



Michigan's Nontraditional Certification Program

AAPCO 77th Annual Meeting

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Program Origins

Michigan Department of Corrections

- Vocational Village Horticulture Program
- 3 tiers of learning:
 - Intro to Horticulture: Leads to obtaining pesticide certification
 - Landscape: Starts CGIP Specialty Categories process & exam prep
 - Hydroponics: Learn various hydroponic systems (ponds, hoop houses) and other hands-on skills for working in agriculture.



What MDARD does

Facilitates certification of students learning on the job skills in correctional facilities

- Proctor exams
 - Used to be done in-person by MDARD staff
 - Now use MDOC staff
- Com core; field, veg, fruit crops; turfgrass; ornamental; right-of-way offered
- Simplified application and fee submission



How MDARD does it

Memorandum Of Understanding with MDOC

- Establishes program contacts & responsibilities
- MDOC administers exams using designated proctors
 - Not administered to students that are not prepared for the exam
- Answer sheets & applications submitted to MDARD
- Interagency transfer for application fee



Why MDARD does it

Support opportunities that can make a real difference

- Students are more marketable to employers.
- Connections to successful mentors created.
- Stable employment opportunities to prevent recidivism

Michigan's Pesticide Program

- Strategy #1: Equity and Inclusion
- Strategy #2: Environmental Protection



Program Success

- Students regularly are hired before probation.
- 12,000 pounds of fresh produce donated to a local food bank from one facility.
- Potential program expansion to further connect employers to students?
- After 2 seasons of experience, applicators can start their own pesticide application business.



Questions?

Thank you!

