

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: On-site Inspection

U39230629769354

FACILITY: Premier Melon		SRN / ID: U392306297
LOCATION: 14179 South 14th Street, Schoolcraft		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: Schoolcraft		COUNTY: KALAMAZOO
CONTACT: Josh Bailey , President, Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 10/03/2023
STAFF: Michael Cox	COMPLIANCE STATUS:	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Self-initiated Unannounced Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-24-00028		

On Tuesday October 3, 2023, AQD Staff Michael Cox (MTC) conducted an unannounced self-initiated inspection of Premier Melon located at 14179 South 14th Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087. The purpose of this inspection was in response to an open burning complaint received by the Kalamazoo District Office on September 29, 2023, and to verify compliance with applicable air quality rules and regulations. MTC arrived on site at approximately 9:00 AM and contacted Mr. Josh Bailey, President/Owner, of Premier Melon to conduct the inspection. No visible emissions or odors were noted upon arrival.

Facility Description:

Premier Melon is a distribution and marketing facility for watermelons. The facility supplies most of the local grocery stores with watermelons for sale. The primary function of the facility is receiving watermelons grown in fields contracted by Premier Melon, repackaging the watermelons and then shipping to customers. The facility employs 5 people at the facility location, while employing approximately 45 individuals for watermelon harvesting. The facility is a seasonal facility which operates little outside of the harvest season. During harvest season the facility operates 5-7 days.

Regulatory Overview:

Premier Melon currently does not have any processes that are regulated by the AQD and is not subject to any federal regulations.

Compliance Evaluation:

After arriving on site, MTC contacted Mr. Josh Bailey, President/Owner of Premier Melon and informed him of the intent of the inspection. We met inside the facility office area where MTC questioned Mr. Bailey in regard to open burning being conducted in one of their contracted fields. Mr. Bailey stated that the contracted employee has been advised not to burn was material and to properly dispose of the

material as directed or would face termination. MTC questioned Mr. Bailey as to the facility's operation. Mr. Bailey stated that the facility receives watermelons harvested in the field and repackages the watermelons and then ships them to customers. No process equipment that is regulated by the AQD was noted on site. Based on the open burning complaint investigation an Open Burning Notification letter will be sent to the facility.

Compliance Determination:

Based on the on-site evaluation, Premier Melon was noted to have conducted open burning of prohibited material in one of the contracted fields. An Open Burning Notification letter will be sent to the facility based on these findings. No visible emissions or odors related to the facility were noted. The facility was found to be complying with all other state and federal air pollution control regulations.

NAME



DATE

10/15/2023

SUPERVISOR

