



WEST MICHIGAN FOOD PROCESSING ASSOCIATION

Holistic • Supportive • Catalyst for Growth

Executive Director's Report May 2020

Activities:

- WMFPA pivoted to provide COVID assistance and outreach to the food processing industry, based on the WMFPA's 6 pillar strategies; infrastructure, education, incubation, logistics, health and sustainability.
- Also, continuing expansion regionally in Mason, Newaygo, Oceana, and Ottawa. Activities are currently being implemented in each of these counties with a focus on 6 pillar strategies.
- FARM will begin construction, June 2, 2020, estimated completion still on track for December 2020 with occupancy, early 2021.

Future Vision for 2021:

- Participated in Future visioning with federal officials, including US Senate Committee on Agriculture, in light of COVID.
 - Regional food supply chain will have an increased focus moving forward, along with global. I have experience in both types of food supply chains, so we'll be able to lead the WMFPA through this.
 - Healthy processing and sustainability remain a future focus for WMFPA.

Budget:

- Anticipated Q4 funding from some Foundations and Sponsors changed dramatically due to COVID, but we'll end up the year in good shape; at B-E, income/expenses (scaled-back), through generous support from local, regional and state level sponsorships.
- USDA grant was submitted in May for \$300,000 over 2 years. If successful, WMFPA could be at surplus for Q4 2020, 2021, 2022 and FARM will have a good start on operational support.
- Moving forward to continue build of revenue streams through diverse funding sources, for 2021 WMFPA & FARM operations.

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