

# Comment for Workteams

*Great Lakes Expo Eval*

January 11th 2019, 9:07 am MST

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

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Wonderful experience as always

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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.

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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?"

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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

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

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VERY INFORMATIVE,,GREAT JOB!!

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Very helpful

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Very good show!

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very good GLEXPO

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Very good as usual

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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!

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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.

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

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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.

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

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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!

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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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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The Best conference to go to in the US!

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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.

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Sessions are always very informative

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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.

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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.

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Planned and organized very well Great three days Thanks to all

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

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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.

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Over all I think it was a great expo this year!

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Nice range of info from beginning to expert

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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..

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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.

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

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It was great. Lots of information and exhibitors.

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It was great - would have benefitted by more help pn 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

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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. 😎

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It was fine and it was what I expected

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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 .

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

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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.

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

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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 !

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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

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I thought the sessions had good topics and good speakers.

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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!

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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

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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.

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

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

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

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

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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.

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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

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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.

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

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Great Show and good information

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Great show and enjoyed

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Great show

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Great sessions. The soil talk on cover crops was applicable to us as we want to do more in this area next year. The hoop house discussions also gave many ideas. We are planning to get a hoop house 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

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

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Great program.

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

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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.

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Great Expo.

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Great expo.

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

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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!

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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

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

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Gracias por todo

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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.

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Good program!!

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Good program

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

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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.

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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!

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Everything was great

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Everything was excellent except the parking problems.

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

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Enjoyed the details on upcoming pests and pathogens

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Enjoyed talking to the vendors.

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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.

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

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better than years past

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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!

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Awesome sessions, wish they were longer!

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Awesome presentation on vine crops

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Awesome once again

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Awesome

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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.

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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.

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Another Great Year of Information to improve my farm!

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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.

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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.

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Always a good show. Well planned/organized.

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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.

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All was good

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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.