



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2011 county fair season!

Michigan's 86 local and county fairs have been providing family-friendly entertainment, celebrating the uniqueness of each of our communities, and showcasing the diverse bounty of Michigan agriculture for decades.

Now our county fairs have a unique opportunity to play a role in the reinvention of Michigan by helping to reconnect consumers and communities with agri-food traditions such as buying locally grown food while also highlighting modern agriculture techniques and best practices that now feed a global population to a budding agri-entrepreneur.

By supporting your local county fair - whether as an attendee or as an exhibitor – you are also supporting the growth and economic vitality of your community. For example, did you know that for every \$1 you spend locally, that \$1 impacts three to seven different local businesses before leaving the local economy?

Fairgoers also support the nearly 50,000 youth that participate in livestock and community arts exhibitions each year. Many local businesses and families also support our young exhibitors' efforts through livestock auctions held at the county fairs with the auction proceeds helping to fund their college educations.

I encourage all Michiganders to support Michigan agriculture, our local communities, and the college education of our state's future leaders through your attendance and generous support we can – and will – make a difference through our county fairs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Creagh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" and last name "Creagh" clearly legible.

Keith Creagh
Director