepper were very helpful. Sweet corn was repetitive from last year. Overall good rating.

very well put together speakers were great and educational just over all well done and great information

VERY INFORMATIVE,,GREAT JOB!!

Very helpful

Very good show!

very good GLEXPO

Very good as usual

Trade show is amazing and was productive. Educational sessions very good. While Michigan has a very deep bench of excellent educators, it would be good to hear other presenters. We will be back!

Tim mills program presented too many times and forced Pollination and swd portions to be cut short . Research project information is good but people come to show to get real world information on how to improve our growing we understand the great work the researchers put in that allows us to be successful maybe wait to have field ready recommendation for programs at this conference

Thought things were well done I would like to see more recognition of the fact warmer temps are bringing critters and disease up from the south. Presenters such as the one from NC should be used more. I also question the insistence of presenting scab control programs that continue to push mixing questionable chemistry with Captan and EBDC. Proper use of either of the latter will give excellent control with no danger of resistance!

This years educational sessions were excellent. Several sessions introduced studies that just been started; hopefully, further sessions will be offered in the future which may provide further data on these interesting topics. Although not as much of an issue, a session or two covering new chemistries in fungicides, insecticides and growth regulators to replace those lost due to government cancelling of registration or severely restricting product use (eg. endosulfan, diazinon, carbaryl, metiram and now mancozeb in apples would be helpful. More updates in chemical thinning (as well as other methods) of apples (and other fruits), and plant growth regulation would also be of interest. A review of adjuvant and surfactant use with various chemicals also would prove interesting.

This year's expo was great. We got to see a lot of people that we knew and a lot of new contacts.

This year was the most successful show for us as a group. We learned the most, made the most meaningful connections to growers, extension people, seed dealers etc. I think the speakers did a great service this year and we all came away excited about our business moving forward into the next season. I would say Hariclitus said it best. "A man never steps into the same river twice...". This show has opened doors and presented opportunities to us that we never could have dreamed of. Keep up the excellent work.

This would be a huge undertaking but consider recording the sessions and making them available on the MSU website via youtube or something like that. There was more session overlap this year and many growers didn't get the chance to learn from more than one session or topic. If everything were recorded we could all go back and watch/take notes from the sessions we couldn't attend.

This was my first time attending, lots of useful information. Looking forward to next year.

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

This was my first time at the expo. I liked the format, with two hour sessions broken up by plenty of time to get lunch and still walk through the trade show. On the tree fruit irrigation talk, I would've liked some more specifics on irrigation management. Some discussion on soil moisture sensors or system design/delivery specifications would've been nice. Overall it was a nice event!

This was another rough year for speakers. When they take the mic and say they are using the same power point from past years it's time to get rid of them. Or you get an inspector who is doing a session on cider inspections and he didn't do any last year it's pretty frustrating.

This conference is chucked full of valuable information. Every year I learn something different. Please continue to offer sessions on soil and organic production and don't forget about the small farmer. Wish there was more networking for small organic farmers...but perhaps there is a different conference where they are all converging?!?

There's a lot going on. Hard to get through the expo and set in a couple educational sessions. But, no suggestions. Well organized and a nice venue.

There is an imbalance of university research (same old)... and what is being presented, marketed, and researched @ the trade show (newer, biological approaches to farming)!

the trade show is enormously helpful. it is the main draw for me a couple years ago the expo partnered with the raspberry-bramble grower organizations and those sessions were very valuable.

The speakers did a really nice job on the sessions that I attended. I also like the length of the sessions.

The Organic sessions are too general. Please have an experienced grower track that is separate from the new grower track. Drop the paradigm that organic growers are beginning growers. For example, we know we want to be cover cropping; describe the cover crop species, then a detailed example of timeline over the year and three years. Provide: here are 3 vendors that offer organic beneficial bee mixtures. The species distributions are x, and these insects like x. Describe: here are the details of a OMRI product spray regimen, that worked well for us. Highlight: here are the implements we use at each stage of production. Thanks, eh!

The Oregon State SWD was great info

The jelly and jam workshop made the whole trip worthwhile. I could still use expert advice on making my small operation more efficient and profitable. Topics like automation (jar filling), building a certified kitchen, pricing, legal labeling, supply purchases, other products(sauces, candy???), packaging and online marketing and shipping of products. Thanks for another awesome learning and networking experience.

The greenhouse educational seminars were extremely helpful. Provide on line copies of Powerpoint presentations.

The farm marketing sessions were great. As a farm we would like to see more on apples and pumpkins, hiring, school tours and events.

The expo seems to be focused on larger operation than we are currently. We like to see more things for small farmers and an expanded high tunnel selection of sessions. We are organic would have liked to see more organic options available. The vendor side of things is always educational and beneficial. Loved the candy. Your website could be better. Too much scrolling required to find the sessions we were looking for. It would be nice if each presenter could have a outline of their presentation. The ones that did were helpful verify we were in the proper session to meet our farming practices,

The cucumber seminar was great and learned lots and liked the graphs on sprays and how often to spray.

The content of the classes was much more in depth than I expected. It was difficult deciding which topics since many that I was interested in occurred simultaneously. I appreciated the wide range of topics pertaining to many aspects of farm related businesses. Finding the class locations was not easy for the ones not located on the main level. The guide was a bit difficult to read for some of the entries and the map wasn't clear. However, the staff were very helpful.

The classes were good and informative and close by for some of us. More handouts would be helpful to have so notes could be jotted down. I would like to see more Spanish speakers available for the Hispanic growers. Most of our growers speak English but to hear these classes in their native tongue would be helpful to them. Thank you for putting on this expo show.

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

The best sessions are the ones with people just talking about their farms and what they do. Love the bakery ones and would like to see some more that focus on pies. The one about that this year was great.

The Best conference to go to in the US!

Speakers really need to use the sound system. I have difficulty hearing and it is a must that they use the mics.

Some of the information offered, like the grower's guide to greenhouse gadgets was a little too simple, even for a starting grower and it would be useful to have more advanced topics. I would also like to see a session on biological controls and beneficial insects.

Should be more round table discussions on pest control (ie codling moth), equipment use (ie use of platforms in the orchard), labour, . The marketing round table is a "don't miss" so more of these would be educational and interesting.

Sessions were the same as always. Most of the info was a repeat from previous years. There is a distinct lack of marketing info from the farm marketing sessions. Would like to see some advertising/promotion info in future years.

Sessions are always very informative

Quick overview of the vegetable and grant sessions were good. Would like to see a fresh take on a few things. Last few years the sessions have become stale.

Provide a master schedule by date and time for all sessions not just by subject matter. More real world presenters less academic presenters. More sessions targeted to smaller farm operations with limited budgets.

Please provide Spanish speaking classes or bilingual classes to attract more of the Spanish speaking growers. There is a short supply of Spanish classes for growers.

Please add more sessions on food safety, FSMA, and water quality compliance. A session on organic plant nutrients and how to meet food safety requirements and organic would be very helpful. Input and advice from the FDA and MDARD inspectors would be helpful. This year the one food safety session and the pesticide inspector session were scheduled during the same block, therefore we could not attend both. A session on WPS compliance would be very helpful as well. Thank you for all you do!

Plans changed. Was not able to attend. We have attended for many years so really miss it. Returned Tickets for partial refund. Best horticulture conference in Midwest.

Planned and organized very well Great three days Thanks to all

Perhaps make one of the bus tours for farm market separate from veggie or fruit stuff - Great info overall !!

Overall, an excellent GLEXPO! Some sessions started early because of a cancellation of a prior session. I missed 2 sessions of interest. Would be nice if they followed the schedule.

Overall I think it was a great expo this year!

Non-extension experts in their fields - for example, the brand new Ph.D.- have HUGE amounts of knowledge about a very particular topic - their dissertation. They need to be EXTENSIVELY coached on how to make that info useful to a practitioner - namely me, the farmer... This is not unique to GLEXPO, I've seen it for decades. Help translate great research into useful applications.

No practical or how to information. Sat through Sweet cider didn't show a picture of a cider press. The questions at the end of the session prove the lack of practical information. There are people who don't know what products to buy, and where to get them and how things should be done for cleaning and running a mill. Not what apple varieties work best. Very disappointed

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

Nice range of info from beginning to expert

Networking with farmers from my State and across the country help me make decisions.

Need to have enough bubble sheets for everyone.. Every year there is always a problem with not having enough.. Would be nice if we had better hand outs or could get some kinda of information on certain talks after session is over. Is it possible to record speakers and have access later? Overall was good format I liked what was presented..

My only recommendation would be to have printed handouts for each of the breakout sessions that we could take notes on. It was incredibly difficult without them.

My first expo and I am all ears as I would need more information on all topics. It was great to find this meeting and the sessions are right on track for current issues. I will be back next year as the suppliers I use are at this expo and I am meeting new ones that I need.

Move organic sessions held Thursday afternoon to earlier in the expo. Hard to attend short organic session after waiting three hours (11-1) on last day.

More useful grape marketing

More time

More sessions on processing crops

More sessions

More information on no-till. Maybe cut flowers

More info on growing practices for beginning growers

More in depth on Food Safety session and overviews. More sessions on hard and sweet cider

More greenhouse classes. try and get more greenhouse trade show booths.

maybe speakers could inquire from audience new Or experienced and speak accordingly

Make sure to have good signage for finding rooms. I had difficulty finding the correct rooms for classes. Having people available to help direct me would have been nice. Also, include sessions on growing leafy greens.

Make all the session information available online. To pay as much as one does, you are very limited in how many sessions you can actually attend. All of the presentations are in some computer format, so it would be so easy to put them all together for obtaining at home. So yes, you will need some computer space to store it for access. I guess have a +\$5 fee, so someone can get all the information they would think they would have already have access to begin with.

loved it! this was our first time attending and we will be back!

liked the commercial displays for regular fruit and veg and greenhouse starting - farm market great too

Less 1/2 classes no time

Labor sessions were packed/standing room only. Please keep those on the program. And our farmers are not getting any younger so I hope you keep some type of succession planning on the program too.

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

Labor room needs to be bigger

It's my first ag show and I live/farm in a very remote island in Alaska so I have nothing to compare it to. My biggest complaint with no suggestions for fixing (don't you hate that) is there too many great sessions that were at competing times with each other and I am solo. Having sessions on the fringe times really helped me squeeze more in. The round table talks were some of the most informational parts, possibly lengthening or making more of those would be great. Also possibly the facilitators do less talking and more facilitating would get more information out.

It would be interesting to see a smaller or growing operation give a presentation. Places like Seaquist Orchards, Quinn Farms or Valla's are huge and have literally everything regarding agritainment, and it's difficult to compare our smaller operation to theirs. It's hard to know what steps to take now to pursue slow growth and while their presentations are interesting and awesome to see, it was challenging to take away much for our 12 acre u-pick.

It would be great if you could get more MDARD Commercial Pesticide Recertification credits for your education sessions. Several sessions dealt directly with pesticide use, but did not have any credits assigned to them. Handing out bubble sheets before the session starts would be helpful so the moderators know if they have enough, that way people don't have to wait past the start of the next session for the retrieval of bubble sheets. You can still give the session code out at the end. This is what is done at GLTE. The three hour break for lunch is too long. Could there be at least one session in between there that deals with growing issues? There could be more sessions about dealing with different types of insects. Dr. Smitley's session was good, but it mainly dealt with tank mixes and thrips. Could there be a session on beneficial insects?

It was great. Lots of information and exhibitors.

It was great - would have benefitted by more help on options re: affording good labor/ help on the farm beyond what seemed mostly like adult visa workers - ie working with woofers, attra/other interns, j1 visa workers, local teens, volunteers on the farm and alternative structures. Thanks for a great conference - and farm bus tours were excellent!!! Great to have parking/shuttles set up as you did. 😊

It was fine and it was what I expected

It was a well organized convention. It was beneficial sharing ideas and experiences with other farmers. The presenters seemed knowledgeable and well prepared. I enjoyed my experience .

It was a good expo, wish it was more centrally located, like Lansing again

It is always good to be around fellow farm marketers and growers. Always pick up a few good things about we can do to improve our situation.

Instead of having a 2-1/2 show on the floor leave show open longer on second day to 8:30 PM and on three day just finish the classes for the growers. Have a supper serviced on the second day like you do for the lunch. Third morning displays can be broken down and the floor show would only be two full days plus one longer evening.

Innovation stories from growers

Information was refreshing to my experience and the research information was helpful.

I'm nervous about next year's GLEXPO being a week later than this year's, due to weather concerns.

I'd recommend having more sessions for beginner farmers and a great focus on diversity in sessions (i.e., language, age, race, gender, etc.). Thank you!

I'd like to see the organic sessions spread out more among all three days.

I would prefer more emphasis on the bottom line during educational sessions and less time spent on studies and explanations of experiments. The importance of studies is understood; however, I come to GLEXPO to learn how to be a better grower, marketer, etc and endless data are not as helpful as the takeaways that are gleaned from them. Topics that I would be interested in for future years- short term solutions for blossom end rot in peppers/tomatoes; bacterial rot in onions; anything regarding Cole crops (specifically calcium deficiency), a general topic on calcium and how to best amend calcium deficient soils, controlling aphids and thrips in greenhouses; fruit and vegetable grower budgeting; market trends- how (not what) are customers buying?

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

I would like to see all of the horticultural subjects addressed in one session and the other topics addressed in another. It would provide more flexibility for someone with tight time restraints to schedule their attendance rather than having to choose which session to attend or able to attend another session important to them but not directly related to the crop they produce.

I would attend a bus tour of local farm markets and nurseries to help me get ideas for mine. I live in Alaska and it's very difficult to network and see what the Lower 48 is doing that I could use in my business.

I work for The Andersons. After spending a couple days visiting the trade show area, we would be interested in participating in the Trade Show in 2019. Would prefer a 10x10 or 10x20 more towards the center of the trade show if possible.

I work for a co-op in a processing facility so a lot of what we saw and heard was geared towards farming and did not apply to what I do every day. It would be nice to see some focus in the future on other parts of the industry.

I was hoping to learn more about how to market my fruit/veggie stand to the public. Would be useful to hear from other established growers on way to do this. I also was hoping to learn more about how to stage my product at farmer's markets/signage/ideas, etc.

I was disappointed with the speakers in both the tomato/pepper and sweet corn sessions. I got up and left part way through the sweet corn session because, the speaker was not prepared and fumbled her way through the presentation. Two ,her presentation was elementary in content. In the past some of the best speakers have been growers. Real world experience is Usually much more educational.

I took a number of students from my Agriculture Classes to be able to experience the equipment, and careers they could pursue with Agriculture knowledge, experience, and education. They spoke with numerous exhibitors about their products and learned a lot !

I thought there were not many businesses on the farm market side.

I thought the variety of classes this year was quite a bit broader. I really liked all the choices... unfortunately I couldn't get to all of them

I thought the sessions had good topics and good speakers.

I thought the diversity of the speakers was great. We are veteran greenhouse and vegetable growers but new to the apple orchard area, as we have just planted our first block of trees. I personally would have benefited more from basic/entry level apple discussion. While I did learn some from the apple presentations, most was over my head and geared towards larger growers. I'm sure larger grows are the majority but I'm pretty sure the apple basics would be attended well too! Thanks for a great show!

I thought that your large scale organic session was great. Would like to see more of this. But maybe on a smaller scale. The soils sessions were also of great interest.

I thought it was great. It was my first time and I learned a lot new things and what to do to attend next year

I think you could adapt the framework of the farm marketing roundtable and make it smaller for a couple of vegetable sessions. I personally didnt go to any of the panel sessions because on one of them there were 2 people from the same farm. So maybe a more open dialogue from everyone would be more beneficial? For example a no-till or wholesale marketing roundtable with farmers talking about personal experiences from many different angles and not just what's on a 3 or 4 person panel

I think there should be a stronger focus on labor issues, as this is a huge challenge for all farmers. Also information regarding business management, e.g. which accounting software packages are best suited for ag (as no one seems to be entirely happy!).

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

I loved GLEXPO! As a newbie to the world of farming/greenhouses/farm markets it was eye opening how much I have to learn yet! Christine Quane was very good, I appreciated her willingness to help connect people to her business in a way that is beneficial to everyone. Bridgette Behe was both entertaining and informative, and sent me away with a variety of information to start using immediately. My favorite presenter was Elnian Gilbert. I liked her presentation for business practice, but also for my role and my growth in our company, but also personally. The focus of genuinely promoting positivity, and growing everyone while growing the business. As always, any opportunity to network with the people I talk on the phone with and send e-mail to all day is delightful, it's nice to put names and faces together, especially as we've already had so many helpful and positive reactions. As far as my work goes, I had a lot to learn now because I'm new, but I'd love to see more classes about the current mood of customers, and customer service in this field. Also, creating all the opportunities to work with and grow with the companies we currently work with is a beautiful thing. Many thanks for the show.

I love that the sessions are fluid- can come and go as I please depending on which sessions are most interesting to me. I appreciate the variety of educational sessions as well. I also really enjoyed the farm market portion of the expo- having the opportunity to taste products and observe the doughnut machine in action was also fun. I had a great time and thought things were well run. Perhaps my one suggestion would be on the parking- it wasn't clear that we should've gone through the middle gate at Lot 9- I ended up paying one day for parking, which wasn't a big deal, just maybe having the parking instructions more clear would be helpful for future years.

I liked the afternoon break between sessions to visit the trade show exhibits. Maybe have a roundtable discussion with various seed and plant producers on successes and areas of concern.

I learned about the different types of things that can go wrong with potatoes, like nematodes might be the reason we have itty bitty potatoes, or why some of the leaves get brown

I learn something new every year, and enjoy the vendors, who are very helpful. However, parking is abysmal and the shuttle was very helpful, although the Dash lot was full 2 out of the 3 days I attended. Please consider keeping the shuttle, and if there were additional food vendor options, that would be very helpful. Coffee was an especially missed commodity, I finally found a cup in the Farm Marketers section. The volunteers/employees were especially wonderful, and I want to give a special nod to the ladies at the coat check Thursday afternoon, they were funny, friendly and helpful.

I have gone to this expo for 3 years now and a lot of the sessions provided are the same sessions from the previous years. The greenhouse sessions are also super basic. It would be nice to offer some more advanced sessions. I feel like a lot of people who are attending have substantial knowledge in the industry and it seems like the sessions are more geared towards college kids who have no greenhouse experience. I find it strange that someone in this industry would not know what or how to use a pH meter? It would also be nice for some of the sessions to be more focused on biocontrol agents, as well as, biopesticides. I feel like a lot of greenhouses and businesses are starting to shift towards biocontrols so many of the sessions that focus on pesticides are becoming obsolete. I know many of the vendors at the Expo were bio reps so maybe next year, one of them could do a presentation as well? Furthermore, just addressing the new trend of biocontrols might help sway others into taking that leap and feeling more comfortable after having more information on it. I definitely think that biocontrols is a very important topic in our industry and should be addressed accordingly.

I Have been going for 30 years. It is the best show. Look forward to next year's

I got a lot of ideas from the booths in the exhibit hall. The farm stand area was also interesting.

I felt the growers' exhibit hall was well diversified, but the Farm Market exhibitor lineup could've been more imaginative. many of the vendors were offering the same stuff that's been out there for years.

I feel like I have been given a lot of the same information over the past couple of years and have actually seen some of the same exact presentations as well. I realize that not everyone has seen what I have, but it would be nice to have some more variety and also more advanced sessions. I also would like to see more information about biological control. If someone touched on it, it was very vague. I remember when someone asked who was using bio control in their facility, a significant amount of people raised their hands so I have a feeling more people would be interested in that as well.

I enjoyed the EXPO especially the potato portion and the trade show exhibitors. The tomato portion just didn't apply to our operation, but I'm sure it was helpful for others.

I attend the conference as a community banker and am able to network with new and prospective farm customers. I don't attend the courses but my husband and I farm some on the side and may look to attend some courses in the future.

I appreciated the sustainable plates, etc. used in the catering. As a first-time participant to the venue/event, I noticed that there wasn't much signage along the street/block of the venue aside from the marquee on the DeVos center. It might be helpful to put up a few A-frame sidewalk signs with the name of the event and arrows pointing in the right direction.



▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

I always learn a lot about true current market about the fruit and veggies. It's nice to learn about where we will be in the future and the excitement with new varieties, etc. to come.

Have Bridget back! Andy J was great - succession planning. You could have more vendors for the retail store

greatly enjoyed the vendors in the general area as well as the farm marketing area. also thought the seminar sessions were very beneficial

Great, as always. In addition to the blueberry educational sessions, the trade show is extremely important to us.

Great!! Going there since 1999, learned every year, please keep it up!! Fritz.

Great show. Love it. Keep up the good work. Must keep the H2A sessions going. Never can learn enough even when using the program for years.

Great Show, on Tuesday and Wednesday. It seems like the traffic for thursday is light because of the farm market day. Maybe you should shut down the main area and let vendors go by 10:00 AM

Great show, I usually learn as much on the trade floor as I do in the educational sessions. I could benefit from education on the effects of irrigation water on the ph of the soil and some recommendations on best practices to control (in my case) rise in soil ph.

Great show! Loved the farm market jam speaker and sessions!! Great comments ... think I now know what went wrong this past summer!!

Great show could have more on pesticides use and trade show is almost getting to big.

Great Show and good information

Great show and enjoyed

Great show

Great sessions. The soil talk on cover crops was applicable to us as we want to do more in thus area next year. The hoop house discussions also gave many ideas. We are planning to get a hoophouse in the next couple years. Please do more of the same in future years. We like the info presented to us as non scientists. Tell us the findings and help us understand and apply them. Thanks

Great sessions, our family business always gets much out of the hard work and presentations. Thanks for all your work.

Great program.

Great info, we used the info to talk with vendors and order plants. Thanks

Great farm marketing sessions, perhaps giving less experience public speakers more time so they can adequately deliver their message and give time for Q&A's. We absolutely LOVED the ZingTrain sessions and found it very useful. Great wayfinding and plenty of seating to relax and spread out was great. Also really appreciated the coat check for those of us who had to stay off the property. Very impressed with the return on investment. For \$85 bucks, we made a lot of connections and networking, but also got a lot of valuable education. Makes is a VERY appealing conference to invest in when it's affordable to attend and travel to.

Great expo.

Great Expo.

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

Great EXPO, Enjoy it, have a lot of information and tech knowledge. I would Like to know if we have an farm netting work or contact information, that will be great.

Great expo and trade show I learned a lot and made many new connections. I even ordered some products from vendors at the show. The food safety topic is of current interest and with the 2019 start of additional regulation it should be of interest to many attendees. I would be interested in clarifying and compliance information. Great Expo thanks for the work you have done so far and I am looking forward to next years event.

Great exhibitor turnout. I enjoyed the summer disease talks in apples.

Great conference! Thank you! Evaluations were confusing and late - would have liked to give more specific feedback right after each presentation. LOVED the farm tours would have liked less expensive Z tour (next year). Printed chart of title/time/place of sessions would have helped as well as online PowerPoints and resources would also be great! Thanks for shuttles and making things easy. Great tradeshow too!

great conference like how well the lunch was run nice diverse vendors. did not love the back gadget people accosting me to try their product great job overall

Great as always! Food Hubs/Coops could be a great subject area possibly within the realm of improving local foods

Gracias por todo

Good show. Could use more sessions on fertility.

Good sessions. If you can just get one idea or thought from the sessions it is worth it. The roundtable is really helpful, exchanging the thoughts and ideas, good and bad, with fellow farmers.

Good program!!

Good program

GLEXPO really bring best Apple Growers together in a single place. Certainly, this fair helps buyers to find their best suited Fruits Growers.

Get Larry Gutt back in conference. Some one or growers to show homemade platforms. Taking detasseler machines and converting.

Generally I LOVE the GLExpO. The only part I don't like is going out the front door of the DeVos place. That is my only complaint.

Garden Center / Consumer marketing information is very important to being successful in my position. I will follow Bridget Behee like a groupee to learn from her.

For the farm market, please remove the soap vendor from the food sources. The smell really overpowered the tasting of the foods that we wished to purchase for our on farm store. We really enjoyed talking with the equipment sales professionals. We were able to get a lot of our questions answered by very knowledgeable people.

For the credits for attending the educational programs that were giving out only if you attended a full morning or full afternoon sessions . Where as if you wanted to only attend a segment ( 30 minutes ) and needed to go to another session about another subject in another room you really gave up any credits you could get . Why offer any credits at all. Also most other avenues of educated programs at least give a full credit or more what's up with half credits very disappointed if that is what they think there are valued at .

Focus seemed to be mostly on large commercial growers, but as a small grower I still found useful information. I would have loved a social time just for blueberry growers. As a new grower trying to make connections it was difficult. Thanks

First time attending the Expo very much enjoyed the last session of organic opportunities and markets was very enlightening nice to hear from other Growers the other sessions I attended were very good but very technical based prefer hands-on experience to research documents

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

fewer packaging representatives

Excellent programs and trade show! The programs are very informative and helpful. Would like to see A program for Sweet Cider beginners, and maybe the same for Hard Cider. The Parking at lot 9 is very appreciated but could be improved. 1. Prefer if the buses ran just a little later so you do not have to "rush out". 2. Would be great if more buses could be used at peak times. 3. There was much confusion this year on the "free" parking. No parking attendant at times and some did not know how to get parking validated. Would be great to just be provided a parking pass. My comments are a very minor convenience issue of what is otherwise A great event! Thanks to all of those who work so hard to provide this gem to the area and Michigan!

Everything was great

Everything was excellent except the parking problems.

Enjoyed the onion presentations! Just want to keep updated on herbicide and fungicide programs

Enjoyed the details on upcoming pests and pathogens

Enjoyed talking to the vendors.

Coming to the Expo helps to give me ideas to use on the garden & cash crops that we grow. I also like going thru the exhibitors, it was the largest that I have seen you have.

Chemicals use and MRLS for export. Organic chemicals for blueberry farms

Bus shuttle service to and from downtown made staying away from Amway a breeze!

Bringing in experts from other areas (like the entomologist from Canada) is usually very helpful

better than years past

Bernie Zandstra's presentations all these years have been very informative and helpful, the root vegetables session with horseradish and sweet potato presentations are to me very useful, because I'm always looking for an alternative crop to add to our crop mix. Thanks for another very good Expo!

Awesome sessions, wish they were longer!

Awesome presentation on vine crops

Awesome once again

Awesome

As always love the farm marketing sessions, especially when other producers share their farm practices, etc. Roundtable session is always a favorite as well. We'd like more raspberry and strawberry info, but MI isn't a big producer, so understand why.

As a Spanish as a first language person I would appreciate more bilingual information

As a pumpkin grower, I would like to see a training session dedicated to pumpkins in the future.

As a newer farmer, I thought this was great stuff. there was a large gap between 11am and 2pm for lunch. more educational sessions spaced out would have been great. I had to choose between a few sessions and would have like to go to more.

▲  
Please provide comments about this year's GLEXPO, or ideas for future years...

As a grower I am often looking to sell or buy a piece of used equipment. It would be nice if the Expo had a forum(web page, app page, etc) to be able to list anything they want to sell or buy for growers to be able to connect for a few days on. Thanks

As a beginner in the greenhouse industry, I appreciated the amount of experience present at GLEXPO. It was a great opportunity to meet and hear from folks with a good grasp on greenhouse production and maintenance. Every talk I attended was conducted professionally and presenters were excited to share.

Another Great Year of Information to improve my farm!

An idea for future years... A new products/label updates session, presented by the agro-chemical industry. This could be a 1 hour session perhaps from 11 am to noon on Tuesday or Wednesday (or perhaps both). This would not take away from the exhibit booths, but rather provide an additional opportunity for attendees to learn more about products that recently became available (or soon to be available) for fruit and vegetable growers. 10-15 minute presentations would be appropriate. Please contact me if this proposed session is something that the meeting coordinators would like to discuss further. [Ryan.Bounds@syngenta.com](mailto:Ryan.Bounds@syngenta.com) Thanks

Always enjoy attending this event. It was well organized and had a wide variety of informational sessions. My biggest interest is in pest management, and not so much the newer types of fruit orchard setting (eg high density, multiple leader, fruit wall). But I know it's the wave of the future for most new orchards. The latest info on disease control, new approved pesticides, invasive insect control, new ways of controlling old pests (eg sterile codling moth release) are all appreciated.

Always a good variety of session topics -- sometimes makes it difficult to choose which to attend. Well organized and worth our time to make the trip.

Always a good show. Well planned/organized.

although I registered before the deadline, we did not receive our name badges until we returned home. However, we were able to get through the line fairly quickly. Once again, we enjoyed the trade show and the sessions. Thanks for welcoming Ontario as well.

All was good

Add more on horticulture. Have the Meet the buyer have more buyers at the event. Consider reducing the lunch time break by 1 hour. 3 hour lunch breaks is a little excessive.

Add grower panels

A stronger focus on marketing and what varieties will be successful for the future

A session on Cannabis regulations and/or production would be interesting.

A few of the apple speakers provided updates on issues the industry is facing today which is obviously important, however, much of the information shared was incomplete or lacked enough study time/sample size to paint an accurate picture of the issue. Clearly, it's a catch 22. We want to know what's happening with new and pressing problems, but we need more information to really leave armed with the information needed to make decisions. Not sure what the answer is here... The Farmer Market exhibit was really interesting and I'd love to see this built out even more. Specific agritourism sessions, more interactive displays, and perhaps more exhibitors like engineers, who can help farmers' ideas come to life.

-CSA - emerging markets or forecasting for what is up and coming in the hort industry - Direct marketing "track" (in general) -Managing or working with interns -"Tracks" or special sessions for minority farmers -Reintegration of Farmers Market information, the MIFMA conference is very lackluster and would benefit from the partnership.

The labor sessions were very helpful. Maybe have more time for q & a for attendees .

This conference is so very valuable to our information and knowledge base and helps us make critical decisions. Your team is outstanding in choosing relevant subjects, selecting excellent qualified speakers, and organizing a valuable conference for diverse growers. You may not realize the economic impact this conference has on an individual grower's economic status and sometimes survival. Thank You! Thank You! From grateful growers.

**End of Report**