



GM CEO Mary Barra serves food at Forgotten Harvest Christmas Dinner.

GM, Forgotten Harvest Serve Christmas Dinner to 800

by Jim Stickford

Everybody deserves a nice Christmas dinner.

That was the philosophy behind the seventh annual Forgotten Harvest dinner at the Detroit Marriott Hotel Dec. 14. The event was sponsored by the GM Foundation.

Those attending got to enjoy a Christmas dinner served up by GM executives, including GM CEO Mary Barra.

Kirk Mayes, CEO of Forgotten Harvest, said that 2015 marked the seventh dinner put on by the GM Foundation with the help

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FCA's Sterling Stamping Earns WCM Bronze

The Fiat Chrysler Sterling Stamping Plant has been awarded bronze status for its efforts to improve in World Class Manufacturing (WCM) and becomes the 12th North American facility to receive this designation.

The Sterling Heights plant celebrated 50 years of production in 2015, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

The plant earned bronze after a two-day audit on Dec. 15 and 16, Tinson said. It earned a minimum of 50 points in 10 technical and 10 managerial pillars by demonstrating clear WCM know-how and competence through employee-conducted pillar presentations and a review of projects that have been implemented across the shop floor.

In July, Fiat Chrysler announced that it would invest more than \$166 million in three new press lines at the plant to meet increased product demand, Tinson said.

The new press lines are expected to be at full production in the first half of 2016.

Sterling Stamping is the largest stamping plant in the world and ships to customers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Venezuela.

"Being awarded bronze after 50 years of service and in the middle of a significant expansion is a remarkable achievement," said Brian Harlow, vice president

of Manufacturing, FCA North America.

"The bronze designation recognizes the focus, dedication and commitment of our workforce to building on the achievements of the past while laying a solid foundation for the future.

"As the industry returns to pre-recession volumes, WCM has been a key factor in driving efficiencies throughout our operations, which have allowed us to meet that demand.

"The company's growth could not have been achieved without the support of our UAW partners. Our hourly employees have demonstrated that they are com-

mitted to keeping FCA US competitive with the best manufacturing facilities in the world."

World Class Manufacturing is a methodology that focuses on eliminating waste, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety in a systematic manner, said Tinson.

WCM was first implemented by Fiat in 2006 and introduced to Chrysler Group as part of the alliance between the two companies in June 2009, she said.

During an audit, zero to five points are awarded for each of the 10 technical pillars, which in-

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Sterling Stamping workers made WCM bronze award possible - Harlow

Autonomous Fusions to Hit California Roads

It's said that California is America's largest car market, so it only makes sense that the latest car technology is tested there.

To that end, fully autonomous Ford Fusion Hybrid sedans are taking to California streets next year, as Ford Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto continues growing, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

The company is officially enrolled in the California Autonomous Vehicle Tester Program to test autonomous vehicles on public roads.

The testing is further advancement of Ford's 10-year autonomous vehicle development program and a key element of Ford Smart Mobility, the plan to take the company to the next level in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience, and data and analytics, Hall said.

Ford Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto is one of the largest automotive manufacturer research centers in the region, with a team of more than 100 researchers, engineers and scientists. The new research lab opened in January, expanding Ford's presence in Silicon Valley, which dates back to 2012, Hall said.

Eighty percent of the Palo Alto team joined Ford from the technology sector. The remaining 20 percent, Hall said, are Ford employees from the United States, China, Germany and Australia who bring automotive engineering and design expertise.

"Our Palo Alto team has grown significantly this year, using research and innovation to explore and develop future mobility solutions," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO.

"We're attracting top talent from around the world to join our team in Silicon Valley, including employees from local technology companies and universities who want to make people's lives better by changing the way the world moves."

Ford has expanded its Silicon Valley facility from a 15-person office to a 100-plus-person research and development center.

Research the lab has conducted this past year includes:

- Autonomous vehicle virtual test drive: This study allows virtual interaction between an autonomous car and pedestrians, replicating real-world situations to better understand and develop responses to some of the unexpected things that can happen on the road.

- Sensor fusion: Sensors on

autonomous vehicles detect and track objects in the vehicle's view, fusing information together to provide a 360-degree view of the car's surroundings - including street signs, other vehicles, even pedestrians.

- Camera-based pedestrian detection: Camera sensors serve as the eyes of a vehicle, allowing the car to "see" and sense pedestrians.

- Data-driven health care: Through data collection from Ranger pickups and motorcycles outfitted with OpenXC technology, Ford is working with Riders for Health to collect GPS data and mapping coordinates to make health care, vaccines and medication delivery to people throughout rural Africa more

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Mark Fields celebrates new testing facility in Palo Alto, Calif.



Investments will keep plants such as Flint Engine up to date.

GM to Invest \$356 Million in Flint, Saginaw, Grand Rapids

General Motors plans to deepen its roots in Michigan by investing hundreds of millions of dollars in state facilities over the next several years.

GM, said company spokesman Tom Wickham on Dec. 15, will invest more than \$356 million in a new engine line in Flint and driveline and powertrain components in Saginaw and Grand Rapids.

The moves will create more than 50 jobs and help to retain nearly 500 positions, said Wickham.

The Michigan investment announcements come on the same day as an amended agreement between GM and the Michigan Strategic Fund under the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) tax credit

program, Wickham said.

As part of the amended agreement, which was approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund last week, GM will invest \$1 billion in Michigan by 2030.

The Dec. 15 announced investment of \$356.35 million represents more than one-third of that amount.

Since 2009, GM has made investment commitments in Michigan of more than \$9 billion. During that time period, GM has far exceeded its original investment commitment under the MEGA Agreement, Wickham said.

GM's substantial investment in Michigan and the corresponding job growth and retention has contributed to Michigan's economic

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VW's European Sales Tumble in Light of Scandal

MILAN (AP) – Volkswagen sales growth in Europe screeched to a near-halt in November compared with both its mass-market and premium competitors as the German carmaker was penalized for its involvement in a diesel emissions-cheating scandal.

Sales of the core Volkswagen brand grew in November by just 2.8 percent, compared with nearly 14 percent for the industry as a whole, according to statistics released Dec. 15 by Europe's carmakers association ACEA.

The Volkswagen group, which includes a range of brands from Lamborghini to Skoda, saw its market share slide from 26.6 percent in November 2014 to 24.3 percent this year.

Volkswagen has been tainted by a scandal that it tinkered with software to achieve better emissions results in U.S. tests. Last week, it reported global sales were 2.2 percent lower than in November the previous year.

European peers fared much better. Mass-market manufacturers PSA Peugeot, Renault, Ford, Opel and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles all posted double-digit growth. Premium carmaker Daimler saw sales rise 22 percent, while BMW posted a 10 percent increase.

VW Diesel Fraud Got Its Start As Far Back as 2005

WOLFSBURG, Germany (AP) – A small group of Volkswagen engineers began working as early as 2005 on emissions cheating software after they were unable to find a technical solution to U.S. emissions controls as the automaker pushed into the North American market, VW executives said Dec. 10.

The company in September admitted to have cheated on U.S. diesel emissions tests with the help of software installed in engines. The software was built into 11 million cars globally, about 500,000 of which were in the U.S. from 2009 to 2015.

VW has so far confirmed to have cheated only on the U.S. tests, which are more rigorous than European ones for the polluting emission nitrogen oxide.

In an update on the company's investigation in the case, Chairman Hans Dieter Poetsch said engineers in 2005 were unable to find a technical solution to U.S. nitrogen oxide emissions within their "timeframe and budget" and came up with the software that manipulated results when lab testing was done.

Later, when a technical solution became available, it was not employed, Poetsch said.

"We are not talking about a one-off mistake, but a whole chain of mistakes that was not interrupted at any point along the time line," he told reporters.

'Competitive Advantage' is Goal of FCA's Dealer Award

"Customer First" is the theme Fiat Chrysler has developed to "elevate customer satisfaction with their dealerships," said FCA spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

A new honor, the "Customer First Award for Excellence," was announced Dec. 14 for Fiat Chrysler's 2,600 dealerships nationwide.

The award's specific focus is on the sales and service experience, employee training and facility condition, Kisiel said.

"At its core," said Al Gardner, head of Network Development, FCA – North America, "this initiative will enable each of our dealers to earn certification as Customer First Award for Excellence dealers and market themselves to customers as elite stores."

"We believe it will give us a serious competitive advantage in the marketplace that, along with our great products and strong brands, will significantly improve customer satisfaction, loyalty and retention in our dealerships."

Dealers must achieve goals in five core "pillars" to earn the Customer First Award for Excellence designation, Kisiel said.

They include:

- Facility – Customers consistently find dealerships to be clean, convenient and comfortable. Facilities are certified every six months.

- Customer Processes – Develop and consistently execute processes for key customer interaction points, such as sales negotiation, delivery and follow-up.

- Performance – Achieve required high level of satisfaction in customer sales and service satisfaction surveys.

- Employee Survey – Survey employees annually, share findings with employees, and act on the feedback and results.

- Training Certification – Meet minimum training requirements for sales, service, parts and technical staff.

The Customer First Award for Excellence was rolled out to dealers in October, Kisiel said. Dealers are currently participating in 60 workshops across the country focused on award requirements and industry best practices. Certified dealers will be able to advertise their new designation beginning in July 2016.

"Over the past several years, we've taken bold strides to improve our business plan, our products and our market share," said Reid Bigland, senior vice president of Sales, FCA – North America.

"Those efforts have translated to FCA delivering a streak of 68 consecutive months of year-over-year sales growth."

"If we are to continue our growth, we need to retain the customers that we've worked so hard to conquest over the last four years and bring new buyers to our brands and dealerships."

"Developing relationships with those customers that we've earned translates to growth in our service business and long-term sales success."

FCA's expectation is that the elevation in customer treatment provided by Customer First Award for Excellence dealers will be noticeable compared to the competition.

The ultimate result will be an approach to the customer that is less about the transaction and more about building a relationship.

Dealers who are certified as Customer First Award for Excellence winning dealers will receive a rewards and recognition package from FCA US, including designation as award winner on all FCA US-brand websites, the Find-A-Dealer search tool, dealership websites and Google searches.

In addition, these dealers will have the ability to use the award logo in all local advertising and marketing efforts, and proudly display an awards plaque in their showroom.

Ram 1500 Named 'Fleet Truck of the Year'

Automotive Fleet magazine has named the Ram 1500 its 2015 Fleet Truck of the Year, an award driven by reader input.

The announcement marks the second time in three years Ram Truck has earned the publication's top honor, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Nick Cappa.

"There is little doubt, looking at the ballots, that the Ram 1500 is resonating with our readers – commercial fleet managers of the largest fleets in nation," said Sherb Brown, vice president and group publisher of *Automotive Fleet* magazine. "Competition in this segment is really tough, but the Ram 1500 edged out the other brands in this year's voting by delivering the capabilities fleets need for their day-to-day operations."

The winner of the Fleet Truck of the Year award is selected by readers of *Automotive Fleet* magazine. Those readers are comprised of more than 20,000 operators and owners of truck fleets.

"An award from *Automotive Fleet* magazine is recognition of what we have accomplished as we continue to develop the Ram Commercial brand," said Bob Hegbloom, head of Ram Brand, FCA – North America. "Receiving an award based on such an experienced audience truly gives Ram Truck more momentum and confirms we are delivering the features most important to business owners."

Readers were asked to consider which models best fit their fleet requirements, including application effectiveness, durability, quality, servicing, maintenance and lifecycle costs, Cappa said. Forty different trucks qualified for this year's Fleet Truck of the Year ballot.

"In this award, the operators of the trucks use them every single day and expect them to work every single day," Cappa said. "It's the most valuable tool in their tool box. Working everyday, driving these trucks also helps

them decide what to buy for their own personal use. Guess who is going to be at the top of their list."

Cappa said that this award shows just what Ram has accomplished with the Ram 1500. When fleet owners look for a truck, they look at total cost. This award comes from people who have a reason to accumulate data.

"If people are voting for our truck with data, what more can you ask for?" Cappa said.

Since 1961, *Automotive Fleet* magazine, published by Bobit Business media, has served all fleet segments operating 15 or more vehicles, Cappa said. It is considered the "bible" for the medium- to large-size fleet market.

Bobit Business Media publishes seven dedicated fleet titles covering the entire market from Class 1 to Class 8, making it the world's largest publisher of fleet periodicals.



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Crowd turns out for GM/Forgotten Harvest dinner at Detroit Marriott.

GM, Forgotten Harvest Serve Christmas Dinner to 800

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of the Detroit Marriott Hotel. "It's so nice that our corporate sponsors have made this possible," Mayes said. "Everybody deserves a nice Christmas dinner and the GM Foundation and the Detroit Marriott really made that possible."

Mayes said that the dinner served about 800 individuals and families who are helped by the organization all year long.

"In a year, Forgotten Harvest delivers food to 283 different charitable organizations in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties," Mayes said.

"These wonderful organizations help thousands and thousands of people throughout the year."

Mayes said Forgotten Harvest's mission is to relieve hunger in metro Detroit and prevent nutritious food waste. It was formed in 1990.

The organizations it serves includes emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless and domestic shelters, children's homes, senior centers and group homes.

The organization operates under the direction of a volunteer board of directors, along with a small and dedicated professional staff, Mayes said.

Shonda Johnson, area general manager for Marriott, said the hotel is honored to work with GM and Forgotten Harvest to put on the annual Christmas dinner.

"We started work on this year's dinner about six months ago," Johnson said. "Every year, we look at what we did the previous year and then try to do things a little differently, a little better, basically improve on what we did before."

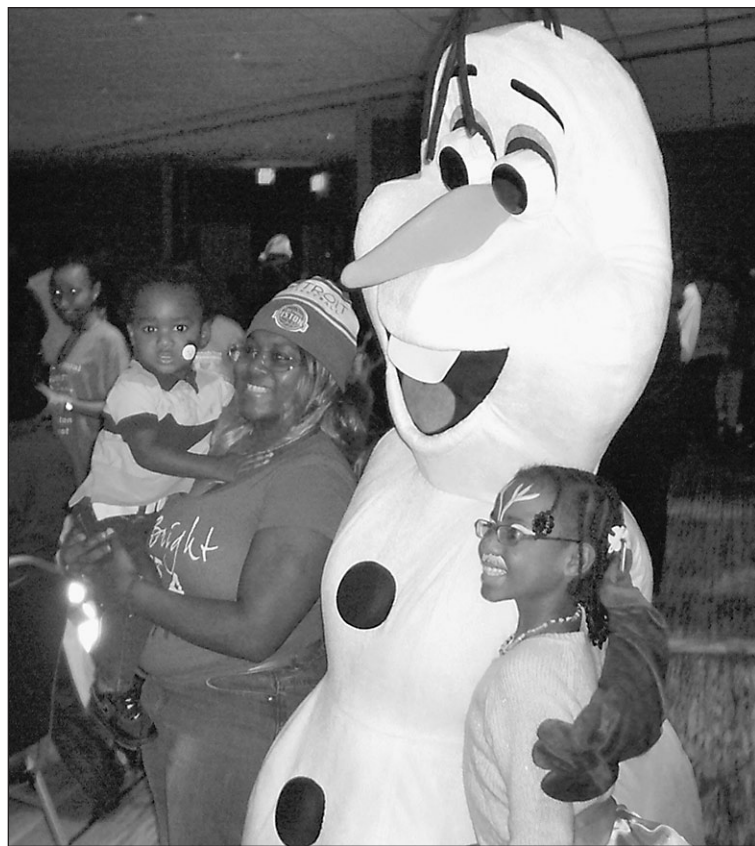
This year, Johnson said, they allowed people to get their dinners as soon as they got to the Marriott ballroom. Last year, people

were seated first and then lined up to get their dinners, table by table.

By allowing people to get food directly, the lines were cut down and things were generally sped up.

Johnson worked alongside Mary Barra, serving food to the Forgotten Harvest guests.

"It's very important to show that we at GM are a part of the



People enjoyed the chance to get pictures with celebrity snowmen.

larger Detroit community," Barra said.

"It's just great to be able to give back to the community and its people.

"And to be able to do it at a nice venue like the Marriott is great – and the fact that they make this possible is something that we should all appreciate."

Ford, UAW Team Up in Holiday Food Drive

UAW-Ford has donated more than 25,000 holiday meals during its third annual "Boxes of Love," which is one of the largest holiday food giveaways nationwide, said Ford spokesman Glenn Oswald.

The "Boxes of Love" program is part of UAW-Ford's national community giving initiative spanning across 18 states.

On Dec. 19, metro Detroit area residents were able to pick up a free holiday food box at two locations in Detroit and one in Highland Park.

Each box included a 12- to 14-pound turkey, boxes of stuffing,

macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, corn bread mix, a jumbo size can of vegetables, along with the makings of a dessert – cake mix and frosting.

The retail value amounts to nearly \$50 per box, Oswald said.

Through the joint effort of UAW and Ford Motor Company, this donation total came to more than \$500,000 of community giving.

"Our UAW-Ford brothers and sisters have come together for the third year in a row to give back to the community and provide a delicious holiday meal to people less fortunate," said UAW-

Ford Vice President Jimmy Setles.

"We are proud to provide assistance to many people during the holiday season and throughout the year."

Participating states in the national UAW-Ford holiday-giving effort included California, Colorado, Ohio, Oregon, Missouri, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Indiana, New York, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Connecticut and Wisconsin.

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Parents can locate Santa by pressing the OnStar button in their GM car.

Kentucky Welcomes Ford's \$1.3B Investment in Plant

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) – Ford Motor Co. said Dec. 1 that it will add 2,000 jobs and invest \$1.3 billion at the Kentucky Truck Plant to support production of new aluminum-body Super Duty trucks.

The move deepens the automaker's ties to a city where it has two large production facilities.

The investment, cheered by plant workers and Kentucky politicians, includes putting more workers on the final assembly line for the 2017 F-Series Super Duty trucks, said Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of the Americas.

The company anticipates strong demand when the new trucks reach dealers' lots late next year, he said.

"We definitely want to and expect to make more product in the future here at KTP," he told reporters.

The automaker said the investment includes adding a new body shop, upgrading facilities and retooling at the sprawling plant – one of Ford's largest – to build the 2017 models.

Outgoing Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear said the announcement

was "a great way to go out of office."

"We thoroughly appreciate Ford's continued confidence in the commonwealth's workforce and its pro-business environment," said Beshear.

The truck plant investment also will boost regional suppliers that do business with Ford, the governor said.

Ford has invested more than \$1.5 billion in its Louisville operations in the past two years.

In early 2014, Ford announced an \$80 million investment and added 350 jobs at the truck plant to churn out more Super Duty trucks.

Across town, Ford invested \$129 million at Louisville Assembly Plant, where production includes the Escape SUV.

Ford employs more than 9,000 workers and produces more than 2,000 vehicles daily at the two Louisville plants. The automaker began making vehicles in Kentucky in 1913 with 11 employees.

Kentucky Truck Plant produces F-250, F-350, F-450 and F-550 Super Duty pickups and chassis cabs, and the Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator.

Santa's Out There – OnStar Knows Where

Ask any 4-year-old what's the most important thing to know on Christmas Eve and he or she will tell you – where's Santa Claus?

And thanks to modern technology, parents will be able to answer that all-important question.

OnStar subscribers can get in the Christmas spirit during holiday travel across the U.S., Canada and Mexico by pushing their blue button to learn Santa Claus' whereabouts between Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, said full-time GM spokesman and part-time Santa's helper Stefan Cross.

With support from the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and its 60 years of Santa-tracking experience, OnStar for the seventh consecutive year will reveal Santa's location to the curious between 6 a.m. EST Dec. 24 and 5 a.m. EST on Dec. 25.

Additionally, OnStar and its AtYourService partner Audio-

books will offer subscribers complimentary copies of the Christmas classic, "The Night before Christmas," downloadable via an email link sent by an OnStar advisor, Cross said.

Everyone in the vehicle can listen to the book on the Audiobooks mobile app together using Apple CarPlay, Android Auto or a Bluetooth connection, or individually on any of the up to seven mobile devices that can be connected separately to the OnStar 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot.

Getting into the Christmas spirit of giving, Cross said OnStar will also donate a dollar to the United Way for Southeast Michigan and the United Way Mexico for each Santa location call received.

Last year, the calls led to a donation of more than \$2,600 to the two organizations.

"The holiday season is all about spreading cheer, giving back to the community and con-

necting with others," said Terry Inch, OnStar chief operating officer.

"OnStar has become a key enabler for that. Our advisors really enjoy playing the role of Santa's helper and sharing the joy of Christmas with our subscribers."

OnStar is dedicated to the safety and security of subscribers throughout the year. To support incoming Santa Update requests, advisor staffing is adjusted to accommodate the extra traffic, Cross said.

On average during the Christmas Eve/Day period, OnStar receives more than two calls per minute and more than 185,000 calls each day.

Individuals without an OnStar subscription who want to keep tabs on Santa can follow his journey via the NORAD Tracks Santa website, Facebook page, Twitter hashtag #NORADSanta or by calling the hotline at 1-877-HI-NORAD 1-877-446-6723.



Dan Akerson, right, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, with retired U.S. Navy SEAL Rick Kaiser.

Chevy Salutes Military at Army-Navy Clash

Since 1890, Army and Navy have battled in epic proportions on the football field.

And since 2010, Chevrolet has been the official vehicle sponsor.

During this year's game, held Dec. 12 in Philadelphia, Chevrolet honored military service men and women – particularly its special forces.

Former General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, joined retired U.S. Navy SEAL Master Chief Rick Kaiser, executive director of the National Navy SEAL Museum, to salute the special forces during the presentation of a Chevy Silverado Special Ops Concept vehicle at the game.

The limited production version is expected to go on sale next spring. Chevrolet will donate a portion of the proceeds from each Special Operations Silverado sold to benefit the Navy SEAL Museum, according to GM spokesman Tom Rippinger.

"The partnership will also help us aid the families of fallen, injured and active duty Navy

SEALs through the efforts of our Trident House and scholarship programs," said Kaiser.

Founded in 1985, the museum honors the service and legacy of the U.S. Navy SEALs, Rippinger said. Located in Ft. Pierce, Fla., the museum and memorial are recognized as the birthplace of the Navy SEALs.

During World War II, thousands of volunteers traveled there to train in covert warfare and underwater demolitions, creating the Navy's first special operations units.

Chevrolet also hosted the U.S. Expeditions and Explorations (USX) Mt. Everest Expedition Team and its members before the game. USX, founded by two active-duty U.S. Army graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., helps veterans struggling with combat injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Rippinger said.

In April 2016, Chevrolet will sponsor the USX team as it seeks to put the first active-duty soldiers – and first combat-wound-

ed U.S. veteran – atop the world's tallest peak at Mt. Everest.

"We sincerely appreciate the support of Chevrolet as we take on this bold challenge," said U.S. Army Capt. Matt Hickey, USX co-founder and team member.

"Although our goal is big, so are the needs of today's veterans, and our mission and Chevrolet's support inspires others to get involved."

In addition to supporting these programs, Rippinger said, Chevrolet has expanded its military discount program – normally reserved for active-duty, reserves, retired personnel and veterans within a year of discharge – to include all 23 million veterans and their spouses.

The discount is available through Jan. 4, 2016. To learn more, visit ChevySalutes.com.

Ford Goes Green In California Testing Efforts

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efficient and accessible.

Ford has cultivated relationships with top universities this year, including University of California-Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, Santa Clara and San Jose State, Fields said. The company is further expanding its strategic research collaboration with Stanford in 2016, planning 13 projects covering all five areas of Ford Smart Mobility.

"Having a strong presence in Silicon Valley allows us to further accelerate our research on a range of technologies, and apply our insights to create real-world mobility solutions," said Ken Washington, Ford v. p., Research & Advanced Engineering.

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Sterling Stamping Awarded Bronze WCM Status

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clude safety, workplace organization, logistics and the environment, and for each of the 10 managerial pillars, such as management commitment, clarity of objectives, allocation of people, motivation of operators and commitment of the organization, Tinson said.

Two WCM-certified auditors from FCA – the vice president of Manufacturing for CNH Industrial IVECO and the unit manager at the CNH Industrial IVECO Valladolid Plant – performed the audit.

In addition to Sterling Stamping, nine other facilities currently hold the WCM bronze designation:

- Saltillo Truck Assembly Plant (Mexico);
- Saltillo South Engine Plant (Mexico);
- Trenton Engine Complex;
- Warren Stamping;
- Indiana Transmission Plant II;
- Kokomo Transmission Plant (Ind.);
- Kokomo Casting;
- Toledo (Ohio) Assembly Complex;
- Toluca Assembly Plant (Mexico).

Windsor Assembly Plant (Ont.) and Dundee (Mich.) Engine Plant received the WCM Silver designation in March 2014 and May 2015, respectively.

Sterling Stamping provides stampings and assemblies, including hoods, roofs, liftgates, side apertures, fenders and floor pans for the Dodge Grand Caravan, Dodge Dart, Dodge Durango, Chrysler Town & Country, Chrysler 200, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jeep Cherokee, Jeep Compass, Jeep Patriot and Ram Truck.

In operation since 1965, the plant employs nearly 2,300.

State Legislature Approves Data Center Tax Bill

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – A major data center developer said it will expand into Michigan after securing tax breaks approved late Dec. 15 by lawmakers and that are expected to be signed into law.

The legislation exempts Nevada-based Switch and its “co-located” clients from paying sales or use taxes on servers, computers and other equipment for 20 years at a planned mega-data center campus near Grand Rapids.

The tax incentives also will be available to about 40 existing Internet data centers throughout Michigan.

The data center industry, as a whole, must add 400 jobs by 2022 and a total of 1,000 jobs by 2026 for the tax exemptions to continue under amended bills passed 61-46 in the House and 26-12 in the Senate at the end of lengthy sessions.

Switch, which has more than 8 million square feet of data centers in Las Vegas and Reno, will make Michigan the site of its first facility in the eastern United States. The company in November announced plans to build a 2-million-square-foot “Supernap” campus in Gaines Township contingent on approval of tax breaks needed to even the playing field with 22 other states.

Switch said construction planning and work will begin immediately. The data center, which is to be based in a pyramid-shaped building that once housed office furniture maker Steelcase’s research facility, will be operational by the end of 2016.

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- Renegade
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- Grand Cherokee
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- 2500
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2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 OUTDOORSMAN
LEASE FOR **\$128**** / 36 Mos. \$1995 due / 3.6L Pentastar / #D6-12041

2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 BIG HORN
#1 RAM Dealer in Michigan 2013/2014/2015 / LEASE FOR **\$122**** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / 3.6L Pentastar / #D6-12080

2016 RAM CREW CAB 4X4 OUTDOORSMAN
610 RAMS AVAILABLE / LEASE FOR **\$138**** / 36 Mos. \$1995 due / 5.7L Hemi / #D6-12176

2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 BIG HORN
BEST SALE PRICES / LEASE FOR **\$113**** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / 5.7L Hemi / #D6-12237

2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 LARAMIE
#1 RAM Dealer in Michigan 2013/2014/2015 / LEASE FOR **\$203**** / 24 Mos. \$1995 due / 5.7L Hemi / #D6-12247

CHRYSLER

2016 Chrysler 200 S
LEASE FOR **\$106**** / 36 Mos. \$1895 due / #C6-10055 / Comfort Group / **\$1500 HUYAERE BONUS CASH!**

Jeep

2016 Patriot High Altitude

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 4x2 #J6-60089 LEASE FOR \$99** / 36 Mos. \$1995 due | • Leather • Sunroof • Power Driver's Seat | 4x4 #J6-60086 LEASE FOR \$118** / 36 Mos. \$1995 due |
|--|---|---|

130 AVAILABLE!

DECEMBER LEASE SPECIALS!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2016 Dodge Journey R/T #D6-00047 LEASE FOR \$108** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / 27 Mo 1 PAY LEASE \$4739** | LOWER LEASE PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER! | 2015 Dodge Journey R/T AWD #D5-00523 LEASE FOR \$123** / 24 Mos. \$1995 due / 24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE \$3746** |
|---|---|---|

2015 CHRYSLER 200 S 3.6L V6
BUY FOR **\$268!** / SALE PRICE **\$16,572***
75 Mos. \$1000 due / #C5-10656

DECEMBER Cherokee Lease Specials!
193 Available!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2016 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE #J6-60096 LEASE FOR \$99** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / SALE PRICE \$17,370* | 2016 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE 4X4 #J6-70098 LEASE FOR \$99** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / SALE PRICE \$19,533* | 2016 CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4 #J6-70056 LEASE FOR \$99** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / SALE PRICE \$22,106* |
|---|---|---|

2016 DODGE CHALLENGER HELLCAT SRT
#D6-50004
SALE PRICE \$65,785*
Available for Immediate Delivery!

| | |
|--|--|
| 2015 Chrysler 300 S AWD #C5-30347 LEASE FOR \$119** / 36 Mos. \$1995 due | 2015 Chrysler 300 S #C5-30267 LEASE FOR \$114** / 36 Mos. \$1795 due |
|--|--|

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 2015 JEEP RENEGADE SPORT #J5-80067 LEASE FOR \$99** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due | 2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE #J5-80145 LEASE FOR \$125** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due | 2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4 #J5-80137 LEASE FOR \$128** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due |
|--|--|--|

LAREDO 4X4 #J5-10603 / LEASE FOR **\$162**** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due

2015 Grand Cherokee Lease Specials!

LIMITED 4X4 #J5-10613 / LEASE FOR **\$254**** / 24 Mos. \$1995 due

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 2015 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT #D5-50051 SALE PRICE \$21,840* | 2015 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT SUPER TRACK #D5-50067 SALE PRICE \$35,662* | 2015 DODGE CHALLENGER RT CLASSIC #D5-50066 SALE PRICE \$32,406* |
|--|--|---|

2016 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY K

SALE PRICE \$23,295* / LEASE FOR **\$122**** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / **\$1500 HUYAERE BONUS CASH!** / #C6-21206

2015 JEEP COMPASS HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4
• Leather Sunroof
• Power Sunroof
• U Connect
• Auto Start
SALE PRICE \$18,402* / #J5-50008 / **\$1500 HUYAERE BONUS CASH!**

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 2015 SAHARA 2 DR. #J5-30083 SALE PRICE \$30,279* | 2016 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT #J6-31024 SALE PRICE \$30,957* | 2016 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA 4X4 #J6-31021 SALE PRICE \$36,072* |
|--|---|--|

2015 DODGE CHARGER SXT AWD
LEASE FOR **\$5554**** / 24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE / **\$128**** / 36 Mos. \$1995 due / **\$1500 HUYAERE BONUS CASH!** / #D5-70079

2016 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY L

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| 29J Package LEASE FOR \$141** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / #C6-21238 | 353 AVAILABLE! | Anniversary Edition LEASE FOR \$141** / 27 Mos. \$1995 due / #C6-21207 |
|---|-----------------------|---|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 2015 GRAND CARAVAN SE #D5-40097 SALE PRICE \$15,790* | 2016 GRAND CARAVAN SE #D6-40549 SALE PRICE \$16,799* | 2016 GRAND CARAVAN SXT #D6-40520 SALE PRICE \$19,171* |
|--|--|---|

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\$0 FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT/23 MONTH LEASE
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2016 CHEVY EQUINOX LT FWD

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE EXAMPLE FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS WITH A GM EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT AND A CURRENT NON-GM LEASE

\$0 DOWN \$149 24 MONTH LEASE**

plus tax, title, license, 10k miles per year, no security deposit. Stk. #93106



2016 CHEVY TRAVERSE LS FWD

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE EXAMPLE FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS WITH A GM EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT AND A CURRENT NON-GM LEASE

\$0 DOWN \$207 24 MONTH LEASE**

plus tax, title, license, 10k miles per year, no security deposit. Stk. #93896



2016 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 DOUBLE CAB ALL STAR V6

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE EXAMPLE FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS WITH A GM EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT AND A CURRENT NON-GM LEASE

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*All pricing requires GM Employee Discount and a NON GM lease expiring within 365 days. All leases are 24 months and 10,000 miles per year with \$0 down. Leases are on approved credit through GM Financial. ** No 1st Payment on the Cruze & Malibu. Lease Pull-ahead is eligible for all current Chevrolet leases. Customer must terminate the lease, waive up to 3 payments (up to \$1500) towards the purchase or lease of most 2015 and 2016 Chevrolet Vehicles. Not all customers will qualify. See dealer for complete details. Disposition Fee: Returning GMF leases with a disposition fee qualify for a fee waiver when purchasing or leasing a new GM vehicle. If no GM vehicle is released then the Lessee will be charged the \$395.00 Disposition Fee. Offers end 01/04/2016.

261-Foot-Tall Turbines Will Generate Energy for Plant

Sometimes powering an automotive plant is as easy as taking advantage of a free natural resource - air.

General Motors' Arlington (Texas) Assembly plant will soon be able to build up to 125,000 trucks a year using wind power from turbines whose blades span the length of a football field in diameter, said General Motors spokeswoman Sharon Basel.

Arlington Assembly produces more than 1,200 vehicles daily, including the Chevrolet Suburban and Tahoe; GMC Yukon and Yukon XL; and Cadillac Escalade and Escalade ESV.

The 115 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy gained from the wind farms will be enough to manufacture more than half of the plant's annual vehicle output, Basel said.

General Motors signed a power purchase agreement with EDP Renewables North America, a fully-owned subsidiary of EDP Renovaveis, for its first U.S. wind power - 30 MW of energy from the planned 250 MW Hidalgo Wind Farm in Edinburg, Texas, Basel said.

Fifteen of the wind farm's 261-foot-tall turbines will generate the energy General Motors will use.

Arlington Assembly expects to start using the clean power during the fourth quarter of 2016, avoiding about \$2.8 million in energy costs annually.

Over the course of the 14-year deal, General Motors will avoid more than 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions - equivalent to the emissions of 112 million gallons of gasoline consumed, Basel said.

"Our investment is helping ac-

celerate the proliferation of clean energy in Texas and the use of wind as a reliable, renewable source of energy," said Jim DeLuca, General Motors executive vice president of Global Manufacturing.

"Our sustainable manufacturing mindset benefits the communities in which we operate across the globe."

"We are pleased to enter into this agreement with General Motors," said EDP Renewables North America CEO Gabriel Alonso, "and look forward to providing clean and more economical energy for GM's Arlington Assembly plant in the coming years."

Renewable energy complements a robust energy efficiency program at the plant, Basel said. Arlington Assembly recently met with officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry by reducing the energy intensity of its operations by 10 percent in five years.

This is the second time it met the challenge, Basel said.

The Arlington Assembly plant also is investing in a new paint shop that will use half the energy of the system it will replace, Basel said.

Beginning in the first quarter of 2016, wind energy will help power three General Motors Mexico facilities as well, Basel said.

Once on line, she said, the company will exceed its commitment to use 125 MW of renewable energy by 2020.

General Motors' investments in renewable energy to date have yielded nearly \$80 million in savings.

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2016 MALIBU 1LT

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Touch Screen Radio, Blue Tooth, OnStar
XM Radio & More...

24 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

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+ Tax with \$0 Down

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NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Stk. # 61169

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DOUBLE CAB • 4WD

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*Lease payment examples for Cruze and Equinox at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate, zero security deposit, first month payment (first payment waived for Cruze) and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including GM Competitive Lease Conquest Private Offer (customer's qualifying competitive lease must have a scheduled end date within 365 days of the delivery date of the new vehicle) assigned to dealer. **Lease payment example for Silverado at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate, zero security deposit, first month payment and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including GM Lease Loyalty Private Offer assigned to dealer. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear as well as exceeded contracted mileage. Due to advertising deadlines, prices subject to change. See dealer for details.

DMAX to Invest \$82 Million, Add 150 Jobs in Ohio Plant

General Motors is betting big that despite the bad rap that certain automobile manufacturers have given diesel-powered motor vehicles, there is a real future with the buying public for that type of engine.



Scott Whybrew

DMAX, Ltd. will invest \$82 million at the DMAX plant in Morain, Ohio, for future Duramax diesel engine-related productivity improvements, dependent on state and local incentive approvals, said General Motors spokeswoman Mary Ann Brown.

The investment would create approximately 150 jobs over the next three years at the joint venture between General Motors and Isuzu.

Less than a year ago, a \$60 million investment was made at the plant facility to make design changes that would enable the engines to meet future emissions requirements, Brown said.

Established in 1998, DMAX has produced almost 1.7 million engines since opening in 2000, Brown said.

GM owns 60 percent and Isuzu owns 40 percent of the venture that makes the Duramax diesel for heavy-duty trucks. DMAX, Ltd. has invested \$856 million in the DMAX facility since 2000.

"This investment and job creation is a result of the hard work from our DMAX team and IUE-CWA Local 755, who have consistently demonstrated their commitment and dedication to building the best diesel engine possible for our customers," said General Motors North America Manufacturing manager Scott Whybrew.

"The Duramax diesel's performance is renowned in the industry, and these productivity

improvements will allow us to become even more efficient in producing these world-class engines."

DMAX is home to the Duramax 6.6L Turbo Diesel engine used in the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra.

The current Duramax powertrain is SAE-certified at 397 horsepower at 3,000 rpm and 765 lb.-ft. of torque at 1,600 rpm, Brown said.

All of the Duramax engines include a high-pressure (30,000 psi/2,000 bar) Piezo-actuated fuel system for greater fuel efficiency, as well as improved performance and reduced emissions, Brown said.

The Duramax is also available in the Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana full-size vans, Brown said.

"It has been the successful partnership among GM, Isuzu and IUE-CWA Local 755 that continues to bring new investment dollars to our plant," said Shinichi Suzuki, president, CEO and chief operating officer for DMAX.

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| <p>2015 GMC TERRAIN FWD • SL1</p> <p>\$20,500*</p> <p>WAS \$28,015 YEAR END SAVINGS SAVE OVER \$7,600 OFF MRSP</p> <p>Stock #B207-15 GM employee price plus tax of \$1455, plus title, lic. & doc. Must qualify for lease conquest rebate for lowest price. Demo with 2,733 miles. Purchase example is stock specific.</p> | <p>2016 GMC ACADIA FWD • SLE-1</p> <p>\$199*</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY \$199 PER YEAR</p> <p>Stock #8788-16 • Deal #58510 \$1709 total due at signing. GM price plus tax, title & lic. Mat. package removed. GM price lease figured with lease conquest rebate. Dealer removed original equipment from vehicle. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</p> |
| <p>2015 GMC CANYON 4WD • SLE • EXT CAB</p> <p>\$28,568*</p> <p>WAS \$33,045 END OF THE YEAR SPECIAL SAVE OVER \$4,400 OFF MRSP</p> <p>HOLIDAY SALES EVENT SAVING Stock #5323-15 GM employee price plus tax of \$1744.08, plus title, lic. & doc.</p> | <p>2015 GMC SIERRA 1500 • 4WD • DOUBLE CAB • SLE</p> <p>\$159*</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY \$159 PER YEAR</p> <p>Stock #8580-15 • Deal #52863 \$1930 total due at signing. GM price plus tax, title & lic. GM price lease figured with lease loyalty rebate. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</p> |

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| <p>2016 EQUINOX "LT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED! 2.4L DOHC Engine! 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio! Remote Vehicle Entry! Rear Vision Camera! OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column! 17" Aluminum Wheels! 32 MPG on the Highway! <p>Stock#G27253</p> <p>WAS \$27,480 Sale Price \$20,835</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE: \$169* OR \$169*</p> <p>\$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p> | <p>2016 MALIBU "LT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED! 2.5L DOHC VVT Engine! Remote Keyless Entry! OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! Aluminum Wheels! Power Vertical Driver's Seat Adjuster! Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column! 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio! 36 MPG on the Highway! <p>Stock#G27040</p> <p>WAS \$24,710 Sale Price \$18,499</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE: \$85* OR \$85*</p> <p>\$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p> |
| <p>2016 CRUZE "LT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED! ECOTEC "Turbo" 1.4L DOHC VVT Engine! Automatic Transmission! OnStar with 4G LTE with Built-in WiFi hotspot! AM/FM/XM Radio w/CD! Remote Keyless Entry! Bluetooth for Phone! Rear Window Defrogger! 38 MPG on the Highway! <p>Stock#G27125</p> <p>WAS \$21,070 Sale Price \$15,699</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE: \$75* OR \$75*</p> <p>\$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p> | <p>2016 TRAX "LS"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED! ECOTEC 1.4L "Turbo" DOHC VVT Engine! Remote Keyless Entry! USB Port and Auxiliary Input Jack! Power Locks & Windows! OnStar with 4G LTE with built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! 7" Color Touch Screen Radio! Steering Wheel Controls! 34 MPG on the Highway! <p>Stock#G27245</p> <p>WAS \$21,195 Sale Price \$16,053</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE: \$86* OR \$86*</p> <p>\$0 DOWN W/LEASE CONQUEST \$999 DOWN W/LEASE LOYALTY</p> |

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GM Will Invest \$356 Million in Michigan Plants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

success since 2009, he said. "The agreement with GM on MEGA credits helps Michigan's budget forecast," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "And today's announcement that it is investing in Saginaw, Flint and Grand Rapids proves the company wants to retain a strong presence in Michigan." "The fact that GM is committing to invest \$1 billion by 2030 here is even better news. "It's a globally competitive environment, and GM's announcement shows it appreciates that Michigan is a Comeback State with a skilled workforce and exciting expansion opportunities."

The Dec. 15 announcements covered these operations and affected these jobs, according to Wickham:

- Flint Engine Operations: \$263 million for a future engine program. The investment retains approximately 410 hourly and salaried jobs at the plant.
- Saginaw Metal Casting Operations: \$50 million for driveline components, retaining 68 jobs.
- Grand Rapids Operations: \$43.35 million for powertrain components, creating 55 and retaining 15 jobs.

"These investments," said Bill Shaw, GM North America manufacturing manager, "will better position GM and its workforce to produce high-quality engines and components for customers who demand greater fuel efficiency and performance from our vehicles."

Details pertaining to the engine programs and associated vehicles will be released at a later date, Shaw said.

"The membership and leadership of Region 1-D are excited about this investment in our area and our workforce," said UAW Region 1-D Director Gerald Kariem.

"These investments were earned with the quality and skill our membership brings to their jobs every day, and we appreciate GM giving us the opportunity to continue to prove the UAW workforce is world-class. Congratulations, GM and UAW Locals 659, 668 and 167."

These announcements, Wickham said, raise General Motor's announced U.S.-facility investment in 2015 to \$7.1 billion, including \$353.4 million announced recently in three other states - Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Gasoline Mileage Makes No Gain In 2015 Vehicles

WASHINGTON (AP) - The government says new cars and trucks averaged 24.3 miles per gallon last year, marking no improvement.

The EPA says fuel economy stayed flat as technological advancements in automotive engines and transmissions were offset by a resurgent demand for larger vehicles.

EPA originally reported the 2013 average at 24.1 miles per gallon, but later revised that figure upward by two-tenths of a mile per gallon. Falling gas prices and consumers' rekindled love of SUVs could endanger future fuel economy gains.

The EPA's calculations are based on cars and trucks produced for sale in the U.S. each model year.

Officials predict slow growth for 2015. Automakers still expect to meet federal standards requiring a fleet-wide average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

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| <p>SILVERADO 2016 1500 • LTZ DBL CAB 4WD</p> <p>Stk. #560882</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$34,697* WAS \$39,975</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$139* \$999 DOWN W/ LEASE CONQUEST OR W/LEASE LOYALTY</p> | <p>NEW CRUZE 2016</p> <p>Stk. #460324 Stk. #460537</p> <p>LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$69*</p> <p>PURCHASE LS FOR \$15,499* WAS \$21,070</p> <p>NO 1ST PAYMENT OR SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED</p> | <p>MALIBU 2016</p> <p>Stk. #460204 Stk. #460131</p> <p>LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$69*</p> <p>PURCHASE LS FOR \$18,376* WAS \$24,710</p> <p>NO 1ST PAYMENT REQUIRED</p> | <p>EQUINOX 2016</p> <p>Stk. #560399 Stk. #SRWF4T</p> <p>LEASE A 1LT 24 MONTHS \$118*</p> <p>PURCHASE LS FOR \$20,769* WAS \$27,480</p> |
| <p>CAMARO 2016 1LT</p> <p>Stk. #460564</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$26,992*</p> <p>NOW IN STOCK</p> | <p>TRAX 2016 LS</p> <p>Stk. #560706 Stk. #560706</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$79*</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$15,869* WAS \$21,195</p> <p>NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED</p> | <p>TRAVERSE 2016 LS</p> <p>Stk. #560275 Stk. #560275</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$199*</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$26,269* WAS \$32,650</p> | |

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